

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held December 13, 2016 in the Council Chambers, North Delaware Avenue and East Carbon Street.

Attendance:

The following Council members attended the December 2016 meeting: Mr. William Angelo, Council President; Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Council Vice-President; Mrs. Jennifer Beach, Mr. Ian Mahal; Mr. Walter Miscavage; Mr. Paul Vuksta; Mackenzie Cullen, Junior Council; Rebecca Daukaus, Junior Council; Mayor Joseph Post; Solicitor Albert Evans; Robert Mahalchick, Borough Manager; Police Chief Michael Combs; Kyle Crouse, Code Enforcement Officer. Absent were Mrs. Katielyn Milbrandt and Gloria Capik, Secretary. Six Council members were present which constituted a quorum.

Mr. Miscavage made a motion approving the November meeting Minutes. Mr. Mahal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kuehn made a motion, second by Mr. Miscavage to approve the Officers Reports. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Mr. Miscavage seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Citizens' Comments:

Students from the Schuylkill Vocational Technical School were present for a class project. Those students were: Brittany Bordner, Paul Jones, Zachary Krevis and Zachary Zaharis.

Communications:

A letter was received from the Minersville Leo Club requesting use of the Union Hall to hold a dance sponsored by the Leo Club for grades 5 -8 on December 10, 2016. Since the date has passed, Council agreed to allow the Leo Club to set a reschedule date for approval by the Recreation & Public Property Committee.

A letter was received from the First Congregational Church requesting to erect a new sign at the Union Cemetery. The sign would be a maintenance free sign it fulfill the request made by Jack Kline who maintained the cemetery for years. Mr. Miscavage made a motion to approve the request; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

A letter was received from Mr. John Morris, 246 Laurel St, would like the Borough to take over the property located at 246 Laurel St. Mr. Morris is no capable financially to fix the code violations on the property. Mr. Miscavage made a motion to authorize Solicitor Evans to conduct a title search on the property; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Old Business:

A letter was read from the Minersville School District agreeing to pay 50% of the salary of the Crossing Guard at the Elementary Center. Mr. Kuehn made a motion to accept the letter and agreement to pay 50% of the Crossing Guard; seconded by Mr. Miscavage. Motion passed as presented.

New Business:

The second reading of the 2017 Budget was presented. Mr. Mahalchick stated there are two options for the Budget. One option would include a 2.5 mil increase and the second option would include a 4 mil increase. Mr. Kuehn recommends Council approve the budget including the 4 mil increase; this would allow council to put money aside to anticipate future costs of capital projects. Mr. Kuehn stated the 2.5 mil increase will just cover the healthcare, street improvement, pension and recycling expense increases. After discussion on both options, Mr. Kuehn made a motion to approve the 2017 Budget with a 4 mil tax increase; seconded by Mr. Mahal. A roll call vote was held with a vote of 5 yea to 1 nay (Mr. Miscavage), motion passed as presented.

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to rescind the motion made at the November 9, 2016 meeting to borrow \$105,000 from the Gratz Bank to fund the purchase of the 298 Penn Street purchase; seconded by Mr. Miscavage. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to pay the purchase of 298 Penn Street from the General Fund Reserve account; seconded by Mr. Vuksta. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Miscavage made to approve Ordinance 320: Cell Phone Tower; seconded by Mr. Mahal. Motion passed as presented.

A first reading of the 2017 Tax Levy was read setting the tax milage to 20.0.

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to pay the balance of the 2016 Chevy Dump Truck from the General Reserve Fund; seconded by Mr. Vuksta. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to pay the balance of the 2016 Chevy Truck from the General Reserve Fund; seconded by Mr. Mahal. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to pay the Pool repairs to Boyers Pools from the General Reserve Fund; seconded by Mr. Mahal. Motion passed as presented.

Council held a discussion on the creation of a Zoning Board. Solicitor Evans stated he will contact Thomas Yashinsky from ARRO Engineering to come to the work session in January and discuss this further.

Mrs. Beach made a motion to advertise for a full time Street Department employee; seconded by Mr. Vuksta. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to approve Payment Request #2 to Boyer Pools in the amount of \$7152.75; seconded by Mr. Miscavage. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Vuksta mad a motion to approve handicap signs at 323 Pine Hill St and 444 Lewis St; seconded by Mr. Mahal. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to approve the meeting dates for 2017 with the discussed changes; seconded by Mr. Mahal. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Angelo stated anyone wishing to serve on any Authorities/Boards should present letters to the Borough Office.

COMMITTEES:

Streets, Highways & Electric Lights:

Mr. Vuksta informed Council that both new trucks are in and in operation within the Street Department.

Fire:

Nothing to report.

Community Development & Public Property:

Mr. Miscavage stated he voted nay to the 4 mil tax increase because he feels the Sovereign Bank building would be a better solution for Borough services and more cost effective. The Borough should be put to use for Borough community and possible move the Police Department to the Souchak building next door. Mr. Mahal agreed the Borough should take possession of the Sovereign Bank. Mr. Mahal also stated that he will donate his salary back to the Borough because he is here to serve the Borough and not collect a pay.

Water, Sewer & Sanitation:

Mr. Mahal reported the Water Authority is still waiting for checks from the breaker for three months. Also, the Water Authority is in the process of purchasing two properties that contain water mains.

Personnel:

Mrs. Beach stated they are in the process of hiring a new Street Department employee.

Law & Order:

Mr. Mahal stated the committee is in the process of investigating an incident with the 2013 police cruiser.

Finance:

Nothing additional to report.

Senior Citizens & Recreation:

Mr. Kuehn stated the committee is working to extend the lease for the Lions pavilion with the Lions Club. The committee may invite members of the Lions at the January or February sessions.

Mr. Kuehn stated the Little League is exploring adding protective netting at the walking path/concession area. Mr. Kuehn is looking to get information on possible adding netting to the pool area.

Unfinished Business:

Nothing to report.

Community Updates:

Mr. Mahalchick stated the New Year's Eve Drop will once again be held at the Minersville Fire Rescue on North Street.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Miscavage made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mahal seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Paul