

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held at 7:00 p.m., February 10, 2009 in the Council Chambers, North Delaware Avenue and East Carbon Street.

Mr. William Angelo presided and opened the meeting with the Flag ceremony.

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 David Dutcavich; Attorney Arlen Day; and Megan Paul, Secretary. Also attending were James Cleary, Interim Infrastructure Manager; Police Chief Robert Bergan; Fire Chief Eric Eichenberg; Fred Bainbridge, Code Enforcement Officer; Jeffery Enders, Street Supervisor; Donald Troutman, Municipal Authority Laborer; and Michael Melochick and Eric Andruckcheck, Borough Assistant Fire Chiefs. Solicitor Albert Evans was absent.

Seven Council members were present, which constituted a quorum.

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve December's Secretary Minutes; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

VISITORS:

Ms. Susan Duffy, 115 North Street, had an issue with the letter sent by the Borough Health Officer regarding a rat infestation at her property. She stated she has never seen a rat on her property and when Laudeman Pest Control inspected the property he saw no recent droppings. Laudeman Pest Control stated to her no traps were needed on her side but there were some holes that should be filled with sakrette. She stated she will have the problems on her side taken care of. Also, Ms. Duffy stated she did not like the fact that Mr. Barnes at 117 North Street was carbon copied on the letter she received because he could possible us the letter to deter potential buyers if she decided to sell. Mayor Dutcavich stated the letter was carbon copied to let Mr. Barnes know the Borough is taking action in regards to the numerous complaints made. Mr. Cleary stated Mr. Barnes has attended numerous meetings requesting the Borough respond to his problem. Ms. Duffy stated she wants the Borough to inspect the property when she makes the repairs and would like Mr. Barnes carbon copied the problem was fixed.

Christopher Swolensky, 429 Pottsville Street, stated the parking lot next to the Curran Hotel has metered and permit parking. Some of the permit parking signs are missing and he has received tickets. He feels the Borough should replace the signs or the police should not issue tickets because the area is not marked properly. Council instructed Mr. Enders to review the situation and make the necessary corrections.

Also, Mr. Swolensky stated he feels the new rental ordinance is unfair to the good landlords of the Borough. He would like to see the ordinance change to make it easier on the good landlords.

Brian Bilansky, 316 N Delaware Ave, would like to speak when the New Minersville Playground is discussed.

COMMITTEES:

Streets, Highways & Electric Lights:

Mr. Kimmel thanked all the employees for the outstanding job done snow plowing and snow removal.

Fire:

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

Mr. Vuksta stated the New Minersville Hose Company has requested to move the New Minersville Playground so they can expand their garages. Mr. Vuksta stated the fire company previously asked for permission to expand on the side but that is not as feasible. The current request would not take parking away from the area. Also, when the playground is moved some of the equipment will be removed and others replaced. Mr. Adams questioned if one bay was enough off the side why has there not been a proposal for one bay off the back. Why request three bays off the back. Mr. Andruckcheck stated they never looked into the option of only one bay off the back. Mr. Andruckcheck stated one swing set and two spring toys will be eliminated and the playground area will be condensed. The playground will be fenced. Mr. Kuehn stated he does not like to just give away recreational land. Mr. Kuehn stated the area of the new playground will be smaller than the old. Mrs. Droskinis stated the new area will be four feet longer and the equipment will be updated at the cost of the fire company. Mr. Vuksta made a motion to allow the New Minersville Hose Company to move the New Minersville Playground for their expansion. Mr. Bilansky asked to speak. Mr. Bilansky stated he would like the Borough to consider the safety of the children if the playground area is moved. He asked Council to think of the children before they make their decision. Mrs.

Droskinis stated she saw the letter from Father Maletz in her packet and contacted him to explain the situation. After her explanation, Father Maletz was fine with moving the playground. Mr. Kimmel stated he would like to see the residents of the area polled before a decision is made. Mrs. Droskinis seconded Mr. Vuksta's motion to allow the New Minersville Hose Company to move the New Minersville Playground for their expansion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Kimmel – no, Mr. Bobinas – yes if the agreement is in writing; Mr. Vuksta – yes; Mr. Angelo – yes; Mr. Adams – no; Mr. Kuehn – no; Mrs. Droskinis – yes. Mr. Kimmel then changed his vote to yes. With a vote of 5 yes – 2 no, motion passed as presented. Mr. Andrucheck thanked the Borough for all their help.

Law & Order:

Mrs. Mary Hashin, 102 Westwood St, submitted a handicap application for Council approval. Chief Bergan reviewed and approved the application. Mr. Kuehn made a motion to approve the application; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Mrs. Lillian Ponter, 147 S Third St, submitted a handicap application for Council approval. Chief Bergan reviewed and approved the application. Mr. Kuehn made a motion to approve the application; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Community Development & Public Property:

The second reading of an amendment to ordinance 266 was held. The amendment will change the definition of occupant to anyone residing at the residence. Mr. Adams made a motion to accept the amendment as read; seconded by Mr. Vuksta. Motion passed as presented.

A resolution approving the Borough's Section 3 Plan for CDBG was read. Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the resolution as read; seconded by Mr. Vuksta. Motion passed as presented.

Finance & Sanitation:

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

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

Mr. Cleary stated the Recycling Truck works well, the recycling buckets will be delivered soon, and there is still no response from Shenandoah and Frackville in regard to the truck usage.

Water & Sewer:

The Minersville Sewer Authority Solicitor Thomas Pellish held the first reading of an Ordinance and Guarantee Agreement of the Sewer Authority PennVEST Loan. Mr. Bobinas made a motion allow Solicitor Pellish to advertise to ordinance as read; seconded by Mr. Vuksta. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Adams stated he is satisfied with the documentation he has received in regards to Jeff and Christine Rinaldo.

Personnel:

Nothing to Report.

Senior Citizens & Recreation:

Nothing to Report.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A letter was received from the Schuylkill YM/YWCA requesting to use the Minersville Community Swimming Pool when the host their day camp at the Lions Pavilion. Mrs. Droskinis made a motion to allow them to attend the pool at ½ the admission price. Also, Mr. Adams stated the response letter should indicate the pool will not open until June 13, 2009. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

A brief executive session was held from 7:51 p.m. – 8:04 p.m.

Mr. Adams made a motion to allow Mr. Cleary to take corrective action in regards to Ms. Heffron's complaint on Spruce Street; seconded by Mr. Vuksta. Motion passed as presented.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Adams made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Droskinis. Motion passed as presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Paul
Borough Secretary