

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 5/9/2023

Approved minutes – Special Meeting _____

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting _____

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Folk, May 9, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Baer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Folk, Mrs. Knieriem, Mr. Parisi, and Mayor Smith were present. Mrs. Gnagey arrived late. Brion Reiber, Street Foreman and Matt Wright, Police Chief were also present. Solicitor Valentine was absent, however his law partner, Andrew Snyder was present via telephone.

MINUTES:

* Mrs. Gnagey arrived at 7:04 PM.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2023 regular meeting and the April 26, 2023 Special/Workshop 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. Parisi seconded. Motion passed.

GUESTS:

A.) There were no pre-registered guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A.) Mrs. Denise Gehringer was present to report on research regarding the E-bike charging station grant. She and Mrs. Gnagey investigated a possible placement for the charging stations in the uptown park, that would require relocating a few evergreen bushes. The estimated cost to include, cement pad, bike stands, and electricity is \$3,500.00. Mr. Kevin Broadwater, Emergency Management Coordinator suggested that the charging stations be placed at a safe distance from a building to prevent a fire hazard. Mr. Parisi made the motion to grant Mrs. Gehringer permission to work with the Borough to submit a grant application. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.
- B.) Mr. Carl Robb was present to report a problem he is having with the Somerset County Planning Commission. He is wanting to add storage units to the existing units at 135 Large St. He reported that he was being terrorized by the Planning Commission and that their decision will create a huge financial burden on his family. Mr. Snyder indicated that the Borough cannot influence the County Planning Commission and suggested that Mr. Robb obtain legal counsel. Council decided that they would assist Mr. Robb if it is legally possible.
- C.) Mr. Jeff Breinin, 331 Meyers Ave. was present to report a broken sewer pipe located in front of his property. Council explained that he would need to contact the Municipal Authority regarding the same. Mr. Breinin also expressed his concern with closing the Meyers Ave. railroad crossing.
- C.) Ms. Debra Fisher was present to thank the Borough for repairing the drain in front of her house.

D.) Mr. Kevin Broadwater reported that he was upset with Borough Council that he was not notified of the train incident that happened earlier in the day. As the Emergency Management Coordinator he should have been contacted rather than a Council Member showing up to the scene. After some discussion, Mr. Parisi apologized and explained that he was just trying to help. Mrs. Gnagey requested a copy of the Emergency Operations Plan.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

No report was given.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

No report was given.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

Mr. Kevin Broadwater reported that there isn't an issue with e-bikes, however some less expensive bike batteries can overheat and once the battery is started there is no way to put them out, which creates a fire hazard.

Mr. Broadwater also reported that there is no need to close railroad crossings because there are Hazard Mitigation Funds available that will pay for most of the project to build an emergency access road.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

No report was given.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Snyder summarized a report as provided by Solicitor Valentine as follows:

- A survey of the Little League Field is underway, and a sub division plan will be submitted. It is anticipated to be completed by Fall.
- Suggested that the Borough sign off and support the sale of the property located at 202 R Salisbury Street. Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to agree and support the private sale of the property to Keith Hay, and to respond to the Tax Claim Bureau with the approval. Mr. Parisi seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Parisi made the motion to amend the Agenda to discuss the Flood Control Rip Rap Project. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed.

- It was reported that Greg Garlitz, Garlitz Excavating is unable to complete the rip rap project due to health issues. The project will need to be rebid. Mr. Ackerman made the motion to rebid the rip rap project. Mr. Parisi seconded. Motion passed. The Secretary was asked to advertise the same using the bid outline approved by Solicitor Valentine.
- An issue regarding the PA Maple Festival and vendors was tabled until the June regular meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

No report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Municipal Authority

Discussion regarding policy for appointment to the Meyersdale Municipal Authority Board was held over until Solicitor Valentine could be present.

Street Foreman

Mr. Brion Reiber, Street Foreman reported on the following:

- Stop signs will be replaced.
- The flood control rip rap keeps eroding. The cost of replacement could be much higher than anticipated.
- Line painting is on the list when weather permits.

Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

Mrs. Denise Gehringer suggested that street signs be replaced. The name of the streets on street signs are either faded or missing. The annual Merchants Association meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2023 and will be held at the Corner Cup. Regina Coughenour will be the speaker.

Mrs. Gnagey reported that Ms. Julie Kregar is spearheading a project to have two murals painted at the Main Street Inn and the Corner Cup.

Public Library

Mrs. Terri Foster thanked Borough Council for funding the over run of the electrical project at the Library. Upcoming events include a program on the history of the Library, 25th anniversary of the 1998 tornados, summer programs are being planned and a grant was received to purchase a new printer.

Parks & Recreation

Mrs. Gnagey reported on the following:

- Memorial Day luminaries will be held in conjunction with the Relay for Life on May 28, 2023.
- Little League bingo/basket party will be held on May 21, 2023 at the Elks.
- Third Avenue will be the band in the park on Father's Day.
- New events will be added to the Independence Day Celebration.

Meyersdale Renaissance

Mr. Wendy Kelly reported that Meyersdale Renaissance did not receive grant funding for security system in the business district. The funds raised to be used as matching for the grant will be distributed to the businesses that applied for the security system funds.

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

No report was given.

FARMERS MARKET

The Farmers Market will be held the second Wednesday of each month during the months of June, July, August, and September from 4 PM to 7 PM on Center Street. It was suggested that the fire department and the ambulance be put on standby for the events.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A.) Patrolman police agreement/handbook
Mayor Smith reported that the document has not been signed.
- B.) Council Member to represent the Borough – Sesquicentennial Celebration
Tabled until the June 2023 meeting.
- C.) Request from Gary Romesberg – Change Per Capita and Occupation tax valuation.
This matter was tabled until Solicitor Valentine could be present.
- D.) 345 Main Street property
Mr. Ackerman suggested putting this property out for bid. Mrs. Gnagey suggested that the Borough keep this property as a possible location for a new building. After some discussion, Mr. Parisi was asked to contact the Somerset County Commissioners and inquire if the Borough would be eligible for funding to have the structure razed.
- E.) Municipal account review
Mrs. Gnagey was given permission for her and Mrs. Knieriem to meet with Somerset Trust Company to discuss their suggestions for the municipal accounts held there.
- E.) Parking in the business district
Tabled until the June 2023 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A.) Announcements
There were no announcements.
- B.) Debrief from the Association of Borough meeting
It was reported that the meeting was held at the Elks Club, approximately 7 Boroughs were represented. Each borough has similar problems with blight and searching for grant funding. Mrs. Knieriem was asked to contact Senator Pat Stefano's office with regard to an alternate solution for grant writing services.

- C.) Garden Club
Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to donate \$350.00 to the Garden Club. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed. The funds will be taken from the Harry E. Leckemby account.
- D.) Distribution charges for Columbia Gas & Penelec
No action was taken. It was suggested not to get involved with a locked in rate.
- E.) Addressing blighted/concerning properties
There was no discussion regarding this issue.
- F.) Stop Signs
It was reported that stops signs have been purchased. An assessment of all signs throughout the town will be completed.
- G.) Discuss pay increase for Borough workers
Mr. Baer made the motion to increase the hourly rate of Brion Reiber \$2.00 per hour and the hourly rate of Harold Hotchkiss, Jr. \$1.00 per hour effective with the next pay period. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.
After a discussion as to whether or not certain employees can be given increases and others are not, Mr. Baer rescinded the motion to grant hourly increases to Mr. Reiber and Mr. Hotchkiss until a review could be completed by Solicitor Valentine. Mr. Parisi seconded. Motion passed. This item will be added to the June 2023 Agenda and if permissible, the amounts of an increase will be decided on and will become retroactive to the pay period beginning May 13, 2023 to all eligible employees.

GOALS FOR 2023

Ordinance Review
No report given.

Zoning Review
No report given.

New Building
No report given.

Emergency Access Road Meyers Ave.
No additional report given.

Complete demolition of 618 Grant St.
No additional report given.

Control Spending
No report given.

Flood Control rip rap
No report given.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

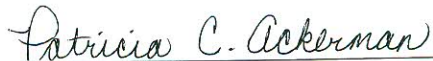
A Special/Workshop meeting will be held on May 24, 2023 at 7 PM, if Solicitor Valentine can be present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 PM. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.



Patricia C. Ackerman
Borough Secretary

GUEST SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT

| | NAME | ADDRESS | TOPIC |
|----|------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| 1 | <i>[Signature]</i> | | |
| 2 | Tom Deetz | 534 Olinger St Meyersdale | To observe |
| 3 | Jeff Christner | 204 N. Street | |
| 4 | Rachel Kimmel | 7823 Mason Dixon Hwy | |
| 5 | Jeff Breinin | 331 Meyers Ave, Meyersdale | |
| 6 | CARL ROBB | 135 LARGE ST | |
| 7 | Fugent + Ruth M. Shler | M. DALE | |
| 8 | Chuck & Dennis Gehring | 106 Meyers Ave | |
| 9 | Louis Martin | 200 2nd Ave | |
| 10 | T. Smith | | |
| 11 | Tara Foster | 215 Olinger | Library |
| 12 | Wanda Kelly | | |
| 13 | Deborah Fisher | | |
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GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING

GUEST SIGN IN ON EXCEL