

## **December 10, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held December 10, 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 December 10, 2019 meeting: Mr. Paul Vuksta, Ms. Katielynn Milbrandt, Mrs. Jenn Beach, Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Mr. Ian Mahal, Mr. Steve Darosh, Mr. Robert Umbenhen, Mayor Kerry Kerschner, Solicitor Day, Kyle Crouse, Robert Mahalchick, Borough Manager and Police Chief Combs.

Mayor Kerschner swore in Junior Council Member Daniel Ayers.

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion, second by Mr. Mahal, to approve the minutes from November 2019. The motion passed as presented.

Mrs. Beach made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Ms. Milbrandt seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

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

### **Citizen's Comments:**

Residents complained concerning a property at 308 South Street. The property has been condemned but is still occupied. A generator is running in the property and there is a stolen shopping cart and garbage in the yard. Mr. Crouse reported that the occupants took down the condemned sign a week ago. Police Chief Combs said the occupant told him PP&L was coming to hook the electric back up. He will go to the residence tomorrow.

Jeff Enders, 218 Middle Street informed council that the occupants of 216 Middle Street are now depositing human waste in the yard and using the rain downspout for water. Mr. Enders reported the property is a known drug house with people coming and going at all hours of the day and night. Police Chief Combs reported that the property previously had unsafe conditions but was cleaned. Mr. Kuehn stated that repeated offenses need to be processed in criminal court. He expressed his concern for sanitary conditions in the neighborhood. Chief Combs said the owner is scheduled for a hearing tomorrow on stolen property charges. Mr. Enders stated that stems from the house on 221 Middle Street that has been stripped of all property. Mr. Kuehn expressed his concern that jail time from tomorrow's court would not begin until after the New Year. Solicitor Day stated that this is a DEP violation; Police Chief Combs stated the property could be boarded and padlocked tomorrow. Mr. Enders stated that 221 Middle, having been stripped of everything for scrap metal, is also an ongoing problem, with people coming and going from midnight to 5AM. Mr. Umbenhen stated both need to be boarded and padlocked.

Monica Raczka reported that the sewer smell on Baker Street has been resolved. It was coming from the home of older residents and was actually carbon dioxide. The insurance company has stepped in. Council thanked Mrs. Raczka for her diligence in finding a solution to the problem.

**New Business:**

Mr. Darosh made a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the increase of the sewer rate by 5%. Mr. Vuksta seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion, second by Mr. Umbenhen to approve the 2020 budget with Option #3 for insurance changes and with no tax increase. The motion passed as presented. Mr. Kuehn thanked the Finance Committee and Megan Paul for their work on the budget.

The Tax Levy Ordinance was read for the first time with the tax levy set and remaining at 20.00.

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt, to approve Payment #6 to Performance Construction in the amount of \$14,936. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Mahal made a motion to approve funds for the land bank for acquisition and closing costs of 117 and 119 Sunbury Street, which will be demolished and repurposed. Mr. Umbenhen seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Umbenhen made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt to approve the listed meeting dates for 2020. The motion passed as presented.

Council held a discussion with the residents present concerning increasing fines on quality of life citations in the borough. The current fine is \$25. Other municipalities are higher. Mr. Crouse will prepare a proposal for the January meeting.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Mr. Vuksta authorizing Entech Engineering to perform a building analysis on 200 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Kuehn opposed. The motion carried by a majority vote.

**Council Committee Reports:**

**Sewer and Water-**Mr. Darosh reported that as the council representative to both authorities, he is kept informed constantly by the sewer plant manager. The Sewer Authority appointed Jeff Enders to the board following the passing of member Gabby Angelo. The Sewer Authority is planning both Laurel Street and Pine Street Separation Projects. Residents at the meeting expressed their concerns with the condition of their water.

**Public Property**-Mr. Mahalchick commended everyone involved with the dedication of Legion Park on a job well done.

Mayor Kerschner thanked Council for the opportunity to serve and congratulated the new mayor.

**Community Updates:**

The Ball Drop is tentatively scheduled for New Years Eve on North Street.

Mr. Kuehn commended Mayor Kerschner on his job as mayor and particularly his work on blight.

Mr. Kuehn thanked Mrs. Beach, who decided not to run for council for a third term, for her eight years of service.

Mr. Kuehn wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary