

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held at 7:00 p.m., September 14, 2010 in the Council Chambers, North Delaware Avenue and East Carbon Street.

Mr. William Angelo presided and opened the meeting with the Flag ceremony at 7:02 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

The following Council members attended: Mr. William Angelo, President; Mr. Keith Adams, Vice-President; Mr. Albert Bobinas; Mrs. Helen Droskinis; Mr. James Kimmel; Mr. Jamie Kuehn; Mr. Paul Vuksta; Mayor Joseph Post; Solicitor Albert Evans; and Megan Paul, Secretary. Also attending were Police Chief Michael Combs; Fire Chief Eric Eichenberg; Code Enforcement Officer Fred Bainbridge; Jeffery Enders, Street Supervisor and Jeremy Kralick, Street Laborer.

Seven Council members were present, which constituted a quorum.

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve August's Council meeting minute with the correction of the name Bonnie Mason to Maria Mason; seconded by Mrs. Droskinis. Motion passed as presented.

VISITORS:

Mr. Albert Barnes, Minersville Lions Club, would like permission from Council to put a split system of heat and air in the Lions Den. The Lions Club would pay for the cost to put the system in to the building. Mr. Vuksta made a motion to give permission to the Lions Club to place a split system into the Union Hall Building where the Lions Club meets; seconded by Mr. Bobinas. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Barnes also asked for permission for the Leo Club to decorate areas of the Borough for the holidays. Council granted permission and Mr. Barnes should contact Mr. Enders to coordinate.

Mr. Richard DiBiase, 300 N Fifth Street, wanted to know how the residents could help the borough is getting the school to request additional crossing guards. Mr. Adams stated the Borough is in the process of meeting with the school to discuss the possibility of additional crossing guards for both schools.

Mr. Thomas Leskowsky, 717 N Second Street, questioned why he has to pay \$240 a year to place garbage out each week. Mr. Kuehn stated after Council evaluated the system, the current amount for family and single rates were established and each residence pays this rate.

Mrs. Mary Polinsky, 27 E Carbon Street, wanted to know why there are so few police log articles in the newspaper. She questioned if there is a set protocol for what information is released. Chief Combs stated there is no set protocol for information to be released. Mrs. Polinsky stated she heard a police officer was hurt at a call on N Fourth Street and she questioned why that was not released. Chief Combs stated in that incident the officer called for backup and officers responded to the call from surrounding municipalities. The incident did not get out of hand and to Chief Combs understanding no officer was hurt. Chief Combs did state he will look at possibly sending more incidents to the newspaper.

Mr. Robert Mahalchick, 257 S Fourth Street, questioned whether Borough employees are allowed to take equipment home for personal use. Mr. Enders stated the employees do take hand tools home for use but not major pieces of equipment. Solicitor Evans stated Borough's have sovereign immunity in certain areas and he feels this in one area. He will look into the situation and report to council. Mr. Mahalchick questioned whether the water and sewer employees are allowed to take the equipment home. Council stated they cannot answer for the authorities. Mr. Mahalchick wanted to thank the Chief for having his officers respond to EMS calls, he feels the time between when an officer gets to the call and when EMS can respond could possibly save someone's life. Mr. Mahalchick questioned whether the police cars have defibrillators in them. Chief stated they do not but he will check into it.

Mr. Mark Kochkodin, N Delaware Avenue, would like the street department to look into the drainage in front of his house. The water is not draining properly and with winter coming to could cause problems. The street is actually higher than the sidewalks which then cause problems with maintaining the sidewalks after storms. Mr. Enders stated he will look at the street.

Mr. Mahalchick questioned who owns the equipment used by the Borough. Mr. Angelo stated each entity owns some equipment but they are mutually used by all.

Mr. Christopher Swolensky, 429 Pottsville St, wanted to commend the Borough for the work that is done. The street department does a great job. He feels the community needs to get together to support the Borough.

Mr. Thomas Sorokach, 424 North Street, wanted to know if the Borough can have another franchise other than Comcast. He questioned whether the current setup is illegal. Solicitor Evans stated the franchise agreements are legal and when the contract is done another company can via for the franchise agreement.

Mrs. Patricia Umbenhem, 258 S Fourth Street, questioned whether the new curfew is being enforced. Chief Combs stated several citations have been issued. She stated she called the police on Thursday because there were several teenagers in the playground cursing and disturbing the neighborhood. Officer Clink stated he responded to the incident and did not hear any cursing when he was present. He did ask them to leave. Mrs. Umbenhem stated they did leave and then came back later. Mr. DiBiase stated they are being destructive to the property. Mr. Kochkodin stated they are also hanging out at the Daycare and on Borough property behind his house. Mr. Mahalchick questioned the times that playgrounds are open. He feels it should be from dusk to dawn. Mr. Kuehn stated the committee will look into this. Mrs. Joan Laudeman stated kids are also hanging out at the Verizon Building on Carbon Street. They are extremely vulgar to the residents that try to chase them.

Mr. Joseph Rodnick, Rodnick's Discount Groceries, stated the traffic needs to be slowed down now that there is no parking on the one side of the street. He feels this may cause a child to be hit in the area. Chief Combs stated he is working on trying to solve this problem.

Mr. John Marnickas, 111 Sunbury Street, feels the Borough should ban Brake Retarders in town. Chief Combs stated he would need to look into this situation. Mr. Enders stated this was looked at once before and PennDOT stated it couldn't be done.

Mrs. Monica Raczka, 622 Baker Street, wanted to know the status of the parking area on S Delaware Avenue and Westwood Street. Chief Combs stated he and Mr. Enders are still formulating ideas for the area.

Mr. Kerry Kerschner, 121 South Street, stated he feels the police have become lacks on drug enforcement. Chief Combs stated they have not become lacks they have just changed the tactics. They are using informants to get more dealers. The police are not publicizing all drug arrests for this reason.

COMMITTEES:

Streets, Highways & Electric Lights: Nothing to report.

Fire:

All council members received a copy of the fire report submitted for August by Fire Chief Eric Eichenberg.

Law & Order:

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to approve a driveway application for Edward Hossler, 108 Westwood

Street; seconded by Mr. Adams. The application has been approved and reviewed by Mr. Bainbridge. Motion passed as presented.

Chief Combs stated the new vehicle is being fitted and stripped all he needs to know is how it is being financed. Mr. Adams stated the Finance Committee will have that information.

Community Development & Public Property:

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to accept the RFP for CDBG Engineers as read and refer the matter to committee; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to accept the RFP for CDBG Consultants as read and refer the matter to committee; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Kuehn stated the deadline is October 1st for the next newsletter.

Also, the area by the Teener league field is being timbered for additional parking at the recreational complex. The anticipated number of spots to gain in this area is 50-60. The Borough has spoken to the Little League and they do not have funds to help pay for this project.

Finance & Sanitation:

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the bills properly signed and pay the bills as presented; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the reports of all officers as presented; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Adams stated a letter was received from Miners Bank regarding the quotes for financing the police vehicle. Mr. Adams stated he spoke to the bank to clarify the errors that were in the letter. He also informed the bank when the Borough goes out to bid for services they will be contacted.

Mr. Adams made a motion to accept the oil quotes as read and refer the matter to committee for award; seconded by Mr. Kimmel. Mr. Adams asked Ms. Paul to find out what the terms and conditions are for HB Steele. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Adams made a motion to pass the Minimum Municipal Obligation for both Uniformed, regular amortization, and the Non-Uniformed Pension; seconded by Mr. Bobinas. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Adams made motion to pay for the police vehicle from Borough Funds then pay a monthly payment to an account setup specifically for police vehicle purchase; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Adams made a motion to use Seltzer Insurance Company & AmeriHealth for our workers compensation carriers at a price of \$95,624; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Adams made a motion to allow the finance committee to make the decision on the general liability coverage after the other members have the opportunity to meet with Seltzer regarding the dividends presented; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Water & Sewer:

A resolution was read allowing the Sewer Authority to restructure the rate schedule beginning January 1, 2011. Mr. Bobinas made a motion to approve the resolution as read; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Senior Citizens & Recreation:

A letter was read from the Miners Brewers requesting use of the Teener League Field. Mr. Kuehn checked with Mr. Fritz and he has no problem sharing the use of the field as long as the maintenance of the field is also shared. Council tabled the issue at this time.

Mr. Kuehn stated he spoke to Jeff regarding adding infield mix to the Teener field and fixing the sinkhole. Mr. Fritz is requesting an area be cleared for a batting cage to be installed. Mr. Kuehn made a motion to allow the Minersville Outlaws to install a batting cage; seconded by Mr. Bobinas. Mr. Adams stated would use of this be shared by all groups using the field. Mr. Kuehn stated he will as Mr. Fritz. Motion passed as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A letter was read from the Minersville Fire Department requesting have the 2011 Annual Fireman's Convention in Minersville. Mr. Vuksta made a motion to approve the request; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Mrs. Droskinis questioned whether they will use Lewis Street. Chief Eichenberg stated they are not planning to use it. Motion passed as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Vuksta made a motion to appoint Christopher Cruz as Borough Constable; seconded by Mr. Bobinas. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Bainbridge reported the demolition at 106 Sunbury Street is waiting on DEP approval then that will get started.

Mr. Bainbridge stated 119 N Second Street is requesting a variance in regards to the sprinklers that need to be installed. They will probably file for an appeal to our UCC Appeals Board.

Mr. Mahalchick stated his father is getting a strong oil smell ever since the demolition at 319 Front Street. Mr. Bainbridge stated he will be up at the residence tomorrow to look at the problem.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

An executive session was held from 8:38 p.m. to 9:02 p.m. for a personnel issue.

Solicitor Evans stated the Borough will be holding a Lauderhill Hearing in regards to Patrolman Theodore Daniels. Under the Borough Code, Patrolman Daniels has the right to have the hearing be public or private. Patrolman Daniels elected to have a private hearing.

After the private Lauderhill Hearing, Mrs. Droskinis made a motion to suspend Patrolman Theodore Daniels for a period of 30 days and a probation period upon return from suspension of 1 year; seconded by Mr. Vuksta. Mr. Kuehn called for a roll call vote: Mr. Kimmel – yes; Mr. Bobinas – no; Mr. Vuksta – yes; Mr. Angelo – yes; Mr. Adams – no; Mr. Kuehn – no; and Mrs. Droskinis - yes. With a vote of 4 yes and 3 no, the motion carried as presented.

With no further business to discuss, Mrs. Droskinis made a motion to adjourn at 11:05 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Paul
Borough Secretary