

July 14, 2020

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held July 14, 2020. Due to the Covid19 Virus, social distancing was practiced. President Milbrandt opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

The following Council members attended the July 14, 2020 meeting: Ms. Katielynn Milbrandt, Mr. Mike Firestine, Ms. Sarah Newton, Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Mr. Ian Mahal, Mr. Steve Darosh, Mr. Robert Umbenhen, Mayor Sean Palmer, Solicitor Evans, Kyle Crouse, Robert Mahalchick, Borough Manager and Police Chief Combs.

Mr. Darosh made a motion, second by Mr. Firestine, to approve the minutes from June 2020. The motion passed as presented.

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

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

Citizens' Comments:

No citizens were present at the July meeting.

Communications:

The request by Alan Celmer to purchase the borough parking lot was denied.

Police Chief Combs responded to the complaint concerning fireworks that extended past the 4th of July holiday and were being set off in close proximity to homes. Chief Combs believes we need to work on rules before next year.

Police Chief Combs will pass along the request by Ringtown Valley for our fire police to participate at the 66th annual fireman's convention, to Mr. Laughlin.

Old Business:

The Minersville Little League request to extend the term of their lease was discussed. The Little League would like the same term as Dustin's Adventureland. The current term of five years was determined to be sufficient.

Chief Combs reported that a proposal has been submitted to Minersville Area School district for the SRO agreement. He is waiting for their response.

The second reading of Ordinance #327 to include no parking on a section of Westwood Street was completed.

Mr. Mahalchick reported that he is waiting for work on the fence on Veterans Park to proceed.

An advertisement for bids with deed restrictions for 140-150 Sunbury Street is being prepared.

New Business:

Mr. Darosh made a motion, second by Mr. Mahal to approve the work session on October 6 be cancelled due to the new date of National Night Out; with the August work session remaining cancelled. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Mr. Kuehn to increase lifeguard hourly rates by fifty cents and concession workers by ten cents if they have met the minimum hours required. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Firestine reported on the condition of the current street sweeper. The current sweeper is a 1991 model and in the past two years has cost approximately \$30,000 in repairs. Mr. Firestine reported on current models that could be bought, rented or leased. Only one company was contacted for rates thus far. The question of only seasonal renting was discussed. Mr. Kuehn stated the model that was demonstrated would be able to access every street in the borough. Mr. Kuehn stated that we can start the application for a grant process while prices and options are researched.

Police Chief Combs asked the Council to develop a policy for employees concerning COVID testing and employee travel during vacations. Currently the County Task Force procedure for employees traveling out of state is to have employees quarantine at their expense for five days and then be tested. Mr. Kuehn made a motion, second by Mr. Firestine to authorize Mr. Mahalchick to create a policy in accordance with not less than County procedures, including a checklist and purchase of a no touch thermometer. On the question, Mr. Umbenhen questioned the need to call the state Health Department concerning employees who travel. Solicitor Evans responded that we could establish a protocol consistent with the County. The motion passed as presented. Mr. Mahal suggested that purchases be made from COVID funding.

The recycling truck has been delivered and will start being used tomorrow.

Mr. Mahalchick stated that any complaints concerning traffic signals need to be addressed to Penn Dot.

Police Chief Combs reported that he is currently in contact with Branch Township concerning the new occupants of the former Amigo's Restaurant.

Committee Reports

Mr. Mahal reported the Land Bank is seeking a \$300k Commonwealth Finance Authority (CFA) grant for demolition for Land Bank communities. The borough should be able to demolish 2-4 properties if awarded. He is currently working to identify the properties most in need of demolition. Lots that the borough currently owns and that there is an interest by a neighbor of purchasing will be appraised first.

Mr. Darosh reported that currently Representative Goodman has received complaints concerning the borough water. Mr. Darosh contacted Mrs. Spittler who assured him everything possible is being done to remedy the old infrastructure. Mr. Darosh then called the local DEP office that informed him that Minersville is in compliance, but would forward his concerns to the District Manager. Solicitor Evans will meet with Mrs. Spittler and Don Cuff and draft an article on the concerns and what is being planned for the system to be published in the upcoming newsletter.

Community Updates

The community yard sale will be held on August 1.

Mr. Mahalchick reported that here were two applications for the current opening for a Street Department employee.

Mr. Firestine made a motion, second by Mr. Mahal, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary