

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 11/12/2024

Approved minutes – Special Meeting _____

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting _____

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

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

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

Mayor Smith administered the oath office to Junior Council Member Olivia Baker.

MINUTES:

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the October 8, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes 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.

APPROVAL OF SUBPOENA PAY

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to pay former Police Chief Matthew Wright for subpoena pay for 5 hours at \$25.70 per hour and for mileage of 32 miles @ 67 cents for a total of \$149.94. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

GUESTS:

A.) Lisa Miller was listed as a registered guest but was not present. It was reported that Ms. Miller will be assisting with the organization of the pickle ball league in the gym. This item was discussed at the Committee Meeting. The group has reserved dates to use the gym and each player will give a donation for the use of the gym.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A.) Jeff Christner was present to report that Mr. Richard Berkley is willing to install the basketball hoops. After some discussion regarding insurance, no action to grant permission was taken. Mr. Christner also reported that Mr. Clarence Baer is willing to complete the painting in the gym. The painting would consist of the ceiling and white areas that were too high for the prison volunteers to complete. Mr. Baer was asked to submit a quote for material and labor for discussion at the December 10, 2024 meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

No report was given.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

There was no report of fines. It was reported that the police computer system is down.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to authorize the Mayor to obtain quotes and authorize the purchase of a computer system with a budget of up to \$3,000.00. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

Salisbury Police Coverage

Mr. Baer made the motion to grant the Mayor and President of Council to continue negotiations with Salisbury Borough to purchase police services from the Meyersdale Borough. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBER:

No report was given.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

Mr. Kevin Broadwater was present to report that Somerset County has declared a burn ban for 30 days beginning November 8, 2024 due to the drought situation.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

No report was given.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Valentine reported on the following:

- The Vietnam/Korean Memorial and the Community Center deeds will be completed by the end of November 2024.
- The Shaulis and Mathias families have reviewed the plan and are good to proceed with signing. This should be completed by the end of November 2024.
- An injunctive order hearing on 326 Salisbury St. has been scheduled for December 12, 2024.
- A meeting will be scheduled between the Borough Council, PennDOT and Senator Stefano to work out the Grant Street retaining wall issue.
- A decision needs to be made for the proposed used of the COVID money before December 31, 2024. Council discussed allocating some funds for windows in the community center. An estimate will be provided at the December meeting.
Mrs. Gnagey also suggested using some of the funds as a match to a grant if successful.
- There was no update on the ATV signage.
- The Meyersdale Municipal Authority will be closing up the dump site as of December 1, 2024. The main reason for closing was to prepare for the future build of a new sewer treatment plant on this site.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

No report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Municipal Authority

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to grant the Meyersdale Municipal Authority permission to use the meeting room to conduct their meetings at no charge once the MMA has moved their office out of the Community Center. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

Street Foreman

It was reported that the American flags were taken down for the season.

There was a discussion regarding winterizing and closing the charging stations for the season. This item was tabled until the December regular meeting.

Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

Mr. Brian Berkebile was present to remind everyone of the upcoming Community Awareness Forum to be held in the gymnasium on November 30, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.

Public Library

No report was given.

Meyersdale Community Events Committee

It was reported that Light up Night is scheduled for November 17, 2024.

Meyersdale Renaissance

No report was given.

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

There was a discussion regarding bounce house usage in the gym. After a lengthy discussion Mrs. Gnagey made the motion that anyone using the gym facility will need to provide a certificate of insurance with the Borough being listed as an additional insured and everyone must sign an accident waiver and release of liability form. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

Flood Control

Mr. Baker reported on the outcome of a meeting with DEP via telephone regarding damage to the flood control during a rain event earlier in the year. DEP can restore the bank to the original course with the Borough being responsible for 20% of the total cost. The rip rap repair at this point will be the full responsibility of the Borough.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to move forward with the DEP offer to repair the flood control embankment with the Borough being responsible for a 20% match. Mr. Ackerman seconded.

Mrs. Gnagey reported that a grant of \$400,000.00 was applied for to repair the rip rap. The Borough will be responsible for matching funds if a grant is received.

Farmer's Market

No report was given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A.) Patrolman police agreement/handbook

This item has been completed. The Secretary was asked to remove this from the Agenda.

B.) Ambulance

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to support the ambulance with \$25,000.00 from the LST funds to be paid in January 2025 and to complete the fair share pledge of \$7,486.00 via other means later in 2025. Mr. Smith seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ackerman – Yes; Mr. Baer – Yes; Mr. Baker – Yes; Mrs. Gnagey – Yes; Mr. Irwin – Yes; Mrs. Knieriem – Absent; Mr. Smith – Yes. Motion passed.

C.) Vietnam/Korea Memorial subdivision

No additional report was given.

D.) Job Descriptions

Solicitor Valentine reported that the draft job descriptions for the Streets Crew were revised as follows: Not limiting a drivers license to Pennsylvania and OSHA language removed.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to accept the job descriptions as revised and authorize Solicitor Valentine to forward the same onto the Union for their approval. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

E.) Social Media Policy

No discussion.

F.) Approach to hiring policy

Council will visit the process of how job openings are advertised and applications are accepted.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Announcements

There were no announcements.

B.) Community Center Security

A walk through of the building was conducted. All doors have been secured.

C.) CFA Grant Award

A grant of \$3,600.00 was awarded for Holiday decorations.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to accept the grant offer and grant terms. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to authorize President Irwin to sign any and all documents associated with the CFA grant and to authorize the release of ACH information. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed. If additional funds are needed to complete the Holiday decoration project, Council will revisit funding sources in 2025.

Mrs. Gnagey, Mrs. Knieriem and Mr. Smith will work together to choose the Holiday decorations and verify that the decorations are compatible to the decorative light poles.

D.) December Committee Meetings

Mr. Baer made the motion to cancel the December 5, 2024 Committee Meetings. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

E.) Festival of Trees

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to grant the Community Events Committee and the School Students permission to use the hallway in the Community Center to display the trees. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

F.) The EADS Group inspection of the High Street bridge

Solicitor Valentine was asked to contact CSX regarding the report.

G.) Pickle ball Leagues

Mr. Smith made the motion to allow leagues to play pickle ball in the gymnasium, with each participant being required to sign a waiver and provide proof of liability insurance. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed. There will be no fee for the use of the gym, it will be on a donation basis.

AMEND AGENDA:

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to amend the Agenda to discuss the Shop with a Cop program. Mr. Baker seconded.

Motion passed.

* President Irwin was out of the room during the Shop with a Cop discussion at approximately 8:20 PM.

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to sponsor the Shop with a Cop program in the amount of \$150.00. Mr. Smith seconded. Mrs. Gnagey called for the vote due to the absence of the President. Motion carried.

* President Irwin returned at approximately 8:22 PM.

GOALS FOR 2024

Flood Control rip rap

No report was given.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no additional items to be discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to enter into executive session at 8:22 PM. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to return to regular session at 8:47 PM. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION AND MOTIONS:

There was no discussion or motions as a result of the executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

Patricia C. Ackerman

Patricia C. Ackerman
Borough Secretary

MEYERSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Regular Meeting 11/12/2024 Special Meeting _____

GUEST SIGN IN

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	Wendy Kelly		
2	Brian Beckebale		
3	Olivia Baker		
4	Denise Gehring	106 Meyers Ave	
5	Ruth + Eugene Mishler		
6	Kenneth Martony		
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GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING