

March 13, 2018

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held March 13, 2018 in the Council Chambers, North Delaware Avenue and East Carbon Street. Mr. Kuehn opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

The following Council members attended the March 13, 2018 meeting: Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Council President; Mrs. Jenn Beach, Ms. Katielynn Milbrandt, Mr. Paul Vuksta, Mr. Ian Mahal, Mr. Steve Darosh, Mr. Robert Umbenhen; Mayor Leo Securda; Solicitor Evans, Robert Mahalchick, Borough Manager; Police Chief Combs, Fire Chief Eric Eichenberg and Kyle Crouse, Code Enforcement Officer. Seven Council members were present which created a quorum.

Citizens' Comments:

Mr. Kershner, 121 South Street, requested increased police patrols on the upcoming holiday weekend in bar areas of the borough. Mr. Kershner requested written copies of the monthly Police Reports be provided to the public at monthly Council meetings. The Solicitor stated the first page of the report, which does not include names, could be made available.

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion approving the February meeting minutes. Mrs. Beach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Darosh made a motion to approve the Officers' Reports. Ms. Milbrandt seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Communications:

Fire Police were requested from the Borough of Girardville for their Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and from the City of Pottsville for the annual Logger Jogger. Mayor Securda will reply that we will send any available Fire Police.

Mr. Vuksta made a motion, second by Mr. Darosh to approve the request of the Minersville Fire Rescue for a Boot Drive on Friday, May 25 from 4pm to 7:30pm. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Vuksta made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to approve the request of the Minersville Fire Rescue to block off and utilize streets for their annual block party. The motion passed as presented. Police Chief Combs will coordinate the blocking of streets.

Old Business:

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Mr. Vuksta to approve the revised plan expansion of the soccer fields on Delaware Avenue by approximately 25 feet, as requested by Minersville Area Youth Soccer. On the question, Mr. Mahal stated more shale would need to be dropped. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Vuksta made a motion, second by Mr. Mahal to approve the release of remaining funds from the previous grant money. On the question Mr. Vuksta stated that that grant money included the Little League. Mr. Kuehn stated that the Little League would benefit from the fencing and backstop being retrieved from the fields for use at the Little League complex. The motion passed as presented. Mr. Mahalchick will authorize the Little League to retrieve the material. Ray Sukeena will supervise.

Mr. Mahal made a motion to approve the Lion Club Pavilion Lease extension that includes the Lions purchasing liability insurance. Ms. Milbrandt seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, Mr. Darosh and Mr. Vuksta voted no. The motion passed with a majority 5-2 vote.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to approve Blight Technical Assistance Grant through the Department of Community & Economic Development. The motion passed as presented.

Christopher Gulotta of Gulotta Group, LLC will be the point person with the Housing Alliance of PA.

Mr. Darosh made a motion, second by Mr. Umbenhen to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Blight Project. The motion passed as presented.

New Business:

The Fourth Street Playground Grant will be discussed in committee with the Little League before the May 31 deadline.

Mayor Securda reported that he has been requested to perform a wedding ceremony. Mayor Securda has denied his stipend for the ceremony.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Mahalchick reported that Penn Dot has a date of 2025 to fix the Minersville Bridge. Mr. Mahal is contacting legislators to move the date forward due to the deterioration of the River Street wall.

Mr. Darosh reported that the trees at the cemetery will be removed on March 24th and 25th and parking will need to be eliminated in the area on those days. Police Chief Combs will coordinate restricting parking. The tree stumps that remain along the highway after the trees were removed will have to be addressed before mowing season.

Committee Reports:

Law and Order-Police Chief Combs reported that the new heating plan is working great at the Police Station. Mrs. Beach, Chairwoman of the committee, responded to the previous request of resident, Mr. Kerschner, to make the 100 block of South Street resident only parking. Mrs. Beach stated that plan would not work out. Mr. Kerschner questioned why the area on Fifth Street is resident only parking. Mr. Kuehn state that at the time that block became resident only parking, teachers at the elementary Center were parking on Fifth Street when they had employee parking available at the football stadium. Mr. Kerschner again requested increased police presence. Police Chief Combs stated he is addressing the issue. Mr. Kuehn asked Mr. Kerschner to give his feedback after this holiday weekend. Police Chief Combs stated that there are only five open spots available in the Second Street parking lot. Mr. Mahal questioned if spots could become metered parking as they become available. Police Chief Combs stated that requests to rent spots in the parking lot is great. Mr. Kerschner questioned if the recent shooting on Sunbury Street had been reported to PLCB. Police Chief Combs commented that it is an ongoing investigation and the suspect is being actively pursued. Mrs. Beach asked if his photo could be released to the newspaper. Mr. Kerschner asked who placed the 911 call at the time of incident. Police Chief Combs responded that with cell phones, the 911 boards light up. Mr. Umbenhen questioned who at 4:30am police vehicles are idling at the station. Police Chief Combs responded that it is so that the windshields do not freeze over.

Community Updates

Plans are being made by the Recreation Committee and Office Staff for the Easter Egg Hunt to be held March 31. An Easter Bunny is being sought!

Mr. Vuksta made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Milbrandt seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary

