

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 3/12/2024

Approved minutes – Special Meeting _____

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting _____

Regular Meeting
March 12, 2024
7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Irwin, March 12, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Smith administered the oath of office to Junior Council Member, Anna Stewart, prior to the beginning of the meeting. Miss Stewart will serve as Junior Council Member until May 2024.

Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Baer, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Gnagey, Mr. Irwin, Mrs. Knieriem, Mr. Smith, Solicitor Valentine and Mayor Smith were present. Brion Reiber, Street Foreman and Tim Pritts, Police Lieutenant were present.

MINUTES:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2024, Regular Meeting as presented. 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.

There was discussion regarding a request made by Mrs. Gnagey for monthly and quarterly financial reports. Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to table the topic. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

GUESTS:

- A.) Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Mathias were present with regard to the vacating of a portion of Bottom Street. Mr. Ackerman made the motion to vacate a portion of Bottom Street, grant Solicitor Valentine and Appalachian Engineering permission to proceed with the same. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.
- B.) Mr. Donald A. Lasure Jr. was present regarding a safety concern at monument square associated with signage and with delivery trucks parking at the yellow line blocking the view of traffic. Council reported that they will look into upgrading the signage, but that there was nothing that could be done regarding the parking issue.
Mr. Lasure also had a concern with the open ditch on Pine Street. Mr. Brion Reiber, Street Foreman, reported that he has been adding 20 ft. sections of pipe periodically rather than all at one time. He wants to make sure that the pipe is not filling up with debris, before adding any more pipe.
- C.) Mr. Thomas Deetz was present regarding safety concerns with motorists blocking the lane of traffic at a school bus stop on 7th Street and High Street. Mr. Deetz came close to hitting a child at this location. He reported this matter to the former Chief of Police and nothing had been done. He requested that citations be issued.
There was some discussion on how to get in touch with the police department. Lieutenant Pritts suggested that a message be left with 911 operator or leave a note in the mailbox on the outside of the police entrance and an officer will make contact on the next shift.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Kurt Woolslayer from the Meyersdale Lions Club was present. He reported that at a recent Lions Club meeting their was a unanimous decision by the Lions Club to support keeping the Community Center open. (See attached letter of support). Mr. Irwin reported that Mr. Gary Miller from Allegheny Mountain Research will be present at the April 9, 2024 meeting to discuss the results of the walk through of the building and specifically the lead paint testing that was completed.

Mrs. Gnagey reported that there is grant funding available, with one particular grant closing April 22, 2024. Through this grant, there is an opportunity to obtain up to two million dollars. Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to proceed with the grant process by hiring Aspire to write the grant, acquire engineering services from Appalachian Engineering, and request PMCA to complete an inspection and evaluation of the building. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

President Irwin formed a committee compiled of Mr. Smith – Chairman, Mrs. Gnagey – Co Chair, Mr. Baker, and Mr. Ackerman to work on this project.

Somerset County Commissioner Fochtman, Commissioner Kimmel and Mr. Steve Spochart were present to urge Council to apply for the grants available.

Miss Marcella Dupre, a Senior at Meyersdale Area School was present with a petition of 50 signatures in support of keeping the Community Center open. She believes that the youth are the future of Meyersdale and that closing the Community Center would be detrimental to the history and infrastructure of the town.

Miss Dupre was asked to attend the April 9, 2024 meeting as a guest.

Mr. Travis Shaulis was present to report standing water on Second Street from a clogged drain. Mr. Reiber reported that one drain was opened and he will continue to work on the other.

Mrs. Deb Kolb asked if the Borough is going to get prison workers and if they can be in the building while the school kids are in the building. Mr. Tony Mostoller from the school was present and reported that if it is necessary, the children can take at home classes while the prisoners are on site.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

There was no President's report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

There was no report on fines.

JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER:

Miss Anna Stewart – Junior Council Member presented a report of activities at the school.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

No report was given.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Mr. Kevin Yoder, Appalachian Engineering was present regarding the subdivision plan for the Vietnam/Korean Memorial. Mrs. Gnagey had a concern with regard to access to maintain the building and to avoid the need for a zoning hearing that an easement be considered. Mr. Ackerman reported that the survey has been completed

and paid for by the Vietnam/Korean Committee and that the Committee wants the land subdivided and owned by the Committee. Mrs. Linda McDonough was also present on behalf of the Vietnam/Korean Memorial Committee. Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to grant Mr. Yoder permission to proceed with the process to have the land subdivided, with the first step being for him to have the school board approve the plan. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed. Solicitor Valentine suggested that the Borough include the right of ingress and egress in the final deed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Valentine reported on the following:

- Most of the Solicitor report will need to be discussed in executive session.
- Amendment to Ordinance #422
Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to advertise the amendment to Ordinance #422 as outlined in the draft and set to approve the same at the April 9, 2024 meeting. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.
- Scooter Ordinance
There was some discussion regarding the ordinance. President Irwin was concerned that it was too restrictive and not conducive to bicyclists. Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to table discussion on the ordinance. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.
- Mrs. Martha Albright will be listing the three empty Grant Street lots at \$6,500.00. There will not be a list fee for Remax Premier Realtors, however if another agent brings an offer, the Borough will have to provide compensation of \$500.00 to that agency. She will meet with President Irwin to sign the listing contract. (see e-mail attached)

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

There was no report given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Municipal Authority

It was reported that the next meeting will be March 19, 2024 at 7 PM. The MMA Office Manager will be providing financial statements to the Borough when she returns from leave. Work continues on a website.

Street Foreman

- Mr. Reiber reported that they have started to replace stop signs.
- He is looking into getting the correct paint for the line painter so that they can begin painting lines when weather permits.
- There are trees that need to be cut down in the playground area. Someone is willing to cut the trees down for the wood. There was a concern regarding insurance. Miss Marcella Dupre offered the services of her Father, who is a licensed contractor to remove the trees at no cost to the Borough.
- A quote of \$1,900.00 was received to do a vegetation spray of the flood control. Council agreed to proceed.

Mr. Ackerman reported that Mr. Ben Dishong from PennDOT will be coming on March 13, 2024 to measure the roads for a paving project. Council will discuss and approve to let the project out for bid at the April 9, 2024 meeting.

Mr. Ackerman also reported that the person or persons who have been stockpiling trash at 7 Chestnut Street will clean up and in a few days it is back to where it was. Council decided that Mr. Reiber was to block the alley with a cement barrier.

Mrs. Gnagey reported that the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 23, 2024 at 11 AM and a rain date of March 30, 2024 at 11 AM. She requested that the streets crew make sure there is no graffiti or trash on the playground. She also requested that the electric be turned on at the pavilion, four barricades be placed at the pavilion and that the playground equipment be gone over.

Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

Mrs. Terri Foster was present and reported that there is a new committee to handle the Farmers Market for this season. They plan to switch the location from Center Street to Main Street and with the renewed interest change the name to the Community Market.

Public Library

Mrs. Terri Foster, Librarian presented a report.

Meyersdale Community Events Committee

Mrs. Gnagey presented a proposed budget of \$6,800.00 for the yearly events. An estimated \$4,600.00 will be used from the Frank Lucente Memorial Fund and the balance was requested to come from the General Fund. Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to grant \$2,200.00 from the general fund for the events. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. There was discussion regarding using the general fund to offset the yearly events and no vote was taken. It was suggested to cut back on expenses or do a fundraiser rather than use general fund monies. Mr. Baer reported that he would find a way to come up with the additional \$2,200.00 funds needed.

Meyersdale Renaissance

No report was given.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – STANDING COMMITTEES

In lieu of going through the committee reports, each member of Council was given the opportunity to provide a report or comments.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to grant the fireman permission to use the playground area on June 30, 2024 for a fireman competition. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Baer – No report

Mrs. Knieriem – She will be in contact with the Non Uniform Union Representative with regard to job descriptions.

Mr. Smith – No report

Mr. Ackerman – No report

President Irwin – No report

Mrs. Gnagey – She was in contact with Joel Landis and found that there are grants available for flood control. She will work with Solicitor Valentine to prepare a narrative to apply for the funding.

Mr. Baker – No report

Mayor Smith – No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A.) Patrolman police agreement/handbook

Mayor Smith reported that the agreement/handbook should be completed by the April 9, 2024 meeting. There is only one officer that has not signed the document.

B.) Ambulance meeting

Mrs. Gnagey reported that the next meeting regarding the Ambulance will be held at the Elks Club on April 4, 2024 at 6:30 PM. Invitation letters were sent out. Somerset Trust will be supplying the refreshments.

C.) Website update

The Secretary provided a report on the progress with the Borough website. To eliminate a problem with uploading documents the website designers suggested to take the website live.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to grant the Secretary permission to go live with the website. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Announcements

There were no announcements.

B.) Police coverage in Borough & Summit Township

No report was given.

C.) Somerset County Redevelopment Authority - Assistance with blighted properties

Mr. Steve Spochart was present to report that there are Act 152 funds available for demolition of blighted properties. The SCRA can provide with assistance by acquiring the blighted property, which lessens the burden on the Borough. The Solicitor would need to be involved from a legal standpoint.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to grant the Somerset County Redevelopment Authority and Solicitor Valentine permission to work together in acquiring blighted properties for demolition. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

D.) Level Acres – Paul E. Fuller Park

Mrs. Gnagey reported that she received an unsolicited call from Level Acres regarding mulching the playground. The price of mulch was estimated at \$660.00. It was also suggested that some of the rubber mats be replacement. No action was taken regarding this matter.

E.) Chain of Command

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to table this topic. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

F.) Gym Floor

Mr. Smith reported that he solicited a quote for resurfacing the Community Center gym floor. The contractor is a Co-stars vendor, therefore the project would not have to be bid. Mr. Smith made the motion to accept the quote from All American Athletics in the amount of \$18,000.00. Mr. Ackerman seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ackerman – Yes; Mr. Baer – Yes; Mr. Baker – Yes; Mrs. Gnagey – Yes; Mr. Irwin – Yes; Mrs. Knieriem – Yes; Mr. Smith – Yes. Motion passed.

G.) Approve SCI-Somerset Community Work Program Application

Mr. Baer made the motion to make application for the SCI-Somerset Community Work Program and to appoint Mr. Brion Reiber as the contact person to coordinate the tasks to be completed. The Secretary and Mr. Reiber will prepare the application for submission.

H.) Occupancy permits for Community Center

President Irwin reported that he is working to coordinate information on this issue.

I.) Apostolic Christian Academy lease & certificate of insurance

Solicitor Valentine deferred this matter to executive session.

J.) Sale of Borough equipment and Borough owned items

Mr. Baer made the motion to scrap out the street sweeper for junk and to utilize the Municibid website to sell the 2002 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 truck with attached snowplow. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed. A minimum bid will be required.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to donate a set of vault doors to the Meyersdale Area Historical Society. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

K.) Sweeping streets – contract with Donegal Construction

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to contract Donegal Construction to sweep streets at a cost of \$1,600.00. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed. The MMA will be asked to do an all call a few days before so that residents know to move their vehicles.

L.) “The Quick & The Dead” bicycle race

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to grant permission for the organizers of “The Quick & The Dead” bicycle race to use Borough streets for a race scheduled for September 30, 2024. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

GOALS FOR 2024

Emergency Access Road Meyers Ave.

Mrs. Gnagey reported that she was given information that this project was in the process to be completed. Solicitor Valentine reported that there were stipulations if CSX got involved which included the closing of three to four crossings. It was his opinion that the project will not be completed in the near future.

Flood Control rip rap

No report given.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no additional items to be discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An executive session was needed for a personnel matter and possible litigation.

Mr. Baer made the motion to enter into executive session at 9:35 P.M. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to return to regular session at 10:13 P.M. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion/motions:

Apostolic Christian Academy lease

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to extend the lease with the Apostolic Christian Academy for one year with a monthly rental fee of \$200.00 beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Knieriem seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ackerman – Yes; Mr. Baer – Yes; Mr. Baker – Yes; Mrs. Gnagey – Yes; Mr. Irwin – Yes; Mrs. Knieriem – Yes; Mr. Smith – Yes. Motion passed. The monthly rental fee will not apply during the summer months.

Salary increases

Mr. Smith made the motion to grant a one-time inflationary hourly pay increase to the Non Uniform Borough employees as follows: Patricia Ackerman - \$2.00 per hour, Brion Reiber - \$2.00 per hour, and Harold Hotchkiss - \$1.00 per hour effective with the next pay period to begin March 16, 2024. Mr. Baker seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ackerman - Abstained (See attached Abstention Memorandum); Mr. Baer – Yes; Mr. Baker – Yes; Mrs. Gnagey – Yes; Mr. Irwin – Yes; Mrs. Knieriem – Yes; Mr. Smith – Yes. Motion passed with Mr. Ackerman abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 P.M. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.



Patricia C. Ackerman
Borough Secretary

Meyersdale Lions

P O Box 194

Meyersdale PA 15552



We Serve

03/09/24

Meyersdale Borough Council

215 Main St

Meyersdale PA 15552

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2024

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Council Members

The Meyersdale Lions Club wishes to express our objection to the closure of the Community Center. As an organization, we have utilized this building for well over 50 years. We have also assisted in repairs and upkeep for the building. We provided labor and financial assistance for numerous upgrades as well. We have a separate electric meter and propane supply, so we do not burden the Borough with those expenses.

We are saddened by this discussion, at a time when the town is celebrating our 150th anniversary. We should work together to show pride in our town, work to make it better, and work to preserve our historic structures for future generations.

Every year, during the Maple Festival, visitors comment on how they enjoy coming into the old school and the nostalgia created by the old building. Many come every year from a distance for the unique experience.

The Community Center is part of our history and is actively used daily. It is one of the few indoor locations students and organizations have available for practice and fundraising activities.

We truly believe that closing the Community Center would be detrimental to our community and the preservation of our town's history.

The Meyersdale Lions Club stands firmly behind our objection to closing the Community Center, both now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Meyersdale Lions Club

Grant st properties

Martha Albright <malbright.remax@gmail.com>

Tue 3/12/2024 2:24 PM

To: meyersdaleborough@hotmail.com <meyersdaleborough@hotmail.com>

Hello

I will be listing the Grant street properties within the next 2 weeks for

3 lots
\$6500

No listing fee for Remax Premier Realtors

If another agent brings an offer, The Borough will provide compensation of \$500 to that agency.

I will be meeting with President Irwin soon to have him sign listing contract!

Thank you
Martha

Sent from my iPhone



ATHLETICS IN THE GAME OVER 25 YEARS



1691 9th Street Ext
Freedom, PA 15042

724-331-0242 cell
aaajohntrageser@gmail.com

PROPOSAL

Date: February 28, 2024

COSTARS #014-212

To: Meyersdale Community Center
Attn: Thomas Smith
email: goodfellows@yahoo.com

Re: Pricing for Resurfacing Gym Floor **HS-4,300 Sq/Ft**

***RESURFACING PRICING:** Complete maintenance resurfacing of gym floor to smooth surface. Apply (2) coats of NSB sealer, game lines, logos as or similar to before and (2) coats of POLO PLAZ EXPRESS 2-part HIGH SOLIDS WB finish. The WB finish will prevent ambering of the gym floor and decrease downtime for curing is ONLY 24 hours. Owner to supply power for sanding equipment. Pricing includes broom cleaning of gymnasium.

Gym: \$18,000.00 (Eighteen Thousand Dollars and xx/100) **WE WILL BEAT ANY QUOTE BY \$500!!!!

VALUE ENGINEERING:

- ADD \$1,000.00 - stained keys color TBD by owner (50% off if done in off-season)
- ADD \$2,500.00 - stained 3 point areas (50% off if done in off season)
- ADD \$60.00 SF for any repair work determined by owner.

***WARRANTY: 10 YEARS!!!!!!!!!!!!**

If you have any questions please contact me on my cell phone 724-331-0242.

Sincerely,

John Trageser

**Conflict of Interest
Abstention Memorandum**

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

FROM: Ronnie C. Ackerman, council member

DATE: March 12, 2024

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).

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Regular Meeting 3/12/2024 Special Meeting _____

GUEST SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	JEFF CHASTNER	NORTH ST MEYERSDALE	
2	TOM DEEB	Meyersdale	Block. & Lane of Traffic
3	RUTH + EUGENE WISLER		
4	Anna Stewart	Meyersdale	High School Report
5	SARAH JONES + RIN MEYERS	415 1ST AVE MEYERSDALE	
6	KEVIN YODER	213 DALE	
7	WAYNE MATHEIAS	Meyersdale.	
8	Toy m + L		
9	BRIAN FEHTMAN	MEYERSDALE PA.	
10	Travis Shaulis	608 2 nd St Meyersdale PA	Storm drain blockage
11	Jerry Foster	18 E. Orange	
12	For Himmel	50 m. 1st	
13	Steve Spachet	REDEV. AUTHORITY	
14	Linda Medding	Korean War Memorial	
15	Kathie Spauls		
16	Jill Kruger		
17			
18			
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23			
24			

GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING