

## **April 9, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held April 9, 2019 in the Council Chambers, North Delaware Avenue and East Carbon Street. President Kuehn opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Attendance:**

The following Council members attended the April 9, 2019 meeting: Mr. Paul Vuksta, Ms. Katielynn Milbrandt, Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Mr. Ian Mahal, Mr. Steve Darosh, Mr. Robert Umbenhen, Mayor Kerry Kerschner, Solicitor B.J. Evans, Kyle Crouse, Code Enforcement Officer, Robert Mahalchick, Borough Manager and Police Chief Combs.

Christopher Gulotta of the Gulotta Group made a presentation on Developing and Implementing a Comprehensive Blight Strategy. The basic strategy would be to have the Land Bank prepare an RFP on behalf of the borough for demolition and repurposing of 140, 142 and 144 Sunbury Street with looking to repurpose the parcel. CDBG would be paid back funds that were earmarked for those properties, thus allowing the Land Bank to review the bids. The Land Bank does not need to sell to the highest bidder. The Land Bank will review proposals and negotiate with a developer. Mr. Kuehn asked if this has been done anywhere else. Mr. Gulotta replied that this is new to the Land Bank. Solicitor Evans questioned where funds from the sale, in excess of what needs to be repaid to CDBG, would go. Mr. Gulotta replied they would be paid to the Borough's General Fund. Preferred use for the parcel will be stated in the RFP. The Council will have the final decision after the Land Bank recommends a developer. Following a discussion it was decided to study the plan and make a decision at the May meeting.

A representative from the Schuylkill county Conservation district spoke on the lantern fly infestation, which is devastating to agriculture. Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Mr. Vuksta to approve the treatment agreement with the Schuylkill Conservation District, with funds to be expended by the end of September. The motion passed as presented.

### **Citizens' Comments:**

Mr. Bob Laughlin reported there are now seventeen fire police in the Borough. He will stop at the Borough Office to be reimbursed for his purchase of badges.

Monica Raczka, 622 Baker Street, asked when the streets would be cleaned in front of the old factory. Mr. Mahalchick will check on the condition of the street sweeper. It may be necessary to rent one for a few days. Mrs. Raczka had a question about elder abuse and was instructed to see Police Chief Combs.

Joe Kowalchick, Seltzer, had multiple questions about attorney-client privilege. Solicitor Evans stated we didn't need to comment since it was in the hands of the board.

Mr. Umbenhen made a motion, second by Mr. Vuksta to approve the minutes from March 12, 2019. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Darosh made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Mr. Umbenhen seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Vuksta made a motion to approve the Officers' Reports. Mr. Mahal seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

**Communications:**

Mr. Umbenhen made a motion, second by Mr. Darosh, to approve the revised truck route for the Truck Housing Parade on May 11, 2019. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Vuksta made a motion, second by Mr. Umbenhen to increase money for the Minersville Fire Relief. The motion passed as presented.

The Minersville Historical Society thanked the Borough for their continued monetary support.

The Minersville Fire Police were requested to help with traffic at the annual Yuengling Lager Jogger on April 27.

The Minersville Youth Soccer will place a porta potty conveniently located to the field.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to sponsor an American flag for a patriotism award.

**Old Business:**

Solicitor Evans is researching bridge loans for grants.

**New Business:**

Mr. Umbenhen made a motion, second by Mr. Vuksta to approve pole changes by PP&L due to the Miners Loft Project. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Mr. Umbenhen to approve the repository sale of 442 Lewis Street. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to approve the Tax Claim Sale of 443 Pleasant Street and 104 North Second Street. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Vuksta made a motion, second by Mr. Mahal to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Mrs. Milbrandt to retroactively approve the posting for a pool manager. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Darosh made a motion, second by Mr. Umbenhen, to approve the Recreation Authority review applications and suggest an applicant to hire. The motion passed as presented. It is hopeful the pool will open Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to accept all bids for the Legion Park Project. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Mr. Umbenhen, to award the bid to Performance Construction in the amount of \$137,881. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Vuksta made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to accept the bids for the Fourth Street playground. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Vuksta made a motion, second by Mr. Mahal to award the bid to Womer Landscaping in the amount of \$17,649. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Mr. Umbenhen to approve payment to Entech for engineering work for the Fourth Street Playground. The motion passed as presented.

Citizen of the Year nominations were discussed.

Mr. Vuksta made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to advertise for the demolition of 246 Laurel Street. The motion passed as presented.

**Community Updates:**

The Community Yard Sale is scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Unfinished Business:**

The Minersville Youth Soccer will not be installing a permanent fence at this time. They will send a letter highlighting their changes and game times for the coming season.

The Mayor is planning a National Night Out on August 6. Additional information will follow.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary

