

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 12/9/2025

Approved minutes – Special Meeting _____

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting _____

Regular Meeting
December 9, 2025
7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Irwin, December 9, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Baer, Mrs. Gnagey, Mr. Irwin, Mrs. Knieriem, Mr. Smith, and Solicitor Valentine were present. Mr. Baker and Mayor Smith were absent. Olivia Baker, Junior Council Member, Mr. Brion Reiber, Street Foreman, and Council Members Elect Mr. Jeffery Christner and Mr. Robert Munion were also present.

MINUTES:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2025 Regular Meeting and the November 20, 2025 Special Meeting as presented. Mr. Baer seconded.

Mrs. Gnagey noted an error on the minutes of the November 11, 2025 Regular Meeting. On page 2 under the Solicitor's Report, bullet point two, the following was incorrect and should be removed: *The School is willing to grant approval.*

Mr. Ackerman amended the motion to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2025 Regular Meeting with the correction and the November 20, 2025 Special Meeting as presented. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT/ BILLS:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to accept the financial report and pay the bills as presented. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed. The Financial Report was presented by the Borough Secretary in the absence of Mr. Baker, Finance Chairman.

OPEN BIDS ON SALE OF PROPERTIES:

326 Salisbury St. – Vacant Lot

Bid 1 – Patricia Crouse - \$4,000.00
324 Salisbury St.
Meyersdale, PA 15552

Bid 2 – Joseph Harvey - \$4,111.00
213 Sixth Ave.
Meyersdale, PA 15552

Bid 3 – KJT Enterprises - \$12,950.00
Savage Road
Salisbury, PA 15558

Bid 4 – Christopher Arnold - \$2,805.00
C & A Rentals
129 Vought Rock Rd.
Garrett, PA 15542

Mr. Baer made the motion to accept the highest bid from KJT Enterprises in the amount of \$12,950.00. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

Solicitor Valentine reported that the Borough has a duty to recover any other entities losses, such as taxes from the proceeds of the sale. It was also reported that the County would not be seeking recovery for the demolition costs.

351 Meyers Avenue – Vacant lots

Part A & Part B

Bid 1 – Robert Gallagher - \$3,000.00

343 Meyers Avenue
Meyersdale, PA 15552

Bid 2 - Christopher Arnold - \$1,015.00

C & A Rentals
129 Vought Rock Rd.
Garrett, PA 15542

There was discussion regarding the need for a survey and subdivision of the property due to the fact that the Meyers Avenue access road is situated between the two parcels. Solicitor Valentine recommended reaching out to the highest bidder, Mr. Robert Gallagher and counter offer for the cost of the survey and the subdivision to be split between the Borough and Mr. Gallagher.

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to authorize Solicitor Valentine to make a counter offer regarding surveying and subdivision of the properties. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed.

618 Grant St. – Vacant lot

Bid 1- Christopher Arnold - \$505.00

C & A Rentals
129 Vought Rock Rd.
Garrett, PA 15542

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to accept the highest bid from Christopher Arnold, C & A Rentals in the amount of \$505.00. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

Solicitor Valentine noted that Mr. Arnold is aware of the stone wall on Grant St. issue.

Former Mahler Property – Vacant lot

Bid 1- Christopher Arnold - \$505.00

C & A Rentals
129 Vought Rock Rd.
Garrett, PA 15542

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to accept the highest bid from Christopher Arnold, C & A Rentals in the Amount of \$505.00. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Solicitor Valentine noted that Mr. Arnold is aware of the issue regarding the stone wall on Grant Street.

GUESTS:

A.) Mr. Ed Mazurkiewicz – 221 Salisbury Street fire damage

Mr. Mazurkiewicz from the PA Municipal Code Alliance was present to give a report on the structure at 221 Salisbury Street that sustained major fire damage in October 2025.

An investigation was completed, a Notice of Violation was sent October 16, 2025 to BHY Realty LLC Brooklyn, New York with no response being received from them. All entrances to the structure were posted as it being an unsafe structure.

The owners have several different addresses and mailings were sent to all known addresses by PMCA and by Solicitor Valentine. The owners have not responded to any mailing attempts. Solicitor Valentine is working through the court system to gain Injunctive Relief of the property.

Mrs. Gnagey reported that she contacted three demolition companies and obtained pricing for demolition of the property.

Solicitor Valentine reported that once the Borough obtains conservative ship, immediate action can be taken to have the structure demolished.

B.) Mr. Jeffrey Hobbs, Sr. – Plans for the Public Library

Mr. Hobbs reported that the Library Board would like to expand library services and has been working with Attorney Douglas Bell and the Cornerstone Church to possibly purchase the property on Main Street. The property has a blighted apartment house located on it that will need to be demolished. The Library Board is also looking at other options for an expansion. If the board chooses to purchase the property, The plan would be to build a building to house archives and a meeting room for activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Jeffrey Haines – Zoom Energy

Mr. Haines was present to give an overview of Zoom Energy. Mr. Haines was aware that Council decided at the November meeting not to switch to Zoom Energy. He explained that currently the Borough is on a month to month variable rate with Engie and the rates per kilowatt hour constantly change. Zoom Energy can quote a fixed rate for 6 months, 1 Year or 2 Year term. Currently Zoom Energy is offering \$100 gift cards as an incentive and the Borough would be eligible for \$1,000 in cards. After some discussion, it was recommended to revisit the offer in January after the new council organizes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- President Irwin reported that the meeting tonight is the final meeting of the current council. A thank you letter was presented to Mrs. Knieriem, a letter to Mr. Baker will be hand delivered. Mr. Baker was called to work and was unable to attend the meeting. Mrs. Knieriem commented that it was a learning experience and was thankful for the opportunity to serve.
- Reorganization Meeting update
January 5, 2026 will be the Reorganization Meeting and it will be held at 7 PM. Council will reorganize with old business being conducted first and then the Mayor will preside over the Reorganization Meeting until a President and Vice President is chosen. The newly elected President will then preside and other officers will be chosen and committees will be formed.

AMEND AGENDA

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to amend the Agenda to add discussion regarding installation of basketball backboards in the gym. Mr. Baer seconded.

President Irwin reported that there was a problem getting the basketball backboards installed. Several people were contacted and the last attempt, the volunteers were not confident that they could complete the installation safely. President Irwin contacted Darr Construction and they are willing to do the installation and estimated it to cost \$3,500.00. The job will require the use of a large lift to bring a small lift into the gym. The Borough would be responsible to protect the gym floor and supply the materials. Darr would not be available until after January 2026.

After some discussion, Mr. Ackerman made the motion to contact Darr Construction to do a site visit to find out if they could give a better price and if not then accept the estimate of \$3,500.00 and have the backboards installed. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to amend the Agenda to add discussion regarding installation of window blinds in the gym. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Ackerman reported that the pickleball players are having issues with the sun coming in the windows interfering with the games. Jeff Christner asked if window blinds could be purchased. An estimate from Friend Blinds and Design was received in the amount of \$2,750.00.

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to purchase the window blinds contingent upon proof of workers compensation and liability insurance. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed with Mr. Smith casting a No vote.

- Mr. Irwin reported that the meetings have been live streamed and there have been a few times that for circumstances beyond anyone's control the meeting was unable to be aired. It was his suggestion for Council to decide if they want to continue airing the meetings and that this could be a decision for the new Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

No report was given.

JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT:

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

Mr. Kevin Broadwater reported that PEMA officials held a meeting regarding the May 2025 flooding event. He reported that during the flooding event the emergency plan was followed and all went well. He reported that training is available through on-line courses that anyone can take.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

No report was given.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Valentine reported on the following:

- ADA Restroom RFP was tabled until after January 2026 reorganization.
- 221 Salisbury St. property, documents will be filed to proceed to court. Solicitor will get all costs associated with the property in order and will be prepared to present at the Reorganization meeting
- HRI Paving received and cashed the check for ½ of the balance of the paving project from 2024. There has been no further response from them.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

No report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Municipal Authority

No report was given by the MMA. President Irwin reported that the advertisement has been scheduled for the vacancy on the Board which will be acted upon at the January 5 2026 Reorganization Meeting. Letters of interest will be accepted until January 2, 2026 at Noon.

Street Foreman

Mr. Reiber reported that he and Mr. Hotchkiss will assist Darr Construction with the basketball backboards if needed.

Meyersdale Area Merchants Association/Farmers Market

Mr. Brian Berkebile reported that the Merchants Association will meet on January 21, 2026 at 6 PM in the Elks Lodge. It was reported that Small Business Saturday was a success. MAMA is working on getting a quote to replace the Lady Bird Johnson billboard located in Summit Township before the Maple Festival.

The Farmers Market Committee will meet in January 2026. A request was made to have rain gutters installed to eliminate the need for the drainage ditch in the pavilion. Mrs. Gnagey was asked to obtain a quote from a contractor and report back at the January meeting.

Mrs. Gnagey reported that Mr. Doug Horne is working on building 6 picnic tables for the pavilion. Supplies will be purchased through Salisbury Builders and billed to the Borough, up to \$1,500.00. Donated funds from the Summer Lunch program will be used to offset the cost of supplies.

The Farmers Market Committee requested replacement of a microwave and possibly the stove in the pavilion. Additional counter space is also needed and a low profile over the stove microwave would be ideal.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to purchase a low profile over the stove microwave unit from Lowe's at a cost of \$349.00. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed. Donated funds from the Summer Lunch program will be used to offset the cost.

The Committee also requested that Council consider increasing the am phage in the electrical panel. Mr. Reiber was asked to contact Mr. Leroy Cook to give a quote.

Public Library

Mrs. Teri Foster was present to give a report. Mrs. Foster thanked Dr. Roger Hanson for the updating of the landscaping and for supplying Holiday decorations for display. The pre-school story hour continues as well as lego club and the historical programs have been a success.

Meyersdale Community Events Committee

Mrs. Knieriem reported that Light up Night went well and the Community Events Team has decided to utilize the community center gym for future Holiday events. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2026 at the Elks Lodge. The group will be planning for Easter activities.

Mrs. Gnagey reported that she has a donor who with Board approval is willing to purchase a new artificial Christmas tree for use in the gazebo at a cost of \$1,073.16.

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to donate the current tree to another town or organization. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

Meyersdale Renaissance Committee

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

No report was given.

Streets/Buildings

No report was given.

Flood Control

President Irwin reported he had received notice from Senator Stefano that DCED will not allow a change of scope for the flood control grant in the amount of \$225,000.00.

Mrs. Gnagey reported that there are two grants available, one being a Flood Mitigation Grant that requires 15% matching funds. It was reported that if the local match was increased there would be a greater change of obtaining grant funding. After some discussion. Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to authorize Mr. Kevin Yoder, Appalachian Engineering, to proceed with applying for the grant funds and for the Borough to provide 25% matching funds. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Farmer's Market

No report was given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A.) Zoning Ordinance Review

This item was tabled until after the New Year.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Announcements

There were no announcements.

B.) PennDOT study

Mrs. Gnagey reported that a bad accident happened at the intersection of Broadway and Grant Street. She contacted PennDOT and was informed that they would do a traffic study at no cost to the Borough. If the study revealed the need for signage changes, the Borough would be responsible for the cost. She indicated that there is grant funds available for signage.

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to grant Mrs. Gnagey permission to have PennDOT complete a traffic study for this intersection. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

C.) Goals

Mrs. Gnagey would like for Council to come up with a list of goals for the next three to five years.

GOALS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

Flood Control rip rap – No discussion

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

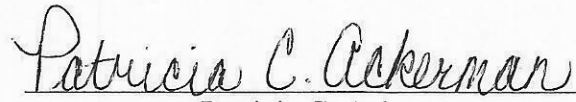
There were no additional items to be discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.



Patricia C. Ackerman
Borough Secretary

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Regular Meeting 12/9/2025 Special Meeting _____

GUEST SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	Brian Benhabile	Meyersdale	Mu Mu-
2	Jeff Hobbs	Willard Rd	Lebrary
3	Tari Fister	Meyersdale Cherry St	highcarey
4	Kenneth A. Thomas	1785 Sauger Rd Salisbury, MA	properties
5	Rum Brown		
6	Patti Shales		
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GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING