

## **November 12, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held November 12, 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 November 12, 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 B.J. Evans, Robert Mahalchick, Borough Manager and Police Chief Combs.

Ms. Milbrandt made a motion, second by Mrs. Beach, to approve the minutes from October, 2019. The motion passed as presented.

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

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

The Council went into Executive Session at 7:15 to discuss a personnel issue. The Council returned at 7:35.

Chris Gulotta from the Gulotta Group presented the new RFP for 140-150 Sunbury Street and the distribution list for it. Mr. Mahal made a motion, second by Ms. Milbrandt made a motion to approve the new RFP. The motion passed as presented.

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

Chairman Kuehn asked the citizens to limit their comments to two to three minutes due to the number of residents attending the meeting.

Monica Raczka, 622 Baker Street, stated that the leaves on Baker Street need to be cleaned as they are blocking the drain.

Dora Santarelli and Orval Kear, representing the Minersville Historical Society, thanked the Council for their financial support. The society has approximately seventy members, but is looking for active members. The Society will be participating in a tree-decorating contest at the Schuylkill County Historical Society. Votes for your favorite tree cost one dollar and all money goes to the local society. Voting starts on November 20. Ann Barr, also of the Historical Society, invited council members to a small opening of Historical Society building on December 13<sup>th</sup>. A grand opening will be held in 2020.

### **Communications:**

The request of the Minersville Band and Choir Association for a donation to their Chinese Auction was denied. Chairman Kuehn explained that the council is responsible to the taxpayers for dollars spend. The public was encouraged to support the Chinese Auction.

The request of Jeff Rinaldo to purchase 140-150 Sunbury Street was denied pending results of the new RFP.

The request of the Minersville Area High School to sponsor an ad in their 2020 yearbook will be done with Council's private funds in the Flower Fund.

A thank you from the family of Sewer Authority member Gabby Angelo, who passed earlier in the month, was received.

A thank you from Father Stokes, pastor of St. Michael and St. Matthew parishes, for help with their annual Rosary Procession, was read.

**Old Business:**

The building analysis for the current Borough Hall was discussed. Demolition and rebuilding is currently estimated at 1.5 million dollars and renovation of the first floor of the current building is estimated at 1.6 million dollars. Ms. Kerr asked what year the building was erected. Mr. Vuksta responded it is 105 years old. Mr. Mahal assured the citizens a public meeting would be held to discuss both options, hopefully in early December at the Minersville High School auditorium. The public meeting would be adverted on the Borough's Facebook page and hopefully on the School District sign at the entrance to town. Mr. Keith Adams questioned if there are drawings for both options and suggested that if there are not, those be prepared before a public meeting. Following discussion on both sides of the issue, Mr. Mahal made a motion authorizing Engineer Don Cuff to expedite a design layout and detailed report of options not to exceed a cost of \$7500. On the question, it was determined a public meeting would not be held until design is complete. Ms. Milbrandt seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

**New Business:**

Mr. Mahal made a motion to approve the Resolution to extend the life of the Sewer Authority by fifty years. Mr. Vuksta seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Darosh made a motion to approve the Resolution to extend the life of the Water Authority 50 years. On the question, Ms. Beach asked if the Authority's loan is satisfied before that time, could the Authority be dissolved. Mr. Kuehn responded that it could. Mrs. Beach questioned why the Council keeps backing the Authority when they do not cooperate with Council. Mr. Kuehn responded that is why the Council should be appointing members to the Authority would cooperate. Mr. Umbenhen seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Vuksta made a motion to approve Kass Contracting in the amount of \$17,950 to demolish 205 and 207 Walnut Street, Mr. Umbenhen seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Vuksta made a motion to approve Payment #5 in the amount of \$3366.90 to Performance Construction for Legion Park. Mrs. Beach seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Vuksta made a motion to authorize Mr. Mahalchick to submit a request to Penn Dot for approval of a mid-block crosswalk on Sunbury Street. Mr. Darosh seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Letters of interest have been received for vacancies on both the Sewer and Water Authority boards. Solicitor Evans stated that the vacancy on the Sewer Authority Board, created by the passing of Gabby Angelo, is to be filled by the Authority. The Council recommended to the Authority the appointment of Jeffrey Enders. The Council fills vacancies created by terms being expired.

The first reading of the 2020 budget was completed. The budget currently has a deficient. The Finance Committee will continue to work on the budget.

Mr. Darosh made a motion, second by Mr. Mahal to authorize the mayor to seek repairs on the current police vehicle at a cost of no more than \$10,000. The motion passed as presented.

Bank Quotes are currently being received for 2020.

Mr. Umbenhen made a motion, second by Mr. Darosh to approve the ranks of the Fire Police. The motion passed as presented.

The request of St. Matthew Parish to purchase lots on Oak Street needs to be researched as CDBG funds were used.

**Council Committee Reports:**

Ms. Milbrandt reported that the Personnel Committee is currently working on updating the Employee Handbook.

Mr. Mahal reported that we have been awarded the Multi Mobile Grant, which will replace sidewalks from the Borough Hall to the Gratz Bank and replace 38 light poles on Sunbury Street.

**Community Updates:**

Santa Train rides will be held November 30 and December 1 at 10:30, 1pm and 3:30pm.

Santa Claus is coming to town with a parade at 5:30pm and visits on Fourth Street from 6-7pm on December 1.

Junior Council member Daniel Ayers was introduced.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary

