

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held at 7:00 p.m., January 13, 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. Jamie Kuehn; Mr. Paul Vuksta; Mayor David Dutcavich; Solicitor Albert Evans; 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; Elvin Brennan, Edwin Houser, and Jeremy Kralick, Street Department Laborers; Donald Troutman, Municipal Authority Laborer; and Michael Melochick and Eric Andrucheck, Borough Assistant Fire Chiefs. Mr. James Kimmel was absent.

Six Council members were present, which constituted a quorum.

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

VISITORS:

Mrs. Alana Nush, 247 S Fourth Street, wanted to thank the street and water departments for the outstanding job done on the streets so far this winter. The streets were better in Minersville than Pottsville. Mr. Enders wanted to thank Mr. Vuksta for coming out to plow and relieving the guys to get some sleep.

Mr. Albert Barnes, President of the Minersville Lions Club, presented Council with the engine for the Lions Train. The engine is a replica of the RR113 with a voice box that says names of Minersville residents as it travels.

COMMITTEES:

Streets, Highways & Electric Lights:

A resolution was read granting Megan Paul Electronic Access to PennDOT Systems. Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the resolution as read; seconded by Mr. Bobinas. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Cleary stated John Davis will be in to help put together the black top and stone bid packet. The bid will be ready for advertisement in February with bid opening in March.

Fire:

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

Chief Eichenberg stated there were 160 calls for 2008, property damage of \$275,000, and no injuries to report. Approximately 90% of damages were for the Mr. D's fire and 334 Front Street fire.

Chief Eichenberg reported the fire companies are undergoing Total Visibility Registration. So far 100 volunteers have been registered. This allows the companies to know where there people are at all times. After the fire departments are registered, the next group will be elected officials and police departments.

Chief Eichenberg thanked Council for all the support given to the fire departments over the last year.

Law & Order:

Mrs. Laverne Rhoades, 349 New Castle 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:

Mr. Cleary stated Laudeman Pest Control inspected 117 North Street's rodent problem. Laudeman's did not find any problems with the sewer on Mr. Barnes side. There was a hole discovered in the foundation between the two homes that looked like the rodents were passing between the homes. Council agreed to have Laudeman look at the property next door to see if the problem stems from that side.

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to advertise the demolition specs for New Street and School Street when the Environmental Review Clearance is received; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Cleary stated the Church Street Renovation project will be done in house. The Borough will sub=contract the curbs, concrete, and some plumbing. Mr. Cleary stated he would like to have a public meeting for residents of Church Street to explain the project. The material list will be ready for bid shortly. Mr. Kuehn made a motion to advertise the materials list; seconded by Mr. Bobinas. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Bobinas made a motion to approve the Repository Municipal Agreement for the purchase of 602 School Street from the County in the amount of \$1442; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Kuehn made a motion to authorize ProDesign Plus to begin the 2009 Community Development Block Grant application; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

The first reading of an amendment to ordinance 266 was held. The ordinance will be advertised for public review.

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; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

The second reading of the Borough 2009 Tax Levy was read setting the milage at 13.00 mils. Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the ordinance as read; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Solicitor Evans stated he believes the Borough can use other companies for their oil purchase because the quotes were not properly sent out for sealed bids. Solicitor Evans stated a contract was never signed with Keller Oil only a letter was sent. Solicitor Evans will write an opinion letter for Council.

Mr. Bobinas approved granting Power of Attorney for our Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation services to TALX Employment Services; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Water & Sewer:

Mr. Bobinas made a motion to re-appoint Thomas Eltringham to the Sewer Authority Board and David Fogarty to the Municipal Authority Board; seconded by Mr. Vuksta. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Angelo read a letter of resignation from Mr. Paul Lohin, Sewer Authority Board member effective December 31, 2008. Mr. Adams made a motion to accept the resignation with regret; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Mrs. Droskinis would like a letter thanking Mr. Lohin for his dedication to the Sewer Authority. Mr. Angelo recommended sending the Certificate of Appreciation. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Bobinas made a motion to appoint Joseph Seiders, Lytle Street, to fulfill the term of Mr. Paul Lohin; seconded by Mrs. Droskinis. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Cleary reported there has been seven water breaks within the last two weeks. Mr. Bobinas questioned if the age of the pipes is a factor in the breaks. Mr. Cleary stated it is the major factor for the breaks.

Personnel:

Mr. Cleary stated Matthew Blacknall has been working with the Borough through the RedCo EARN Program. Mr. Cleary would like to execute a six month contract with RedCo. Under this contract, Mr. Blacknall would be an employee of the Borough but RedCo would reimburse a percentage of salary for those six months. Also, Mr. Cleary stated he sent an agreement for Mr. Blacknall to Mrs. Droskinis for review after the six months with RedCo is complete. Mr. Adams made a motion to grant Mr. Cleary the authority to execute the contract with RedCo; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Senior Citizens & Recreation:

Nothing to Report.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A letter was read from the West End Outlaw Baseball Team requesting use of the Teener League Field for a tournament on July 25 and 26, 2009. Mr. Adams asked Mr. Barnes if the Lions have a rental that weekend. Mr. Barnes stated it is rented. Mr. Adams stated he would like Mr. Fritz to contact the Lions to discuss the parking situation. Mr. Adams made a motion to grant the request for use of the field; seconded by Mr. Vuksta. Motion passed as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Cleary stated the pool grant packet is being compiled for the bathhouse, safety fencing and upgrades to the drains. The grant cannot be used for anything outside the pool fence so the Little League cannot be included with this grant.

Mr. Angelo questioned the status of the request for New Minersville Hose Co to move the playground. Mr. Andruchek stated Mr. Kimmel would like to meet to discuss the request. Mr. Adams asked Mr. Andruchek to send him the drawings for the side of the building.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Bobinas made a motion to change Mr. Cleary title from Interim Infrastructure Manager to Infrastructure Manager; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Droskinis made a motion to appoint Megan Paul the Open Records Officer for the Borough of Minersville; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Adams stated the Recreation Committee met before Council meeting to discuss fees for the pool. Mr. Adams made a motion to keep the season passes and admission rates the same as 2008 for the 2009 season; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

A brief executive session was held from 7:43 p.m. – 8:12 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Paul
Borough Secretary