

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 12/12/2023

Approved minutes – Special Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Meeting  
December 12, 2023  
7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Folk, December 12, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Baer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Folk, Mrs. Gnagey, Mrs. Knieriem, Mayor Smith and Solicitor Valentine were present. Note: There were only 6 Council Members due to the resignation of Mr. Parisi. Brion Reiber, Street Foreman was absent. There was no representative from the Police Department. Council Members Elect Mr. Jeff Irwin, DDS and Mr. Thomas Smith were present and were invited to sit with Council and engage in the meeting.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Irwin addressed the parking issue brought before Council at the November 14, 2023 meeting by Mr. Dan Pletcher. It was reported that Mr. Gene Mishler does not want to give up a parking space in front of his building. After some discussion, Mrs. Knieriem voiced her concerns that there is a problem in the area. Mr. Smith reported that he lives in the area and expressed his opinion that the parking should be left as is. After some discussion, it was decided that this item would be deferred until after the January Reorganization meeting, then the new street committee can make an evaluation.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023 regular meeting. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT/ BILLS:**

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

**GUESTS:**

A.) Mr. Avery Peters from First National Bank was present to introduce himself as the new Branch Manager in the Meyersdale Office. Mr. Peters distributed an information flyer regarding workplace banking. After being asked by Mrs. Gnagey, Mr. Peters reported that the interest rate on the General Fund Account is currently 0.46%.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mrs. Jody Saler from The GI Dayroom Coffee Shop donated \$500.00 back to the Parks & Recreation from proceeds that she had won at the Light up Night.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Mr. Folk reported that he had received positive comments regarding the Light up Night and extended his thanks to all involved in planning the event.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Smith reported fines totaled \$322.48 for the month.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:**

No report was given.

**ENGINEERS REPORT:**

No report was given.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:**

Solicitor Valentine reported on the following:

- Objections regarding Ordinance #443 and #444 (Vacating Streets) were received. It was recommended to defer action on this matter until after the Reorganization of Council in January 2024, at which time the matter would be discussed in executive session.
- The Electric Scooter Ordinance is being modeled after an Ordinance implemented in Pittsburgh, Pa. Solicitor Valentine will forward a draft for Council review. Advertising and adoption will follow in 2024.
- Website/Facebook postings  
Solicitor Valentine reported that anything in the public domain may be posted on the website and facebook. The following items were recommended to be considered for posting:

- 1) Any public business
- 2) Most common ordinances  
Zoning Ordinance, Building Code, Burning, Noise, Dog, Livestock, Mobile Home, etc.
- 3) Public events promoted by the Borough. Non Borough promoted events should not be posted.
- 4) Agendas, Meeting Minutes (once approved by Council).
- 5) Links to other websites such as Meyersdale Merchants Association, Meyersdale Public Library, PA Municipal Code Alliance, etc.

Solicitor Valentine made Council aware that some websites may permit the information to be scanned and uploaded, but it has been his experience that the information must be retyped. Either way, the process is very time consuming.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to grant Solicitor Valentine permission to take immediate action against the property owner of 326 Salisbury St. with regard to the deplorable condition of the house. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed. The Redevelopment Authority of Somerset County will be contacted to request funding for demolition of the property.

A report of junk and debris at 7 Chestnut St. was discussed. Solicitor Valentine was to confirm if the property is owned by the Borough.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Municipal Authority**

Mrs. Sandy Miller, Board Member reported that two new employees have been hired.

**Street Foreman**

In the absence of Mr. Reiber, President Folk reported that the bike charging station electrical boxes had been damaged and in order to eliminate future damages, Mr. Reiber suggested installing cover boxes.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to accept a quote from B & T Fabrication to have metal locking cover boxes fabricated at a cost of \$345.00. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

### Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

Mrs. Denise Gehringer reported that there was a fantastic turn out for Light up Night. MAMA will reboot after the first of the year.

Mrs. Gnagey thanked the Meyersdale Area Merchants Association for coming together for Light up Night and spearheading the cash giveaways. The cash incentives motivated people to attend the Light up Night event.

### Public Library

Mrs. Teri Foster was present to give a report. The newsletter celebrated its one year anniversary, grant funds will be used to purchase new furniture and the Way We Were Club continues to digitize photos.

### Parks & Recreation

Mrs. Gnagey reported that Keri Beth Ickes will be one of the new leaders of the Parks & Recreation. Mrs. Ickes presented three letters of interest to fill vacancies on the Board. Council decided to defer appointments until the January Reorganization meeting scheduled for January 2, 2024. Solicitor Valentine reported that the meetings must be advertised, and meeting minutes are to be kept and the Parks & Recreation Board must be organized and operated per the Borough Ordinance. After some discussion, it was decided that the ordinance will be reviewed and updated if necessary in January 2024. It was noted that the Parks & Recreation Board meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7 PM and the meetings are held at the Meyersdale Elks Lodge. The Secretary was asked to advertise the same.

### Meyersdale Renaissance

No report was given.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS – STANDING COMMITTEES

### POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Smith reported on the following:

#### POLICE CHIEF POSITION:

Mayor Smith reported that Mr. Adam Horning declined to accept the Chief of Police position. Solicitor Valentine indicated that Council could use the pool of applicants on file to fill the position without advertising. Mayor Smith and the Police Committee will meet after the holidays to interview applicants.

The vandalism problem reported at the November 14, 2023 meeting has been solved. There have been no new reports to date.

The Christmas wreaths were installed by the Borough and Municipal Authority workers despite a minor issue with missing bolts. Mr. Ackerman reported that the fireman will take down the wreaths after the holidays. It was suggested that the bolts be put back in the brackets before storing them.

### FINANCE

No report was given.

### REFUSE

No report was given.

## STREETS/BUILDINGS

Replacement of barricades will be added to the Agenda for the 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting in January 2024.

## FLOOD CONTROL

No report was given.

## FARMERS MARKET

No report was given.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

### A.) Patrolman police agreement/handbook

The document has not been signed.

### B.) E-Bike charging station grant update

Mrs. Katie Billy reported that the project is completed and has been paid for. An invoice to the Borough for the \$3,314.00 matching money will be submitted.

### C.) Ambulance meeting

Mr. Kenneth Marteney was present and thanked Mrs. Gnagey and Mrs. Kolb for organizing the Public Hearing. The only local municipality not in attendance was Salisbury Borough. He suggested starting the process to initiate a Municipal Ambulance Service for Southern Somerset County. There were suggestions of implementing a Per Capita Tax as a way to provide financial support to the Ambulance Association.

### D.) Proposals for investments – Discussion

Mr. Josh Sechler and Mrs. Katie Billy were present with a report on the accounts currently with Somerset Trust. Proposals for investments was to be listed on the Agenda for discussion at the first regular meeting in January 2024.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### A.) Announcements

There were no announcements.

### B.) Police coverage in Borough & Summit Township

Mayor Smith reported that Summit Township had approached him regarding a proposal for traffic detail. There is to be another meeting with the Township in the future. It was reported that there is a Intermunicipal Agreement Ordinance with Summit Township on file.

### C.) Hierarchy System

Mrs. Knieriem reported that she was frustrated that the President of Council had not acknowledged her e-mails. President Folk replied that not every situation can be resolved immediately and it could take hours to respond. He also indicated that Council decided that all communications should be handled by the President. Mrs. Gnagey reported that after completing research, the President of Council is to conduct the meeting and has no power over other Council Members. Mrs. Knieriem wants everyone to work together and that communication needs to be a part of it. There was a discussion about blind copy e-mails. Mr. Ackerman reported that he initiated the passage of the Hierarchy System to eliminate

everyone from giving instructions to the Solicitor, which ultimately costs the Borough more in legal fees. The Hierarchy System was also implemented to stop the practice of everyone giving instructions to the Borough employees. Because of this practice the employees do not always know what directive to follow.

D.) Stable Storage

Mrs. Gnagey reported that the Christmas stable used for Light up Night should be taken down before there is a snow event. The stable is a temporary decorative structure that will not withstand a heavy snow load. After some discussion, Mr. Baker was asked to work with the Borough Crew to disassemble the stable and store it in the basement of the community center.

E.) Meyersdale Municipal Authority Appointment

Solicitor Valentine reported that to his knowledge there are four people who have submitted letters of interest and that the appointment cannot be made until the Reorganization Meeting in January 2, 2024.

F.) Monetary donations for Parks & Recreation

Solicitor Valentine reported that monetary donations for the Parks & Recreation cannot be deposited into the Frank Lucente Fund or the Harry E. Leckemby Fund. These donations must be deposited and documented through the General Fund Account.

G.) Mr. Irwin requested that the topic of current and future plans for the Community Center be added to the Agenda for the 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting in January 2024.

H.) January meetings

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to hold the Reorganization Meeting on January 2, 2024 and to schedule a regular meeting for January 9, 2024. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed. These meetings will be advertised as required.

**GOALS FOR 2024**

Ordinance Review

No report given.

Zoning Review

No report given.

New Building

No report given.

Emergency Access Road Meyers Ave.

Solicitor Valentine reported that the last conversation he had with the railroad was that they are not willing to do anything with the High Street bridge without closing other crossings.

Control Spending

No report given.

Flood Control rip rap

No report given.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

There were no additional items to be discussed.

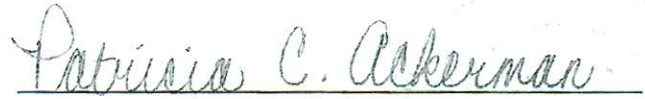
**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mrs. Knieriem indicated that there was a need for an executive session. No motion or second was made to enter into executive session.

\*Mrs. Gnagey and Mrs. Knieriem left the Council table at approximately 8:50 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Baer made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed with Mrs. Gnagey and Mrs. Knieriem being absent during the vote.



*Patricia C. Ackerman*

Patricia C. Ackerman  
Borough Secretary

**MEYERSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
 Regular Meeting 12/12/2023 Special Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST SIGN IN**

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	Jason Ackerman	342 meyers Ave	
2	Tom Deetz	334 Olinger St Middle	
3	Jeff Christman	207 MITT ST	
4	Kath Shaulis / Eric Shaulis	505 Sixth Ave Middle	
5	Ken Martens	26 Sixth AVE	MAAA / House One
6	Jody Saker		
7	Sandy Miller	Salisbury St	
8	Dennis Gehring	106 Meyers Ave	
9	Wendy Kelly		
10	Ruth + Eugene Miskler		
11	Avery + Peter		
12	Terrri Fultz	215 Olinger	library
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**GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING**

GUEST SIGN IN ON EXCEL

