

March 10, 2020

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held March 10, 2020 in the Council Chambers, North Delaware Avenue and East Carbon Street. President Milbrandt opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

The following Council members attended the March 10, 2020 meeting: Ms. Katielynn Milbrandt, Mr. Mike Firestine, 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. Firestine made a motion, second by Mr. Umbenhen, to approve the minutes from February 2020 with the correction of spelling of Mr. **Womer**. The motion passed as presented.

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

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

Citizens' Comments: Ms. Milbrandt requested citizens limit their comments and speak only once. Mrs. Gavalis, Slane Street, asked why proper notice was not given to residents on the open meeting last month to discuss the future of the Globe Hall. The Solicitor stated that Council meetings are the second Tuesday of each month and the public is welcome. Mrs. Gavalis stated she would like to see the second floor of the Globe Hall become a Community Arts Center.

Karen Pauquette, New Castle Street stated she would like to see the space become a community meeting space for children.

Jamie Zimerofsky, West West Terrace, stated she would like to see the building become a safe place for youth to go. Possibly Mr. Quandel would help with ideas for grants.

Monica Raczka, Baker Street, asked how the local newspapers report what happens at meetings when they do not attend meetings. Mr. Mahalchick stated they sometimes call him and he gives them the agenda for the meeting. Mrs. Raczka presented Council with a petition with 73 signatures in support of preserving the Globe Hall and thanked the citizens for helping her attain the signatures. She also presented a petition asking council to table any motion on the future of the building.

Helen Droskinis, Lytle Street, stated the current Elementary Center was renovated as well as the pool. She suggested a committee be formed for saving the building.

Kevin Wasser, Lewis Street, informed the council that his company, K&B Recycling would like to be part of a Borough Fall Clean up, with no cost to the borough. Mr. Wasser handed out his price lists for recycling. Fees are per item. Mr. Mahalchick will post the information online.

Terry Rafferty, Pine Street, stated he has faith in the council, the people voted for them. He stated he is disappointed, he feels more information is needed before a decision is made on the building. He questioned what would need to be done to get a referendum on the ballot. The Solicitor responded it could not be done for the May election; it would need to wait for November if worked properly. Mr. Rafferty stated that would give Council more time to answer questions. He stated that he remodeled his current restaurant and it would have cost considerably more to build.

Mr. Genovese, Fourth Street, questioned if Council would be floating a bond. That is not currently an issue as no decision has been made.

Ms. Kerr, Front Street, feels it is essential to keep youth in the area. She feels a youth center would be a good use of the facility.

Sarah Newton, Front Street, stated that today's youth are involved in sports and volunteers would be needed to run a Youth Center.

Mr. Lescavage, stated that the condition of the building, with a possible mold issue and a leaking roof would be an issue to obtaining fire insurance. The building would need to be made ADA compliant.

Ms. Milbrandt reminded the citizens that we have all of their previous concerns and unless there is new information, the meeting needs to move on with current business.

Mr. Adams, Front Street, questioned the council's current plan.

Ms. Milbrandt and Mr. Kuehn stated they would like to see the citizens form a committee. Mr. Rafferty offered his business as a meeting place. Mr. Mahalchick reminded residents that a Miners Pride Committee was tried several years ago and only three citizens attended. Mr. Kuehn stated the council works with the citizens' tax dollars and feels a committee is wonderful.

Ms. Milbrandt, against objections from the citizens, stated the Council needed to continue with the agenda. The Solicitor informed the citizens that the other issues on the agenda needed to be addressed.

Communications:

Mr. Umbenhen made a motion, second by Mr. Firestine to approve the request by the Minersville Fire Rescue to hold their Annual Block Party July 9-11, 2020. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Firestine made a motion; second by Mr. Mahal to approve the request of the Minersville Fire Rescue to hold a boot drive May 22, 2020 from 4pm to 7:30pm. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Darosh made a motion, second by Mr. Firestine to approve the Minersville Lions Club ending their lease on the Lions Den. They have already moved. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Firestine made a motion, on the recommendation of the Solicitor to approve the request by WJP Engineering to change post mining land use. Mr. Darosh seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mrs. Capik read a letter from Councilman Vuksta resigning from council as of the March meeting. The Solicitor stated the Council would need to name a replacement within thirty days. For a two year term, until the next election. Mr. Kuehn stated a special meeting might be needed. The Solicitor stated the work session could be advertised as a meeting to approve a replacement. Mr. Kuehn made a motion, second by Mr. Mahal to approve the resignation. The motion passed as presented.

Old Business:

Mr. Firestine made a motion to approve the changes to the Quality of Life Ordinance following the second reading of the Ordinance. Mr. Darosh seconded the motion. Mr. Mahal thanked Kyle Crouse for his work on the changes and his enforcement.

New Business:

Mr. Kuehn made a motion, second by Mr. Mahal to approve the request of the YMCA for summer use of the Union Hall Building for \$400 a month, inclusive, for the months of June, July and August 2020. The motion passed as presented.

The lease adjustment for Dustin's Adventure land and the Little League was tabled.

Mr. Darosh made a motion, second by Mr. Mahal to approve the Resolution Procedures for Compliance for Professional Services Contract. The motion passed as presented.

The towing contract will need to be advertised. The Law and Order Committee will work on a contract to be advertised.

The CDBG Public Hearing will be April 14 at 6:30 pm prior to the monthly Council meeting.

Council Committee Reports

Law and Order-Mr. Firestine stated the committee would be working on the towing contract. The Mayor stated that he feels the business should be given to business in the borough. Police Chief Combs feels the contract should be for towing only.

Fire-Mr. Umbenhen reported that symbols for hydrants need to be painted in the spring.

Unfinished Business-Megan Paul reported that 117-119 Sunbury Street are deemed in the "historic" Sunbury Street District and as such cannot be replaced by a modern building. She is submitting an application with photos using the same wording used for 150 Sunbury Street, which was approved previously. This will cause a delay in demolition but Mr. Mahal stated the state would expedite the application.

Community Updates

The annual Egg Hunt will be held on April 11, 2020.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary

