

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 1/14/2025

Approved minutes – Special Meeting _____

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting _____

Regular Meeting
January 14, 2025
7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Irwin, January 14, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

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

Ms. Susan Levy from the Somerset County Animal Response Team was present to give an overview of the Emergency Animal Shelter program. During an emergency the shelter would take care of animals, primarily dogs and cats. This program is completely self-sufficient, floors would be protected, the animals would be taken care of by the Response Team. A supply of animal crates are housed in the Meyersdale Firehall for emergency use. Ms. Levy asked Council to consider using space in the Community Center for the program. Action was tabled until later in the meeting.

MINUTES:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the December 10, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed with Mrs. Gnagey abstaining. (See attached Memorandum of Abstention)

FINANCIAL REPORT/ BILLS:

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

AGREEMENT FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES SUBSIDY

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to remit the Borough share of ambulance service subsidy in the amount of \$32,486.00 from the Local Service Tax Account to the Meyersdale Area Ambulance. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed. The \$32,486.00 is payment in full for the 2025 subsidy per the agreement.

ESTIMATE TO PAINT UPPER SECTION OF GYM

Mr. Baer presented an estimate in the amount of \$5,000.00 for material and labor, with his labor being donated. Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to accept the estimate and authorize payment from the Community Center Building Renovation account. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

PURCHASE SCANNER FOR BOROUGH OFFICE

After some discussion, Council decided that if a scanner is needed for the Borough Office, a motion was not necessary. The Secretary reported that the three in one printer is serving the purpose and suggested not to purchase at this time.

GRANTS

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to allow Mrs. Gnagey to search for grants. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

GUESTS:

There were no pre-registered guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mrs. Donna Wilhelm was present to report that she hopes to start renting the former Daycare space effective February 1, 2025. She reported that the room has not been painted, she asked that ceiling tile be replaced, an orange caution strip be painted across the steps and that exposed pipes be covered. Council was hopeful that the Prison Workforce would be able to assist with the painting. Permission was granted for Mrs. Wilhelm to set up a pre-registration table in the hallway of the Community Center.

MUSICAL BOOSTER STORAGE SPACE

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to allocate the upstairs classroom space to the Musical Boosters for costume storage as soon as it becomes available. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

No report was given. President Irwin reported that there was a need for an executive session to discuss personnel issues and potential litigation.

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:

Mr. Kevin Broadwater was present to report that he has worked closely with Ms. Levy and that the animal shelter program would be an asset in the event of any emergency. He has a draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan which needs to be before July.

Mr. Broadwater commended the Borough Streets crew for doing a wonderful job.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

No report was given.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Solicitor Valentine reported on the following:

- 326 Salisbury St. would be discussed in executive session.
- The deeds have been signed for the Vietnam/Korean Memorial site transfer.
- The Little League project has been approved by the County and deeds will be signed.
- The bids on the window project will be opened later in this meeting.
- The Non Uniform Union Representative will be contacted to hold a zoom meeting during the February 6, 2025 Committee Meeting to discuss the Streets Crew Job Descriptions and the Holiday Bonus Policy.
- A meeting will be scheduled with PennDOT regarding the retaining wall on Grant Street. Rather than the entire Council meeting, it was suggested that the Streets Committee Members meet with PennDOT and that the meeting be advertised.

- Damage to trees will be discussed in executive session.
- The 2024 paving contract overages will be discussed in executive session.
- A meeting with PennDOT, and The EADS Group will be scheduled to discuss the High Street bridge.
- The Salisbury Intermunicipal Agreement to provide police protection was forwarded to the Salisbury Mayor for review.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

No report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Municipal Authority

Summit Township Representative to the Meyersdale Municipal Authority Board

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to appoint Mr. Donald Anderson as the Summit Township Representative to the Meyersdale Municipal Authority Board. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed. The term will expire the first Monday in January 2030.

Mr. Baker reported that the water table is back up. Everything is running as it should.

Street Foreman

No report was given.

Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

Mrs. Denise Gehringer was present to report that the general meeting will be held on January 18, 2025 in the Somerset Trust meeting room. The major topic will be getting the Maple City Farmers Market back up and running for 2025.

A billboard sign located in Summit Township near the off ramp of 219 will be repaired.

Public Library

Mrs. Gnagey reported that the fund raising event, Death by Chocolate, will be held February 14, 2025.

Meyersdale Community Events Committee

Mrs. Knieriem reported that the Committee will meet in January to begin preparing for Easter activities.

Meyersdale Renaissance

No report was given.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – STANDING COMMITTEES:

Police/Public Safety

Mayor Smith reported on the following:

- Salisbury Borough has the agreement for Police Protection Services to review.

President Irwin reported that the auditors are concerned that there is no handbook for the police employees.

A copy will be provided to the Secretary.

Personnel

No report was given.

Finance

No report was given.

Refuse

Mr. David Flower, Legal Counsel for Chris Harbaugh would like to renew the Refuse Hauling Contract. Solicitor Valentine will e-mail a draft to everyone.

Streets/Buildings

Donna Wilhelm rental fee

Mr. Baer made the motion to drop the monthly rental fee to \$200.00 per month. Mr. Baker seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ackerman – No; Mr. Baer – Yes; Mr. Baker – Yes; Mrs. Gnagey – Yes; Mr. Irwin – Yes; Mrs. Knieriem – No; Mr. Smith – No. Motion passed.

Flood Control

No report was given.

Farmer's Market

No report was given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A.) Social Media Policy

Tabled until the February 2025 meeting.

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

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to have the Borough Secretary contact Keystone Collections and request that a representative be present at the February 6, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting to discuss this matter. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Announcements

The annual Cross Walk will be held on April 18, 2025.

* Mr. Ackerman left the room at 8 PM and returned at 8:01 PM

B.) Open bids – Community Center Window Replacement Project

One bid was received from Darr Construction in the amount of \$133,000.00.

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the bid contingent upon legal review. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed. There were some concerns that a change order would be necessary.

C.) Maintenance

There was no report regarding lights being repaired in the front of the Community Center.

Rear Handicap ramp repairs

President Irwin reported that he had contacted PMCA and was told if the ramp is repaired, a building permit is not required. If the ramp is removed and reconstructed, permits would need to be obtained. There was a suggestion to find out if the Lions Club would be okay with removing the back ramp and

use the side ramp entrance.

D.) Upstairs classroom space

President Irwin read a text message from Mr. Art Darnell from the Apostolic School indicating that they are anticipating to be moved out by the end of January 2025.

GOALS FOR 2024

Flood Control rip rap

Mr. Baker reported that he had received a call from the Corps of Engineers and it looks promising that the replacement of some rip rap could be included in their project to restore the embankment. It may take 1 two 2 years for this project to come to fruition.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no additional items to be discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss property matters, personnel matters and Attorney client privileged matters including potential litigation at 8:10 PM. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to return to regular session at 9:07 PM. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION/MOTIONS:

Paving overage

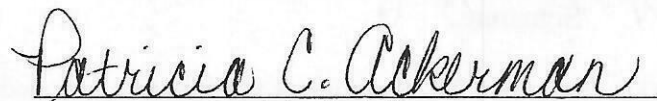
Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to try to work with HRI Contracting and meet in the middle regarding the paving cost overage from the 2024 paving project. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed. Solicitor Valentine will contact the company.

326 Salisbury St.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to continue the process to obtain the property. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 PM. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed.



Patricia C. Ackerman
Borough Secretary

**Conflict of Interest
Abstention Memorandum**

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

FROM: Haren Gnazy, council member

DATE: 1/14/25

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:

I wasn't at Dec meeting

My conflict/reason for abstaining is as follows:

Can't confirm meeting minutes - absent

H. Gnazy
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 1/14/2025 Special Meeting _____

GUEST SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	Susan Lery	Rockwood	Emergency Animal Shelter
2	Jeff Chrismer	Meyersdale	
3	Denise Gehring	106 Meyers Ave	
4	Ruth + Eugene Mishler		
5	Britta Mitchell	515 Sherman	Costume Storage
6	Dennis	238 Meigs Rd	Rental
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GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING