

Approved minutes – Regular Meeting 9/12/2023

Approved minutes – Special Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Approved minutes – Special/Workshop Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Meeting  
September 12, 2023  
7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Meyersdale Borough Council was called to order by President Folk, September 12, 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. Timmy Pritts, Police Lieutenant was present. Brion Reiber, Street Foreman was absent.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023 regular meeting and the August 23, 2023 special/workshop meeting as presented. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT/ BILLS:**

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to accept the financial report and pay the bills as presented. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed.

President Folk appointed Mrs. Knieriem to the finance committee.

**GUESTS:**

A.) Mr. Leonard Steinly was pre-registered as a guest, but was not present.

B.) Mrs. Carol Showman along with approximately 11 other residents were present to object to the proposed enactment of a resolution to establish a four way stop at the intersection of High Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The main concern was during winter driving getting stopped coming down High Street as well as getting started after stopping going up the High Street. There also was a concern on the effect this would have on the school bus stop and the bus driving in winter conditions. After a lengthy discussion regarding speeding on High Street, Lieutenant Pritts was instructed to reach out to Rep. Metzgar to obtain a speed machine as an attempt to slow down drivers. The Council was polled and it was decided to support the residents and not move forward with the four way stop.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to rescind the motion made at the August 8, 2023 meeting regarding the four way stop. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

D.) Public Comment

Mr. Bruce Clites was present regarding a neighbor not cleaning up after their dog. Mayor Smith reported that this is a continual neighbor dispute and informed Mr. Clites that he must have proof in the form of pictures of the animal actually defecating on his property, otherwise the police can not take action.

Mrs. Deb Kolb was present to report that the pedestrian crossings in town are in need of painting, and that the weeds are horrible at the monument. The Secretary was asked to notify the street foreman to add these

items to his to do list.

Mrs. Connie Bowman commented that there are private properties that also have high grass and weeds in both the front and rear. Complaints have been filed with the Borough office.

It was also reported that there is a problem with the two hour parking. There was some discussion of changing the two hour parking with for an example, no parking from 11 PM – 6 AM, however no action was taken.

Mrs. Kolb had a question regarding a letter to the State police pertaining to closing streets for the Halloween Parade. On the recommendation of Solicitor Valentine, Mr. Ackerman made the motion to grant permission for portions of Broadway, Center and 6<sup>th</sup> Street be closed for the Halloween Parade and to authorize President Folk to prepare and sign a letter to the PA State Police as required. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed. Solicitor Valentine reported that any time streets are being closed, approval should be given by the Borough Council.

Mrs. Ashley Price was present to report that loud music and drinking of alcohol was taking place. Lieutenant Pritts was to investigate the complaint.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

No report was given.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Smith provided a monthly statistics report and fines totaled \$278.24 for the month.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:**

No report was given.

**ENGINEERS REPORT:**

No report was given.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Little League Field

Mrs. Gnagey stressed that the subdivision development plan needs to be completed. Solicitor Valentine reported that it is being worked on.

Solicitor Valentine reported that The EADS Group will have an estimate for the cost of a survey for the Vietnam/Korean Memorial. The Vietnam/Korean Memorial Committee is willing to take responsibility for the cost to complete the survey.

Solicitor Valentine also reported that there would need to be an executive session to discuss personnel and possible litigation matters.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

No report was given.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Municipal Authority

Mrs. Gnagey reported that the MMA is working on many projects and they are looking at remodeling in the shop.

#### Street Foreman

Mrs. Gnagey asked what was happening with the drain issue on North Street. Her recommendation for a proper fix would be to remove the old grate completely and rebuild it. Mr. Baker reported that an attempt was made for a temporary fix, however the temporary grate has been removed. After some discussion, Mr. Baker was asked to go over a plan for the drain with the street foreman.

Mrs. Deb Kolb also asked what the plan was for a drain on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Mr. Baker was asked to go over a plan for the drain with the street foreman.

#### Meyersdale Area Merchants Association

Mrs. Gnagey reported that the last Farmers Market for the season would be held on September 13, 2023. Mrs. Wendy Kelly reported that the golf scramble was a success and that the Meyersdale Renaissance helped with this event.

#### Public Library

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to donate \$500.00 to the Meyersdale Area Merchants Association to be applied to the clearview panel project for the Sesquicentennial event in 2024. Mrs. Gnagey seconded. Motion passed.

#### Parks & Recreation

##### Funding request:

Mrs. Gnagey reported that plans are underway for the Halloween parade, bonfire and Christmas activities. The balance in the allocated budget is \$1,310.00 and additional funds are needed. Mr. Parisi made the motion to approve \$1,000.00 from the general fund to offset the cost for events for the remainder of 2023. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed. Solicitor Valentine reported that Mrs. Gnagey did not have to abstain from the vote.

#### Purchase outdoor Christmas décor

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to purchase outdoor Christmas décor from Birch Lane at a cost of \$410 for display at the uptown park and to pay for the purchase from the Harry E. Leckemby Memorial Fund. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

#### Addition to Agenda

Mr. Parisi made the motion to add to the Agenda, discussion regarding Aspire grant writing services. Mr. Baker seconded. Motion passed.

Mrs. Gnagey reported that Aspire is willing to assist the Borough with grant research at no cost. Council needed to make a decision on what their top priority was for grants. After some discussion, Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to work with Aspire for leads on grants at no cost to the Borough and with the priorities being number 1 - Police and number 2 - infrastructure. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

Lieutenant Pritts was to compile a list of items that the Police Department would be in need of.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

##### Handicap swings

The Secretary was granted permission to order stickers to be placed on the handicap swings at the playground, in an attempt to deter misuse of the swings.

Website

It was reported that a check in the amount of \$1,667.00 would be sent to Course Vector to begin the process for a Borough website.

Facebook page

Mrs. Knieriem was asked to speak to Sandy Miller and Bri Knieriem to assist with setting up a Borough facebook page.

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

STREETS/BUILDINGS

No report was given.

FLOOD CONTROL

Mr. Baker reported that an inspection of the flood control channel has been scheduled for September 15, 2023 at 9 AM.

FARMERS MARKET

No report was given.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A.) Patrolman police agreement/handbook

The document has not been signed.

B.) E-Bike charging station grant update

It was reported that the charging station is in the process of being installed.

C.) Ambulance meeting

Mrs. Gnagey reported that a meeting will be scheduled with the Ambulance Association and local government officials will be invited to attend.

D.) Roger Weimer request regarding Per Capita & Occupation taxes

The Secretary was asked to notify Mr. Weimer that he will need to submit a written request and provide proof and a reason for the request.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A.) Announcements

There were no announcements.

B.) 2024 Proposed Budget

Mrs. Gnagey requested that the Finance Committee be given the opportunity to meet and ask questions regarding the proposed budget. The Secretary was asked to advertise a Finance Committee Meeting for September 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

**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.

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. Ackerman made the motion to enter into executive session at 8:50 PM. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

The items to be discussed were:

Personnel matters.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to return to regular session at 9:45 PM. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

**DISCUSSION/MOTIONS:**

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to accept the resignation of Matthew Wright as a Full Time Police Chief as of September 12, 2023 and to reject his offer to be the Part-Time Police Chief because a Part-Time Chief of Police position is not available. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

Solicitor Valentine was authorized to notify Mr. Wright of their decision via letter.

Medical Benefits for Mr. Wright and his spouse will be terminated as soon as possible.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mrs. Knieriem made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 PM. Mr. Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

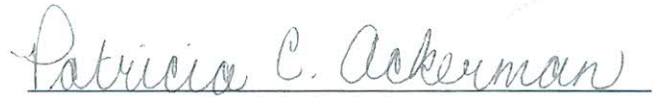
**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:**

Mrs. Gnagey made the motion to return to regular session at 9:54 PM. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to advertise for a Police Chief in the Johnstown Tribune Democrat and online through Indeed. Mrs. Knieriem seconded. Motion passed. The deadline for applications was set for October 9, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Ackerman made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM. Mr. Baer seconded. Motion passed.



*Patricia C. Ackerman*

Patricia C. Ackerman  
Borough Secretary

**MEYERSDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
 Regular Meeting 9/12/2023 Special Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST SIGN IN**

PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC
1	Lorne and Maret Beal	515 Broadway St	7th Street stop
2	Tom Deetz	334 Obinger St MDLE	observe
3	Jeff Christner	207 North St	
4	Steven Matthias	612 High St	7th Street stop
5	Amanda Matthias	612 High St	7th Street stop
6	JOE DiCello	611 Broadway	7th St. stop
7	Carol Shawman	616 Broadway	9th St stop
8	Wendy Kelly		
9	Deb Kolb		
10	Ruth + Eugene Misher		
11	Barry Ringler	618 Broadway	
12	Leona Ruck	630 BROADWAY	7th ST
13	Frank Shanko	8 Salisbury St	7th St stop
14	Kate Billy		
15			
16			
17			
18			
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21			
22			
23			
24			

**GUESTS MUST STAND WHILE SPEAKING**