

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 12/10/2024

Approved minutes – Special Meeting _____

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting _____

Regular Meeting
December 10, 2024
7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Irwin, December 10, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Baer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Irwin, Mrs. Knieriem, Mr. Smith, Solicitor Valentine, and Mayor Smith were present. Mr. Brion Reiber, Street Foreman was also present. Mrs. Gnagey and Mr. Tim Pritts, Police Lieutenant were absent.

MINUTES:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the November 12, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT/ BILLS:

Mr. Baker made the motion to accept the financial report and pay the bills as presented. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

ESTIMATE TO PAINT UPPER SECTION OF GYM

This item was tabled until the January 14, 2025 Regular Meeting.

HOLIDAY BONUS

Mr. Baker made the motion to give a Holiday bonus the Part-time police, Full Time, Part-time and Temporary streets crew, Janitor and Borough Secretary and to pay the bonus through the payroll with each employee to receive \$200.00 net. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed via roll call vote. Mr. Ackerman abstained (see attached) Mr. Smith suggested that a policy for a Holiday bonus based on years of service be enacted. This item was to be added to the Agenda for January 14, 2025.

COVID FUNDS

Mr. Smith made the motion to use the remaining \$176,539.09 ARPA COVID funds for replacement of windows in the Community Center. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed. Solicitor Valentine will prepare the bid documents and advertising synopsis.

GUESTS:

There were no pre-registered guests

A.) Donna Wilhelm was present to express her interest in renting a room within the Community Center to hold exercise class and youth classes after January 1, 2025. Mr. Baker made the motion negotiate with Ms. Wilhelm for the use of the space in the former Daycare in the basement of the building. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

After further discussion, Mr. Ackerman made the motion to set the monthly rate for the space at \$300.00. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

The Secretary was asked to prepare the lease agreement using the template on file.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

No report was given.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

No report was given.

JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER:

Miss Baker presented a report of activities being held at the school.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

No report was given.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

No report was given.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Valentine reported on the following:

- A hearing on the 326 Salisbury St. property will be held on December 12, 2024 at 1 PM at the Somerset County Courthouse in courtroom #2.
- Uptown park damage to trees will be tabled until January 14, 2025.
- A date will be scheduled to meet with PennDOT and Senator Stefano regarding the Grant Street rock wall.
- The draft job descriptions have been forwarded to the Union Representative. Further discussion was tabled until the January 14, 2025 meeting.
- The Community Center deed is being reviewed by the School District Solicitor and will be signed after the review is completed.
- HRI has replied regarding the overage on the street resurfacing project. They are willing to try to work on a resolution.
- The EADS Group completed an inspection of the High Street Bridge. CSX owns of the bridge and it is possible that PennDOT will mandate them to replace the bridge.
- The Social Media Policy will be tabled until the January 14, 2025 meeting.
- Gym rental insurance provisions
Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to rescind the motion made at the November 12, 2024 meeting regarding the requirement for anyone using the gym facility to provide a certificate of insurance and sign waivers. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

No report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Municipal Authority

Mr. Baker reported that the water reservoir is full, but that the Municipal Authority is still under a state conservation restriction.

Mr. Brian Witherite, MMA Board Chairman was present to report that the MMA has had multiple line breaks on Sherman St. and that is important that they continue to search for grants to get these areas fixed.

Street Foreman

Mr. Reiber reported the meeting room has been painted with the help from the Prison workforce. The Prison workers are not permitted to paint the stairways. As soon as the workers are available, he would like to have them paint the former daycare.

The ATV signs are ready for pickup in Spring Mills, PA. Mr. Gene Mishler was present and volunteered to go pick them up for the cost of fuel. Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to grant Mr. Mishler permission to pick up the signs and reimburse him for his expense. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Mr. Mishler will try to coordinate with Summit Township to pick up their signs at the same time and the expenses could be shared by both municipalities.

Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

No report was given.

Public Library

No report was given.

Meyersdale Community Events Committee

Mrs. Knieriem reported that the Elks club allowed the activities for Light up Night to be held in their building due to the inclement weather.

There are no other activities planned for the remainder of 2024.

Meyersdale Renaissance

No report was given.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – STANDING COMMITTEES:

Police/Public Safety

Mayor Smith reported on the following:

- Mayor Smith extended his thank you to the Meyersdale American Legion for the donation of \$2,000.00 to the police department. A thank you letter will be sent.
- The County wide burn ban will remain in effect until the end of December 2024.
- Salisbury Borough has an agreement for police protection ready for review.

Mr. Baker made the motion to charge Salisbury Borough \$60.00 per hour for police protection. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

Personnel

No report was given.

Finance

No report was given.

Refuse

No report was given.

Streets/Buildings

No report was given.

Flood Control

Mr. Baker reported that the Corp. of Engineers may include the replacement of the Rip Rap in the project to make necessary repairs to the flood control embankment.

Farmer's Market

No report was given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A.) Charging Station Outlets

The charging station outlets will be closed for the season using the schedule of the tunnel.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Announcements

There were no announcements.

B.) Set meeting nights & Committee meetings for 2025

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to set the Regular Meeting nights and Committee Meetings for 2025. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed. The meetings will be as follows:

Regular Monthly Meetings – Second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.

Committees – Thursday preceding the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.

Police/ Public Safety, Personnel, Finance only, all others on an as need basis.

Meyersdale Community Events Committee – 4th Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Elks Club.

C.) Correspondence from Somerset County regarding Per Capita Tax billing to end January 2026.

This item was tabled until the January 14, 2025 meeting.

D.) Priority of gym rental usage

This item was tabled until the January 14, 2025 meeting.

E.) EADS application for roads occupancy permit

Meyersdale Municipal Authority Sewer Project – Sherman St. & Keystone St.

Mr. Smith made the motion to grant permission for Borough roadways to be used during the sewer line replacement project on Sherman St. and Keystone St.. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

F.) Walking in Gym

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to grant permission for walking in the gym between the hours of 7 AM and 3 PM when the gym is available. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

GOALS FOR 2024

Flood Control rip rap

No report was given.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no additional items to be discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 PM. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

Patricia C. Ackerman

Patricia C. Ackerman
Borough Secretary

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Regular Meeting 12/10/2024 Special Meeting _____

GUEST SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT

| | NAME | ADDRESS | TOPIC |
|----|-----------------------|---------------|-------|
| 1 | Jeff Christner | | |
| 2 | Don Walker | 238 Meigs Ave | Rent |
| 3 | Ruth + Eugene Mishler | | |
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GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING

**Conflict of Interest
Abstention Memorandum**

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


FROM: Ronnie C. Ackerman, council member

DATE: December 10, 2024

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 Christmas Bonus for employees.

My conflict/reason for abstaining is as follows:

The action directly affects a family member, due to the fact that Mrs. Patricia C. Ackerman, Borough Secretary, is my spouse, therefore, ethically it is my opinion that I have an obligation to abstain.



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 required a public official to complete a form every time he has a conflict of interest).