

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held at 7:00 p.m., April 13, 2010 in the Council Chambers, North Delaware Avenue and East Carbon Street.

Mr. William Angelo presided and opened the meeting with the Flag ceremony at 7:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

The following Council members attended: Mr. William Angelo, President; Mr. Keith Adams, Vice-President; Mr. Albert Bobinas; Mrs. Helen Droskinis; Mr. James Kimmel; Mr. Jamie Kuehn; Mr. Paul Vuksta; Mayor Joseph Post; Solicitor Albert Evans; and Megan Paul, Secretary. Also attending were James Cleary, Infrastructure Manager; Police Chief Michael Combs; Jeffery Enders, Street Supervisor; and Donald Troutman, Water Authority Laborer.

Seven Council members were present, which constituted a quorum.

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve March's Council Meeting Minutes; seconded by Mr. Kimmel. Motion passed as presented.

VISITORS:

Mr. Eugene McGovern, 535 Pine Hill St, stated his vehicle was struck by a plow truck this year. The damage to the vehicle was \$2,700. The Borough's insurance company denied the claim because there was a snow emergency declared and the Borough has Sovereign Immunity in these cases. The only exemption to the Sovereign Immunity is if the Borough displayed gross negligence. Mr. McGovern asked the Borough Council to either talk to the insurance company or pay the damages to the vehicle. Solicitor Evans stated the Borough cannot pay the claim because the Borough has to abide by the law. If the Borough were to violate the law, the taxpayers can bring actions against the Borough for wrongful use of taxpayer monies. Mr. Bobinas asked if the Borough could send a letter to the insurance carrier to reconsider the claim.

Mr. Daniel Schuman, 627 N Second Street, questioned whether the Borough can pass an ordinance allowing the Borough to cite landlords that rent to repeat criminal offenders. Solicitor Evans stated he believes Pottsville has an ordinance that allows landlords to evict tenants that are accused of drug action. He will check into this and have a draft ordinance by the next meeting.

Mr. Schuman also wanted to thank the new police chief for the great work being done in the Borough. He stated as a member of the school board; the district has noticed a change in the students because of the increase of police.

COMMITTEES:

Streets, Highways & Electric Lights:

Mr. Kimmel made a motion to approve the survey being done on the Sixth Street Traffic Light; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Kimmel made a motion to draft an ordinance making Middle and Parsonage Streets one way; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Bobinas asked Mr. Schuman whether the school district would be willing to contribute to a crossing guard. Mr. Schuman stated the Borough should send a letter to Mr. Brady.

Fire:

All council members received a copy of the fire report submitted for March by Fire Chief Eric Eichenberg.

Law & Order:

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to advertise for a civil service position and to allow Chief Combs to schedule the necessary testing; seconded by Mr. Vuksta. Motion passed as presented.

Chief Combs stated he has sent Mutual Aid Agreements to the local townships, Branch, Cass, Foster, and Reilly. Chief Combs is concerned that if there is an incident at the high school that Minersville will more than likely be first responders and there is no aid agreement in place. Mr. Schuman stated the school would support that type of agreement. Mrs. Droskinis stated that 3 out of 4 times there is an incident at the school there is no officer on in Cass Township and the school has to wait for State Police.

The bids for Towing were opened and read. Mr. Kuehn made a motion to accept the bids as read and refer the matter to committee; seconded by Mr. Bobinas. Motion passed as presented.

Chief Combs stated that in the March report, there were 280 calls, 42 of which were to rental units.

Community Development & Public Property:

Mr. Kuehn stated the deadline for the newsletter is now. He would like to see more information coming from community organizations.

Mr. Bobinas questioned whether the ordinances came be published in the newsletter. Mr. Kuehn stated the new ordinances are listed and also the ones that pertain to the season, i.e. snow removal, grass cutting, etc.

Mr. Kuehn stated he would like to look at drafting an ordinance making the public areas at the Recreational Complex tobacco free. Mr. Angelo stated he believes part of the road belongs to Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Kuehn stated this will have to be straightened out before drafting the ordinance.

Mr. Kuehn stated he would like the phone number of the company that will be timbering at the recreation complex. He would like to get a schedule of when the work will be done. Mr. Cleary stated the number is over at the office and he will get it to Mr. Kuehn.

Council questioned the status of the General Store. Mr. Cleary stated Mr. Bainbridge will be on vacation this week but he will find out as soon as he is back.

Mr. Kuehn wants to review the borough owned property list to get a definitive advertisement. There was discussion held regarding the land on Westwood Street being used as permit parking for residents. Also, the lease on Laurel Street needs to be revoked because they have not been paying the taxes on the land.

Finance & Sanitation:

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the bills properly signed and pay the bills as presented; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the reports of all officers as presented; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Water & Sewer:

Mr. Cleary reported the pipeline has been completed at the Sewer Plant and the contractor is currently waiting to seed the area.

Personnel:

Mrs. Droskinis made a motion to have Chief Combs accept all information regarding the drug testing; seconded by Mr. Vuksta. Motion passed as presented.

Senior Citizens & Recreation:

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve all final bills for the Bathhouse Project; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Adams stated the pool is scheduled to open on June 12 at 12 noon. Mr. Bobinas questioned whether it could be opened for Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Adams stated it would have to be determined if there is enough personnel to work to open early.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A letter was read from the Minersville Business and Professional Association requesting to hold Spirit Day on September 12, 2010 from 9 am to 6 pm with the rain date being Sunday, September 19, 2010. Mr. Vuksta made a motion approve the request; seconded by Mr. Kimmel. Motion passed as presented.

A letter was read from Joe Rodnick requesting to close N Fourth Street in front of Rodnick's Grocery Store on Spirit Day to host an event. The request will be forwarded to the Chief Combs and Chief Eichenberg before approval.

A letter was read from the Minersville Little League requesting use of Borough fields for practice in the spring and summer. Mr. Vuksta made a motion to approve the use of the fields as they have used in the past; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

A letter was read from the Frackville Mayor requesting use of our fire police for the Firemen's Convention. The request was forwarded to the Fire Chief.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Cleary the Redevelopment Corporation is still in the process. The corporation is being modeled after the Barefield Development in Pottsville.

OLD BUSINESS:

The second reading of an ordinance restricting parking was held. Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the ordinance as read and properly advertised; seconded by Mr. Kimmel. Motion passed as presented.

The second reading of an ordinance restricting the residency of sexual offenders was held. Mr. Bobinas made a motion to approve the ordinance as read and properly advertised; seconded by Mr. Kimmel. Motion passed as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominations for Citizen of the Year were discussed with final decisions being made at the May 11 Council meeting.

Mr. Kuehn stated the Little League is looking at using the Teener League field as a possible tournament field if Williamsport changes the fence depth. The Little League would help to maintain the field if they use it but would also like Mr. Fritz to maintain the field when he uses it. Mr. Fritz's use of the field for private clinics was discussed and Council stated they will meet with Mr. Fritz to discuss this situation. The only use granted to date was for the traveling team Mr. Fritz coaches.

Mr. Post stated he would like a letter sent to the school requesting the band for Memorial Day. Also, Mr. Post would like to review the ordinances to see which ones are still valid.

Mr. Kuehn stated he would like to get quotes for the parking changes at the complex.

Mr. Bobinas stated he would like the Chief to look into safety patrols with the children.

Mr. Angelo stated a letter needs to be sent to the Little League stating the driving restrictions at the complex. There should not be vehicles driving into the facility except in emergencies.

Mr. Vuksta made a motion to approve the purchase of a riding lawn mower, purchased through the COSTAR program; seconded by Mrs. Droskinis. Motion passed as presented.

With no further business to discuss, Mrs. Droskinis made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Paul
Borough Secretary