

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held at 7:00 P.M., May 8, 2007 in the Council Chambers, North Delaware Avenue and East Carbon Street.

Mrs. Helen Droskinis presided and opened the meeting with the Flag ceremony.

ATTENDANCE:

The following Council members attended: Mrs. Helen Droskinis, President; Mr. Joseph Post, Vice-President; Mr. Keith Adams; Mr. William Angelo; Mr. James Kimmel; Mr. Jamie Kuehn; Mr. Walter Miscavage; Nicole Davis, Junior Council Person; Solicitor Albert Evans; and Megan Paul, Secretary. Scott Graver, Infrastructure Manager; Police Chief Robert Bergan; Fire Chief Eric Eichenberg; Don Cuff, Entech Engineering; and Paul Lohin, Sewer Authority Chairman were also present. Mayor David Dutcavich was absent.

Seven Council members were present, which constituted a quorum.

A motion to accept April's Secretary Minutes was made by Mr. Adams and seconded by Mr. Miscavage. Mr. Angelo stated there are some corrections to the minutes. The corrections are as follows:

A motion was made by Mr. Angelo to appoint Attorney Albert Evans to the vacancy created by Solicitor Pellish; seconded by Mr. Kimmel. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Miscavage stated the alleged felons were arrested for the vandalism of the Church of the Broken Pieces. Mr. McBreen, Minersville Jr/Sr Principal, aided in the arrest of the perpetrators. Mr. Miscavage contacted Mr. McBreen in regards to the reward of \$150. Mr. McBreen stated he would like the money donated to the Minersville Swimming Pool Committee.

With all corrections being made, the motion passed as presented.

VISITORS:

None.

COMMITTEES:

Streets, Highways & Electric Lights:

Mr. Miscavage stated a stone wall on Brier City Road is collapsing causing the section of street to fail. Mr. Miscavage stated there are options to consider.

1. Spend the money to fix the road.
2. Have Solicitor Evans contact Norwegian Township informing them we are abandoning the road and are requesting the consent of the township to abandoning the road.
3. Make that section of the road one way if Norwegian Township does not agree to consent of abandonment.

Mr. Miscavage stated the amount of money received for that section of the road is minimal. Mr. Miscavage stated he would like Solicitor Evans to approach Norwegian Township regarding the abandonment. Solicitor Evans stated if Norwegian Township does not agree to the abandonment the next step would be court action. Mr. Eichenberg stated the water line is going through on that road so the Borough should look into fixing it since there will be customers in that area. Mr. Miscavage stated that road does not benefit the residents of Minersville it serves residents of Norwegian Township and the new customers would be paying the Municipal Authority not the Borough. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Miscavage made a motion to have Mr. Graver write a letter to the Norwegian Township Supervisors asking if they would consent to the abandonment of that section of Brier City Road; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Miscavage thanked Mr. Lohin for attending tonight's meeting and wanted to publicly apologize for what occurred at the work session. Mr. Miscavage stated Council received copies of the engineering report on the collapse of Lewis Street. Mr. Miscavage stated item #3 on the report should state mine water. Mr. Miscavage stated the necessity now is to get FEMA to inspect the site to see the distress on the tunnel caused by the Floods of 2006. The estimate cost to repair the current section damage is \$1,857,240. Mr. Miscavage stated Mr. Cuff will now give a detailed report on the tunnel collapse and subsequent street collapse.

Mr. Cuff thanked Borough Council for awarding Entech Engineering the CDBG Engineering Contract. Mr. Cuff stated there was a partial collapse of the Lewis Street Tunnel with the damages running from the collapse to the intersection at Front Street. The tunnel is a stone archway with differing internal dimensions. The section of the Tunnel from Front Street to the creek is sturdier and can carry more load. Mr. Cuff feels the collapse of the Tunnel was eminent. Entech Engineering is recommending that traffic be limited and large deliveries be coordinated with the Borough on the effected section of Lewis Street. Mr. Cuff stated the cost estimates are approximately 1.1 million to 1.9 million dollars. PENNVEST has extended financing terms of a 1% loan for 30 years since the collapse is not grant eligible. Entech Engineering feels the storms of 2006 played a large part in undermining the stability of the stone tunnel. The tunnel was not built to withstand a surcharge of water like occurred in the summer of 2006. Entech Engineering would put into writing recommended closing the street from the collapse site to the intersection of Front Street, all other options Entech will not support in writing. Entech feels Front Street can currently withhold the current traffic patterns but they are continuing to evaluate the situation. Solicitor Evans stated there is a liability issue if traffic is allowed to flow over the undermined sections of Lewis Street. Mr. Cuff stated it was fortunate there were no injuries and no equipment lost when the tunnel collapsed. Mayor Dutcavich has made his lot available to the residents affected by the collapse for parking. Mr. Kuehn questioned whether an open forum is needed. Mr. Miscavage stated he does not feel one is necessary. Mr. Miscavage stated the public should attend the Sewer Authority meeting of May 23, 2007 at 7:00p.m. in order to gather information from the Engineer. Mr. Miscavage made a motion to barricade the Lewis Street and not allow any vehicle traffic from the collapse to Front Street; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented. Mr. Miscavage made a motion to send a letter to residents from Front to Second Street informing them of the closing of the road and offering for them to attend the Sewer Authority meeting if they have any questions; seconded by Mr. Angelo. Motion passed as presented. Mr. Cuff stated he would like to have a meeting with all the Borough entities to discuss the work that needs to be done in the area. Mr. Cuff feels the Borough, Sewer, and Municipal Authority could do some of the work on the project and hire a contractor for the tunnel itself to cut cost of the repair. Mr. Cuff will arrange a meeting with the entities. [Fire Chief Eichenberg questioned Mr. Cuff as to the safe sections of Lewis Street for fire apparatus to travel. Mr. Cuff stated he would not say any sections of Lewis Street from Front Street to Third Street for fire apparatus.](#) -Mr. Miscavage made a motion to have Solicitor Evans contact FEMA in a letter requesting they assess the site; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Mr. Cuff stated FEMA already stated the window of opportunity for monies pertaining to the two flood incidents of 2006 has already closed.

Fire:

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

Mr. Angelo stated the Fire Committee is looking into purchasing the new siren. The siren will not ring the location of the fire like the current system. Last year the price was approximately \$9500. Mr. Angelo stated the purchase can be made without going out on bid as long as the costs remain under \$10,000. Mr. Miscavage made a motion to have the Fire Committee pursue the purchase of a siren with the possibility of the labor being done in house; seconded by Mr. Kimmel. Motion passed as presented. Mr. Eichenberg stated there may be additional monies needed for the installation.

Law & Order:

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the lease purchase of a new police vehicle with three annual payments and then purchase the vehicle for \$1; seconded by Mr. Miscavage. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Miscavage made a motion to transfer ~~the~~ all the funds approximately \$57,000 from the General Reserve Account into the General Account to cover some of the construction costs of the New Police Station. The cost of the project was \$70,820. Motion was seconded by Mr. Post. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Kimmel wanted to thank Mr. Graver, Chief Bergan, Megan Paul and all the other employees that helped with the grand opening of the Police Station. Mr. Kimmel stated he was glad to see the Council and Mayor attending and welcomed the news coverage for the event.

Community Development & Public Property:

Mr. Graver stated the bids for the Engineering Consultant for the Community Development Block Grant were opened and reviewed. Mr. Graver recommends awarding the contract to Entech Engineering for engineering services for the CDBG Program. Mr. Post made a motion to award the contract to Entech Engineering for engineering services for the CDBG Program; seconded by Mr. Miscavage. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. William Troutman, 505 Lytle Street Rear, submitted a driveway application. Mr. Angelo made a motion to approve the driveway contingent on all specifications being met and approved by Mr. Bainbridge; seconded by Mr. Post. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Kuehn stated there is work being done with the Lions Club to elevate the parking problems at the Pavilion location.

Finance & Sanitation:

The monthly bills were read and signed. Mr. Post made a motion to approve the bills properly signed and pay the bills as presented seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Post made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Adams. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Graver stated the contract for the Zigmund Co. expires June 30, 2007. The renewal contract is for \$3,600 and the cost is shared by the Borough, Sewer and Police departments. Mr. Miscavage made a motion to renew the contract with the Zigmund Co.; seconded by Mr. Kimmel. Mr. Kuehn questioned what the Zigmund Co. does for the Borough. Mr. Graver stated they are insurance consultants; they put the insurances out for bid, evaluate the quotes and make recommendations to the Borough. With no further questions, motion passed as presented.

Water & Sewer:

Mr. Post stated the Municipal Authority is currently laying pipe for Brier City connections.

Mr. Post stated the Sewer Authority is compiling a strategic plan and discussing the possible payment to the Municipal Authority for the cost of the meter reader.

Personnel:

Mr. Miscavage made a motion to appoint Lucy Ciotti to the position of Office Manager since Rose Sep retired from the position; seconded by Mr. Angelo. Motion passed as presented.

Senior Citizens & Recreation:

Mr. Adams made a motion to have the admission rates for the community pool remain the same as 2004 with a \$10.00 discount being offered to Borough residents and to reevaluate the rates for the next season; seconded by Miscavage. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Miscavage made a motion to pay Heim Construction application for payment #8 in the amount of \$ 196,418.72 for the swimming pool construction; seconded by Mr. Kuehn. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Adams stated the opening day for the pool is June 9, 2007. The pool committee was discussing the possibility of waiving the fee for the opening day. Mr. Kuehn questioned whether that should be done considering the number of people who will attend. Mr. Kuehn then made a motion to allow the Recreation Committee to make that decision; seconded by Mr. Post. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Graver stated we are still in need of lifeguards but there is a group that just needs to take the test to become certified. Mr. Graver requested permission to hire the pool staff. Mr. Angelo made a motion to hire the pool staff; seconded by Mr. Adams. Mr. Adams suggested having the pool manager contact the people not yet certified to make sure they are scheduled for the testing. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Graver questioned the rates for the pool staff. After careful deliberation, Council agreed to the following rates, but allowing the Recreation Committee to modify as necessary:

Concession Clerks	\$7.15
Lifeguard	\$7.50
Head Lifeguard	\$8.50
Concession Stand Manager and Pool Manager	– Flat Rate

Mr. Angelo made a motion setting the pool employee rates as listed; seconded by Mr. Miscavage. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve a resolution read to open a checking account for the Recreation Board; seconded by Mr. Miscavage. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Adams stated the pool committee is selling pool sponsor labels for \$1.00.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES:

All Council members received copies of the Reports of Officers.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A resolution was read transferring the deed for the Police Station at Third Street back to the school district. Mr. Miscavage made a motion to approve the resolution as read; seconded by Mr. Angelo. Motion passed as presented.

Solicitor Evans stated the police contract ends this year so negotiations should commence.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Miscavage made a motion to award the 2007 Citizen of the Year Award to John “Jack” & Loretta Flynn for there continued work for the betterment of the Borough of Minersville; seconded by Mr. Post. Motion passed as presented.

Mr. Miscavage stated the sale of the Minersville 175th Anniversary Book made a profit of \$3,683.90. Mr. Miscavage wants to allocate the profit for the purchase of a pizza oven for the concession stand at the pool and the remaining money towards a security system for the pool.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Davis made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Angelo. Motion passed as presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Paul
Borough Secretary