

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 6/13/2023

Approved minutes – Special Meeting _____

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting _____

Regular Meeting
June 13, 2023
7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Folk, June 13, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Baer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Folk, Mrs. Gnagey, Mrs. Knieriem, Mr. Parisi, Solicitor Valentine, and Mayor Smith were present. Brion Reiber, Street Foreman was also present. Matt Wright, Police Chief was absent.

MINUTES:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2023 regular meeting as presented. Mr. Parisi seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT/ BILLS:

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

GUESTS:

A.) Mrs. Martha Albright was present to voice her concerns regarding the town.

- The town is going downhill.
- Center St. from the Library down is a mess.
- Apartments are being put in buildings, creating a parking problem.
- Suggests closing down Center St. at 8 PM, unless the business is a restaurant.
- Suggests enhancing what the town has to offer and work together to make the town great.
- Suggests Borough pay to pave the parking lot owned by Mandy Sines and Ashley Price.
- Suggests researching for a grant to hire a full-time Zoning Enforcement Officer and possibly a Borough Manager.
- She loves the town and would like the right decisions to be made to make Meyersdale a better place in which to live.

After some discussion regarding zoning, Solicitor Valentine indicated that Zoning can be changed with regard to the business district, however the businesses that currently have Games of Skill cannot be banned. It was decided that this would be a discussion for a Workshop meeting.

B.) Mr. Tyson Donaldson was present to ask the Borough to investigate a neighbor dispute that his grandmother, Barbara Donaldson has been experiencing with a neighbor. After some discussion, Council advised him to have her property surveyed and Solicitor Valentine will reach out to Mr. Kevin Yoder, Appalachian Engineering for clarification.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A.) Mrs. Deb Kolb was present with the following comments:

- Thanked Karen Gnagey and Deb Fisher for the painted bicycles that were placed in the uptown park.
- Voiced her concerns about the attempt at the last meeting to give the Borough workers a \$2.00 hr. increase, yet the Parks & Recreation were told they would have to raise their own funds for planned

programs. It would appear there is money, yet there is no money for the ambulance association. It is her opinion that the ambulance is a priority.

President Folk reported that the ambulance association was to get back to Council with an estimate of their financial needs and to date that has not happened. Mr. Kenneth Marteney and Mr. Charles Sandy from the Ambulance Association were present and reported that the Ambulance Association made a poor decision by getting involved with a billing company that did not meet their expectations, therefore this became a priority. He indicated that no charge for sewer, water and trash would be helpful. The Ambulance Association is being faced with a staffing shortage and indicated that they are looking into merging with another provider in the area. Mr. Marteney also added that the LST tax can be used for emergency services. It was reported that these funds are currently being used to offset some of the cost to maintain the Police Chief wages. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Parisi suggested that the Ambulance Association provide the Borough with their financial statements for review and then an informed decision can be made regarding additional support. Mr. Parisi also suggested that the Ambulance Association approach the Meyersdale Municipal Authority regarding free water and sewer. Mr. Marteney indicated that the Meyersdale Municipal Authority denied their request.

- B.) Ms. Deborah Fisher commented that the ugliness amongst everyone is sickening. She indicated that everyone cares for the town and that people are never going to always agree, but that the bickering has to stop.
- C.) Mr. James Appleyard was present to report the condition of the property located at 13 High Street. The property is abandoned and he has seen rats. After some discussion, Solicitor Valentine asked that this be discussed in executive session.
- D.) Ms. Linda Ringler, President of the Garden Club was present to report that the group is made up of elderly ladies who are committed to beautifying the town. The Group has two major fundraisers and spend nearly \$1,000.00 each season for flowers for the planters. Ms. Ringler thanked the Borough for the monetary donation. Mrs. Gnagey was asked not to water the plants, because the teachers help to water the them and have a regular watering schedule. The group is looking to recruit younger members. It was suggested to contact the Library and have an ad put in the monthly newsletter. Ms. Ringler also indicated that the plants inside the bicycle baskets are not the responsibility of the garden club.
- E.) Mrs. Mary Beal was present to thank the Parks & Recreation for the park bench in honor of her husband, Wade. The Beal family made a donation of \$100 to the Parks & Recreation Committee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

No report was given.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Smith reported the monthly statistics for May 1 – May 31, 2023. Fines totaled \$1,063.47

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

No report was given.

No report was given.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Valentine requested that numerous items from the Agenda be discussed in executive session.

Mr. Kevin Yoder was present with the first draft drawings of the subdivision plan for the Little League Field. After review, some changes will need to be made. It was discussed that a 10 foot section of land between Wayne Coughenour and Wayne Mathias be offered to these property owners.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

No report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Municipal Authority

Policy for appointment to Meyersdale Municipal Authority Board was deferred for discussion in the executive session.

Street Foreman

No report was given.

Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

Mrs. Martha Albright was present and reported that the Deb Hoover from PA Career Link assisted MAMA in putting together four videos in attempt to recruit workers to 4 Guys, Inc., Hoover Conveyor, Clapper's Table Manufacturing and Success Financial Solutions. The videos will eventually be put on YouTube.

Mrs. Gnagey reported that an ice cream shop opened in the Subway building and The Emporium opened on Center Street.

It was reported that Denise Gehringer is working on the grant for a e-bike charging station. An estimate was received from Level Acres Landscaping in the amount of \$6,314.00. Mr. Parisi made the motion to match the grant funds for the e-bike charging station up to \$3,314.00. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

Public Library

No report was given.

Parks & Recreation

Mrs. Gnagey reported that the Independence Day Celebration is scheduled for July 2. Police will be present. Mr. Reiber was asked to have 40 chairs taken to the pavilion for the event. Mr. Jeff Christner will be in charge of having the restroom opened and porta pots will be delivered.

Parks & Recreation is considering a bounce house. The Secretary was asked to contact the insurance company to find out if this would be covered.

Meyersdale Renaissance

No report was given.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – STANDING COMMITTEES

POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Resignation

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Joseph Clement as a Part-Time Police Officer effective May 30, 2023. Mr. Parisi seconded. Motion passed.

Mayor Smith reported that Nick McKenzie is interested in a Part-Time Police Officer position and is willing to work 8 hrs. per week.

Mayor Smith also reported that Officer Berkley has been on administrative leave and that he has completed all of the qualifications to return to work. Mr. Ackerman made the motion to reinstate Officer Berkley immediately. Mr. Parisi seconded. Motion passed.

It was discussed that before any additional police officers are hired the Mayor and Solicitor Valentine will work together to prepare a list of expectations for perspective officers.

PERSONNEL

No report was given.

FINANCE

No report was given.

REFUSE

No report was given.

STREETS/BUILDINGS

Mr. Ackerman thanked Mr. Parisi for his hard work in acquiring funding through Somerset County to have the building at 618 Grant Street torn down.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to authorize the Borough Streets crew to patch Second Avenue. Mr. Parisi seconded. Motion passed.

Mayor Smith reported that Columbia Gas will be shutting down the High Street bridge to replace a gas line.

FLOOD CONTROL

No report was given.

FARMERS MARKET

No report was given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A.) Patrolman police agreement/handbook
Mayor Smith reported that the document has not been signed.
- B.) Discuss pay increase for Borough workers
Deferred discussion to the executive session.

- C.) Council member to represent the Borough – Sesquicentennial Celebration
Tabled until the July 2023 meeting.
- D.) Request from Gary Romesberg – Change Per Capita and Occupation tax valuation.
Solicitor Valentine will research the legality of the request.
- E.) 345 Main Street property
Deferred discussion to the executive session.
- F.) Municipal account review
Mrs. Gnagey, Mrs. Knieriem and the Secretary will meet with Mrs. Katie Billy to discuss banking options for the accounts at Somerset Trust Company.
- G.) Parking in the business district
Deferred discussion to the executive session.
- H.) Hierarchy chain of command
Deferred discussion to the executive session.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A.) Announcements
There were no announcements.
- B.) Open bids Flood Control Rip Rap Project
One bid was received from Sanner Masonry & Excavating, Inc. – Markleton, PA
Base bid for 340 feet \$131,155.40 and \$225.00 per linear foot for any additional rip rap replacement for a total of \$212,255.40. Mr. Parisi made the motion to reject the bid. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed.
Contact with DEP will be made to find out if there are any grant funds available to complete the project.
- C.) Meyersdale Municipal Authority monthly rent
Mrs. Gnagey requested that the Borough waive the \$600.00 per month rental fees to the Meyersdale Municipal Authority for office space in the Community Center. She indicated that the MMA would most likely move the office to their Thomas Street shop if the rent was not waived.
No action was taken.
- D.) Approve bike race request
Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve a request from Mr. Dan Manges for a bike race to be held on September 24, 2023. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.
- G.) Adopt Resolution 8-2023 regarding the upgrade to the traffic signal pedestrian crossing signal at Center Street and Main St.
Mr. Parisi made the motion to adopt Resolution 8-2023 as presented. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

The upgrade will be completed at no charge to the Borough.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the traffic signal maintenance agreement and authorize the President of Council and the Borough Secretary permission to execute the documents. Mr. Parisi seconded. Motion passed.

E.) Electric Scooter safety

Deferred discussion to the executive session.

F.) Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board (Aaron Thomas term up 7/2023)

A letter of interest was received from Mr. Eric Hunsberger. After some discussion, Mr. Parisi made the motion to advertise for letters of interest to fill the vacancy. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed.

G.) Garden Club assistance

Mrs. Gnagey suggested that the Borough workers help with plant watering. Club President, Linda Ringler, reported that the Garden Club will take care of watering if necessary.

H.) Property maintenance management

Mrs. Gnagey reported that she has received complaints regarding property maintenance. She would like to work with Mayor Smith to compile a spreadsheet of the properties in question to help the police department take a proactive approach. Solicitor Valentine explained that this was not possible, the ordinance is complaint driven.

I.) Weeds in and around sidewalks in business district

Mrs. Gnagey reported that she has received complaints regarding weeds in and around sidewalks in the business district. After some discussion, Mr. Reiber was given permission to treat the areas with over the counter weed killer.

J.) Broadband Infrastructure

Mrs. Gnagey asked who is researching and drafting a grant application that is due July 10, 2023.

Solicitor Valentine reported that an attempt was made through the Somerset County Commissioners and there was very low concern from the public. No action was taken.

K.) Update on Tableland help

Two employees are working through the Tableland summer program. Tableland pays the wages, taxes, workman's compensation, and provides a week training session at no cost to the Borough.

GOALS FOR 2023

Ordinance Review

No report given.

Zoning Review

No report given.

No report given.

Emergency Access Road Meyers Ave.
No additional report given.

Complete demolition of 618 Grant St.
This item is to be removed from the Agenda.

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:

Mr. Baer made the motion to enter into executive session at 9:45 PM. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

The items to be discussed were: 13 High Street property, Policy for appointment to Meyersdale Municipal Authority Board, Pay increases for Borough workers, 345 Main Street, Parking in the business district, hierarchy chain of command, and electric scooters.

Mr. Baer made the motion to return to regular session at 10:30 PM. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION/MOTIONS:

Mr. Parisi made the motion to advertise the 345 Main Street property and the 614 Grant St. (former Mahler property) for sale by bid. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Parisi made the motion to offer the Borough workers an annual 3% per year increase, revise the rate table in the current union contract, and run the increase from July 1 to July 1 each year. Motion passed with Mr. Ackerman abstaining. The proposal will be presented to the union for approval.

For clarification purposes, it was explained that the current 50 cent per year increases for the term of the contract would be removed and be replaced with a 3% increase.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 PM. Mr. Parisi seconded. Motion passed.



Patricia C. Ackerman
Borough Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 8-2023

BE IT RESOLVED, by authority of the Meysersdale Borough Council
of the Borough of Meysersdale, Somerset
County, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, that the President of Council
of Borough of Meysersdale be authorized and directed to submit
the attached Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement, to submit future modifications to the attached
Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement, and to submit future Applications for Traffic Signal
Approval either in writing or via electronic signature, to the Department of Transportation and to
sign this Agreement on behalf of Borough of Meysersdale.

Attest:

Borough of Meysersdale

Patricia C. Ackerman 6/13/2023
Signature Date

By: [Signature] 6/13/2023
Signature Date

Borough Secretary
Title

Council President
Title

I, PATRICIA C. ACKERMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY
(Name) (Official title)

of the BOROUGH OF MEYERSDALE, do hereby certify that the
(Name of governing body and Municipality)

foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution legally adopted at the meeting held

the 13TH day of JUNE, 2023.

JUNE 13, 2023
Date

Patricia C. Ackerman
Signature

(SEAL)

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Regular Meeting 4/13/2023 Special Meeting _____

GUEST SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	James Appleyard	9 High Street	Abandoned House
2	Jeff Christner	204 N. Street	
3	Tom Dantz	334 Olinger St	
4	Lewis Yoder	213 Dale	SUBDIVISION
5	Deborah Fisher		
6	Mark Fallick	124 Willow Rd	
7	Marna		
8	Mary Beal		
9	Jackie Peloguin	308 Broadway St #2	
10	Ken Murtaney	26 Sixth Ave	V/A
11	Charles Sindy	2215 Rockdal	V/A
12	La Bracia	475 Rynker St.	
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GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING

GUEST SIGN IN ON EXCEL

**Conflict of Interest
Abstention Memorandum**

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

FROM: Ronnie C. Ackerman, council member

DATE: June 13, 2023

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 to grant pay increases to Borough workers.

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).