

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 6/10/2025

Approved minutes – Special Meeting _____

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting _____

Regular Meeting
June 10, 2025
7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Irwin, June 10, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Baer, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Gnagey, Mr. Irwin, and Mr. Smith were present. Solicitor Valentine was present via phone. Mrs. Knieriem, Mayor Smith and Olivia Baker (Junior Council Member) were absent. Brion Reiber – Street Foreman, was present. There was no police officer present.

MINUTES:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2025 Regular Meeting. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT/ BILLS:

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

The Borough Secretary reported that on June 6, 2025 during a lightning storm, the fire alarm system sustained irreparable damage and will need to be replaced. A claim was filed with the insurance company. The insurance company must verify that the damage was caused by a storm. This process may take a few weeks, and the Borough is not to do anything with the damaged unit until the investigation is completed. The estimate to replace the fire alarm is \$5,680.21. If the insurance claim is approved, the Borough will be responsible for the applicable deductible.

It was reported that the Streets Committee will get together to compile a list of paving projects for the season.

GUESTS:

- A.) Mr. Kevin Yoder, Appalachian Engineering was present to report the possibility of changing the scope of work for the \$225,000.00 grant that was received to repair the flood control rip rap. Mr. Yoder is confident that there are no major issues at the present time with the rip rap and thought a better use for the funding would be to clean the debris basin. An inspection after the May 13, 2025 flooding event was completed and it has been noted that the debris basin should be cleaned. The debris basin has not been cleaned since September 2019 and it is estimated that 10,600 cu yd. of debris was removed. Mr. Yoder estimated to remove the same amount of debris at today's pricing would cost \$250,000.00 - \$260,000.00. President Irwin reported that after speaking with Senator Stefano, the Senator will support the change of scope and thinks that it would be a simple process to reallocate the grant funds. Mr. Baer made the motion to move forward with the process to have the grant funding scope of work changed. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.
- B.) Mr. Larry Philip – Somerset Engineering was listed as a guest, but was not present. Mr. Philip will be present at the July meeting to discuss the community center handicap accessibility assessment. Mr. Philip will have the report and drawings ready for presentation.
- C.) Mr. Robert Hufford was listed as a guest, but was not present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A.) Mr. Carl Shuck – Keystone Street was present to report a problem he is experiencing with a drain that has caused water to back up in his basement. After some discussion, it was decided that the streets crew would flush the drain with a jetter machine in an attempt to correct the problem. Mr. Shuck also reported that there were pot holes on Keystone Street in need of repair and that the curb is missing. Mr. Baker reported that the curbing would be placed on the list for paving and the patching would be completed as soon as the seasonal help is acquired.
- B.) Mr. Brian Witherite was present to discuss with Council recent developments that have impacted his family. A few years back, a member of Council made an effort to displace his family from a home he was renting and render them homeless. The member of Council continued efforts to keep his family from obtaining housing within the Borough via renting or buying property. His family was harassed by this members relatives and after going to the Chief of Police at the time, Mr. Witherite was told by the Chief that he could not do anything about it because it would have an adverse impact on his position as Chief. The police chief feared retaliation. Mr. Witherite filed a formal complaint with the PA State Police because the local police would not handle it. The complaint remains on file with the State Police. In recent weeks a neighbor has accused Mr. Witherite of filing a complaint against him for the condition of his property. The neighbor indicated that at least two Council members told him that Mr. Witherite was the complainant, but that he did not want to say who those members were for fear of the same thing happening to him that happened to Mr. Witherite. Mr. Witherite filed a right to know request with the Borough in order get the actual information on who made the complaint and the neighbor has been corrected. Mr. Witherite felt that Council has a duty to address his complaint and take corrective action. Mr. Ackerman confirmed that he was witness to at least one attempt made to keep the Witherite family from obtaining housing. Mr. Smith indicated that Council does not want to tolerate abuse of power. President Irwin reported there is a possibility that a Special Meeting will need to be called for another matter and suggested that this complaint be discussed in executive session at that time.
- C.) Pastor Milton & Ann Morris were present regarding a complaint that was made against them for parking on Dale Street. After a lengthy discussion, Council asked Mr. Reiber to meet with Mr. & Mrs. Morris in an attempt to work out a solution.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

No report was given.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

No report was given.

JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER:

No report was given.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

Mr. Kevin Broadwater reported that the Small Business Administration will be available for physical flood damage until July 21, 2025. The deadline for businesses with economical damage is February 23, 2026. A DERAP program will end on August 25, 2025.

Mrs. Gnagey asked if thank you notes were sent out to all of the organization who helped with disaster recover,

and if not, if this could be done.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to make application to the Community Foundation of the Alleghenies for grant funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 to assist citizens with losses from the flood. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed. The Secretary was asked to complete the grant application and Mrs. Gnagey will review the same before submittal.

Funds through the USDA Water Shed are available for flood control project repairs, etc.

The Army Corp of Engineers will be sending information that may help with mapping the storm drains and PEMA may assist to fund a project. It was reported that the storm drains were the main cause of the flooding.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

No report was given.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Valentine reported on the following:

- Nothing further to report regarding 326 SalisburySt.
- Ordinance and proposed changes to Zoning to be tabled until the July meeting.
- No response from correspondence regarding the High St. bridge
- Litigation is moving forward on a personnel matter. Should have a report at the July meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Numerous high grass complaints have been received. After some discussion, it was decided that a list of properties would be provided to the Mayor and the police department will be asked to notify the owners.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Municipal Authority

Mr. Brian Witherite, Chairman of MMA Board reported on the following:

- Employees have been busy with the flooding event.
- Contrary to rumor the Little League ballfield transaction has not been delayed by the MMA. The EADS Group is working on a survey and subdivision plan which will be submitted for approval.
- The Office Manager is getting settled into the new office.
- The new MMA members are getting acclimated and everyone is working well together.

Street Foreman

Vegetation control along the flood control was discussed.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to accept a quote from Vegetation Management in the amount of \$2,020.58 to complete the work. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

Mr. Brian Berkebile was present to report that the annual meeting will be held on June 30, 2025 at the Levi Deal Mansion. The meeting will begin at 6:00 PM. The Farmers Market has 9 vendors with 5 produce vendors coming soon. The Farmers Market is held each Thursday from 8 AM – 1 PM. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for the new owner of the Country Bouquet, Carlissa McFarland.

Public Library

No report was given.

Meyersdale Community Events Committee

A Father/Daughter dance is scheduled for June 13, 2025 at the Elks Club. There will be a concert in the park on June 14, 2025 as well as a Flag Day ceremony. The Independence Day activities are set to go and t-shirts will be purchased for the Meyersdale Community Events staff. The t-shirts will be paid for with MCEC donated funds.

Meyersdale Renaissance Committee

No report was given.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – STANDING COMMITTEES:

Police/Public Safety

No report was given.

Personnel

Hiring Part-time Season Worker

Mr. Ackerman reported that there were 6 applicants. The Street Committee will schedule interviews. Mr. Reiber was asked to be present.

Mr. Smith made the motion to schedule a Special Meeting for June 19, 2025 at 7 PM for personal matters and to hold an executive session regarding litigation matters. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

Finance

No report was given.

Refuse

An agreement has not been received from Harbaugh Trucking for the refuse contract extension.

Streets/Buildings

Mr. Baker made the motion to accept the window elevation drawing from Darr Construction and to move forward with the community center window replacement project. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Flood Control

No report was given.

Farmer's Market

No report was given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A.) Social Media Policy

Mr. Smith made the motion to accept the Social Media Policy with a change to areas referencing the Borough Manager to the Borough Secretary. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

B.) Yard Waste

Mr. Baker and Mr. Reiber will work together on finding a location.

C.) New E-mail address

Mr. Smith made the motion to keep the e-mail as is. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

D.) Docusign

The consensus was that docusign was not necessary. No action was taken.

E.) All Call

The Secretary reported that the Municipal Authority Office Manager is willing to train her on the All Call system. Training will be given at the convenience of the MMA Office Manager.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Announcements

There were no announcements.

B.) Repair uptown cameras

This item was to be added to the July Agenda. Mr. Reiber was to obtain an estimate for the repairs.

C.) Holiday lights

It was reported that the Holiday lights that were chosen have been discontinued. A quote was received for custom sized decorations, with the cost to be about \$2,500.00 more than originally quoted.

Mr. Smith made the motion to order 39 fixtures. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed.

The Community Foundation of the Alleghenies grant of \$3,600.00 will be used toward the project, with the balance to be paid from the Leckemby Account. Three of the fixtures will be paid for by local donors and the Borough will not charge them more than the original agreed upon price per fixture.

D.) Meyers Avenue property owned by the Borough

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to move forward with bidding out the Borough owned vacant property on Meyers Avenue. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

E.) Advertise Zoning Hearing Board Position – Term up July 2025

Mr. Baer made the motion to advertise a vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

F.) Advertise Uniform Construction Code of Appeal Board – Terms up July 2025

Mr. Baker made the motion to advertise the vacancies on the Uniform Construction Code of Appeal Board. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed.

Solicitor Valentine suggested that the terms on this board should be set up in a staggered format.

G.) Executive session as listed on the Agenda under Item #17

To eliminate confusion, item #17 (Executive session) should be removed from the Agenda.

GOALS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

Flood Control rip rap

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 8:56 PM. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.


Patricia C. Ackerman
Borough Secretary

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Regular Meeting 6/10/2025 Special Meeting _____

GUEST SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	BFI Witterke	230 Sherman	Various
2	Ruth + Eugene Misher		
3	Brian Berkebile	Meyersdale	man update
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GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING