

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 8/8/2023

Approved minutes – Special Meeting _____

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting _____

Regular Meeting
August 8, 2023
7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Folk.
August 8, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Baer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Folk, Mrs. Gnagey, Mrs. Knieriem, and Mr. Parisi, were present. Solicitor Valentine was present via telephone. Mayor ~~Brant~~ ^{SMITH (p.c.a.)} was absent. Brion Reiber, Street Foreman was also present.

MINUTES:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023 regular meeting and the July 26, 2023 special/workshop meeting as presented. Mr. Parisi seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT/ BILLS:

Mr. Parisi made the motion to accept the financial report and pay the bills as presented. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

GUESTS:

A.) Mr. Gary Engle was pre-registered as a guest, but was not present.

B.) Mrs. Rebecca Kirchner, spokesperson for the Vietnam/Korean Memorial Committee was present to report that the Committee has no objection to purchasing the plot of land that the memorial is on: considering what may happen in the future with the Community Center building. The group met with the building committee of the Meyersdale Area School Board and were directed to approach Borough Council. Solicitor Valentine reported that the Community Center is deeded to the Meyersdale Borough and that the School District has a reversionary interest only if and when the building is no longer used for Borough purposes. In order to transfer the plot of land, a subdivision must be completed, as well as a land survey and then the School can sign off on the reversionary interest to this plot of land. Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to move forward to take the necessary steps to transfer the plot of land to the Vietnam/Korean Memorial Committee and to agree that the Borough will continue to pay the electric for the flag illumination and to maintain the grass for as long as the Borough has the Community Center in their possession. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed with Mr. Ackerman abstaining. (See attached Conflict of Interest Abstention Memorandum). Solicitor Valentine will donate his services to prepare the documents, and he was confident that a surveyor could be acquired that would donate their services. The Vietnam/Korean Memorial Committee agreed to pay for any services if necessary.

* C.) Mrs. Katie Billy was present to request a four way stop on High Street and 7th Street. Mr. Parisi made the motion to authorize Solicitor Valentine to prepare an ordinance for adoption at the September meeting. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed. Appropriate signage will be ordered.

→ MOTION RESCINDED
SEE MINUTES FROM 9/12/2023 REGULAR MEETING. p.c.a

PUBLIC COMMENT:

D.) Public Comment

Mrs. Deb Kolb was present to report that the Consistory of the United Church of Christ and the Public Library are concerned with the parking at the former Western Auto Building, that is being renovated for multiple apartment units. Mrs. Kolb serves on both boards. She asked what the plan was for parking. Solicitor Valentine reported that the owners have been made aware by PA Municipal Code Alliance that they can't expand the units and that parking issues need to be resolved. Solicitor Valentine also indicated that he will be discussing this matter further in executive session.

Mr. Thomas Deetz was present to report that the Elks Lodge is willing to take on as a project the replacement of the American flags that are displayed on the telephone poles on Main St. and Center Street. An assessment of poles, brackets and flags will be completed.

Mr. Deetz expressed his thanks to Chief Wright for being present at the last concert in the park.

Mr. Deetz also commented that the Curfew Ordinance needs to be enforced.

Mr. James DiFebo was present to ask for permission to submit a Community Development Block Grant for a project to make improvements to the Community Center. Mrs. Linda McDonough would also assist. The deadline for applications is October 2023. After some discussion, Mrs. Gnagey reported that the Meyersdale Renaissance will be meeting with a representative of Somerset Inc. in September and that this could be included in the discussion.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

No report was given.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

No report was given.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

Mrs. Gnagey reported that the AED unit has been installed. A training class will be offered to those who are interested in learning how to operate the unit.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

No report was given.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Valentine reported that the Little League subdivision development should be ready by the September Meeting. Some minor issues will need to be dealt with regarding the roadway and four encroachments.

Solicitor Valentine will be reaching out to Tony Mostoller to close the deed on 345 Main Street.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to authorize Solicitor Valentine permission to give Tony Mostoller contact information so that he can communicate with the owners of the former Church on Clay Street. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed. It was reported that there are water and sewer liens against the property.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

No report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Municipal Authority

No report was given.

Street Foreman

Mr. Reiber reported on the following:

- Kelly Blue Book price on the 2002 truck ranges from \$12,000.00 to \$16,000.00. Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to offer the vehicle to Summit Township as an inter municipal sale that requires no bidding at a price of \$13,500.00, includes a plow and in as is condition. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.
- Quote repairs at playground pavilion
Mr. Parisi made the motion to accept a quote from Knepper Carpentry to complete repairs to the playground pavilion at a cost of \$1,195.00. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed with Mrs. Gnagey abstaining. (See attached Conflict of Interest Abstention Memorandum)
- Quote – Weed control for flood control
Mr. Parisi made the motion to accept the quote from Vegetation Manager, Inc. in the amount of \$1,942.12. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.
- Quote – Steiner mower
Solicitor Valentine reported that two additional phone quotes should be acquired in order to be in compliance with the Borough Code rules on bidding. Mr. Reiber will acquire additional phone quotes and this item will be discussed at the Special/Workshop meeting scheduled for August 23, 2023.
- Mr. Parisi made the motion to grant the street crew permission to place blacktop millings on Line St. and the Borough owned property at 351 Meyers Avenue. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.
- Mr. Reiber was directed to follow up with Level Acres on a timeline for the relocating of the playground equipment and the installation of new pieces.

Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

Mrs. Denise Gehringer reported that a benefit golf scramble is being planned.

Public Library

No report was given.

Parks & Recreation

Mrs. Gnagey reported that there was a good turnout at the Concert in the Park on July 30. The GI Dayroom served boxed lunches and the Corner Cup was open. Parks & Recreation is considering one more Concert in the Park around September 24. The Vandells will be in the Park on Labor Day. The group is also planning the Bonfire, Halloween parade, Light up Night with a Live Nativity, Carolers and more.

Meyersdale Renaissance

No report was given.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – STANDING COMMITTEES

POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

No report was given.

PERSONNEL

No report was given.

FINANCE

No report was given.

REFUSE

An issue with a non pickup was taken care of.

STREETS/BUILDINGS

No report was given.

FLOOD CONTROL

Mr. Baker reported that an inspection of the flood control channel has been scheduled for September 15, 2023 at 9 AM.

FARMERS MARKET

Farmers Market will be held August 9, 2023 with live music.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A.) Patrolman police agreement/handbook

The document has not been signed.

B.) E-Bike charging station grant update

Mrs. Denise Gehringer reported that a tentative approval has been granted. The group is working on how to measure the usage in order to satisfy the requirements for the grant.

C.) Council Member to represent the Borough – Sesquicentennial Celebration

Mrs. Knieriem volunteered to serve as a representative from Borough Council. The next meeting will be held on August 14, 2023 at the Library.

D.) Hierarchy

Mr. Ackerman reported that \$171.00 remains in the budget for legal expenses for 2023. At a previous meeting it was discussed that all contact with the Solicitor go through the President of Council, however this has not happened. Mr. Ackerman made the motion that any concerns that would require legal advise should be distributed to the entire Council via e-mail and if deemed necessary the President of Council will make contact with the Solicitor. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

E.) Ambulance meeting

Mrs. Gnagey reported that a meeting will be scheduled with the Ambulance Association and local Government officials will be invited to attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Announcements

There were no announcements.

B.) Community Yard Sale

Mr. Parisi made the motion to ratify a decision made via e-mail vote for the Borough to sponsor a Community Yard Sale on August 19, 2023 and make this an annual event two weeks before school starts. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

C.) Parks & Recreation funding for remainder of 2023

No report was given.

D.) Borough website

Mrs. Gnagey gave a short presentation on a quote from Course Vector from the PA State Association of Boroughs for a Borough website. After some discussion, Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to accept the quote from Course Vector with a set up fee of \$1,050.00 and a \$617.00 yearly renewal fee for a total of \$1,667.00. Mr. Parisi seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Parisi offered his assistance with the website.

E.) National Honor Society – Community Cleanup Day

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to grant the National Honor Society permission to conduct a Community Cleanup Day on October 23, with a rain date of October 26, 2023 and for the Borough to purchase pizza and soda for the participants lunch. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed. The Secretary was asked to take charge of ordering the food.

F.) Christmas decorations for the uptown park

Mr. Parisi made the motion to use the Harry E. Leckemby memorial funds to purchase Christmas decorations for the uptown park. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

G.) 2024 Budget

Council decided that the Secretary was to put together a preliminary 2024 budget and submit same to them for review. The goal is to have the budget completed and adopted in October.

GOALS FOR 2023

Ordinance Review

No report given.

Zoning Review

No report given.

New Building

No report given.

Emergency Access Road Meyers Ave.

No additional report given.

Control Spending
No report given.

Flood Control rip rap
No report given.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no additional items to be discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to enter into executive session at 8:35PM. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

The items to be discussed were:
Code Enforcement issues.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to return to regular session at 9:53 PM. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION/MOTIONS:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to authorize Solicitor Valentine to contact a company or private person to mow a property owned by Mr. Marsh to prevent further enforcement. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Parisi made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 PM. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.



Patricia C. Ackerman
Borough Secretary

Abstention Memorandum

TO: Borough Secretary, Patricia C. Ackerman
Meyersdale Borough, Somerset County, Pennsylvania

FROM: RONNIE C. ACKERMAN, council member

DATE: AUGUST 3, 2013

Pursuant to Pennsylvania's "Public Official and Employee Ethics Law" (65 PA CSA 1101 et seq), I hereby declare that I am required to abstain regarding the following issue/ motion:

MOTION REGARDING TRANSFER OF PROPERTY WHERE MONUMENT (VIETNAM/KOREAN)
IS ERECTED. MEMORIAL

My conflict/reason for abstaining is as follows:

I AM A COMMITTEE MEMBER WITH THE VIETNAM/KOREAN MEMORIAL
COMMITTEE

Ronnie C. Ackerman
Signature

NOTE: Section 1103 (J) requires the following procedure:

"Any public official or public employee, who in the discharge of his official duties, would be required to vote on a matter that would result in a conflict of interest shall abstain from voting and, prior to the vote being taken, publicly announce and disclose the nature of his interest as a public record in a written memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes for the meeting at which the vote is taken...."

(Please note that State Ethics Commission requires a public official to complete a form every time he has a conflict of interest).

Conflict of Interest
Abstention Memorandum

TO: Borough Secretary, Patricia C. Ackerman
Meyersdale Borough, Somerset County, Pennsylvania

FROM: Ahren Gnagy, council member

DATE: 8/8/23

Pursuant to Pennsylvania's "Public Official and Employee Ethics Law" (65 PA CSA 1101 et seq), I hereby declare that I am required to abstain regarding the following issue/ motion:

Repairs to pavilion

My conflict/reason for abstaining is as follows:

Contractor is my cousin

A Gnagy
Signature

NOTE: Section 1103 (J) requires the following procedure:
"Any public official or public employee, who in the discharge of his official duties, would be required to vote on a matter that would result in a conflict of interest shall abstain from voting and, prior to the vote being taken, publicly announce and disclose the nature of his interest as a public record in a written memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes for the meeting at which the vote is taken...."

(Please note that State Ethics Commission requires a public official to complete a form every time he has a conflict of interest).

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Regular Meeting 8/8/2023 Special Meeting _____

GUEST SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	Jeff Chocner	207 North St	
2	Deb Kelo		
3	Tom Deetz	334 Clingman St Mey	Flag Project
4	Burt Eugene Mishler		
5	Linda Mc Dougal	400 Oliver St	Vietnam Memorial
6	James DiFeso	419 Salisbury St	Vietnam
7	Kurt Billy	413 Hill St	
8	Denise Gehring	106 Meyers Ave	
9	Becky Kichard	500 Salisbury St.	Vietnam/Korea Memorial
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GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING

GUEST SIGN IN ON EXCEL