

**COALDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
221/223 Third St., Coaldale, PA 18218
December 10, 2024 7:00pm**

Call to Order 7:06pm

Meeting was called to order by Council President Claire Remington followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Members of Council attending: Claire Remington, Jacob Adamitis, Michael Radocha, Kim Gavornik, Wayne Figner, Francis Hutta, Mayor Eric Rameriz, Solicitor Robert Yurchak and Treasurer Catherine Papesh - **Absent:** Angelas Krapf

Audience Attendance: 12 members of the public were in attendance.

STMP Presentation:

Following roll call, members from the PA Economy League and DCED introduced themselves and presented their findings and recommendations on how to implement the improvements needed to move the Borough forward and to help regain fiscal stability. They did note, that the Borough has not filed financial reports or audits since 2016, and if we don't rectify that, the State has the option to cut off the State Aid the Borough receives. Copies of the presentation will be available at the Borough office upon request. Economy League did report, that upon completion of their reporting, there will be money available from the DCED, to implement the recommendations as long as there is a Plan to show them on how we will move forward in correcting what needs to be done.

Council took a 15 minute recess following the presentation, before continuing with the meeting.

Recommended that the Council should follow Robert's Rules of Order. Public meetings are not meant to be "a therapy session" and questions from the public need not be answered until researched, then answered at a later date.

Public Participation:

- First Person: Robert Demyanovich-226 W. Phillip St., again questioned if Council had received any reports about CHOSE's financials. He commented that it's been about 7 months since he first inquired about and requested that they be made available for inspection and transparency.

- Second Person: Joyce Lombardi-Fisher Ave. asked for clarification about the letters received from the Water Authority addressing lead in the water pipes. Dan Weiksner from the Water Authority Board addressed this question, stating that the letter was a Nationwide mailing alerting residents about possible lead in their pipes if they had not converted or updated their connection that goes from the house to the Main Line. He noted that customers could have their water tested by the Authority for a \$50.00 fee.
- Joyce then asked about the status of the demolition project for 261 E. High St? Response was that Zoning would be visiting the property and contacting a Structural Engineer to verify if the attached property is stable and able to withstand the demolition. If so , then the project could move forward.

- Third Person

Approval of previous minutes: No minutes from the November meeting were available, due to the absence of the Secretary. Approval was tabled until the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report/Approval of Bills:

- **Motion to approve Treasurer's Report** made by Hutta. Second by Radocha to approve the bills. **Motion passed.**
- **Motion to approve bills to be paid** made by Hutta. Second by Adamitis. Motion passed.
- **Motion made to amend resolution for Signer's for the Kline's Hill Project** made by Hutta. **Second by Radocha. Motion passed.**
- **Motion to approve Portnoff's Sheriff Sale of property at 138 E. Ridge St. made by Hutta.** **Second by Adamitis. Motion passed**
- **Treasurer noted that some of the Sheriff's sales are now being done as online auctions out of Maryland.**

Mayor's Report: Nothing currently.

President's Report: (Remington)

- First item: Read letter of Resignation from Officer Michael Sniscak. Motion to accept made by Hutta. Second by Figner. Motion passed.
- Second item: Relayed that an e-mailed Resignation from Mayor Rameriz was rescinded, and he would be finishing his term of office.
- Third item: Reported that Secretary Beth Martinico had agreed to come into the office on Wednesdays to complete some unfinished work and to help train the new secretary, when hired.
- Action on accepting her resignation was tabled.
- Fourth item: Read letter of Resignation from Officer, and EMC Kevin Soberick. Motion to accept resignation made by Hutta. Second by Radocha. Motion passed. Noting that the new EMC cannot serve on the Police Force or Fire Co., motion to advertise for replacement was made by Hutta. Second by Radocha Motion passed.
- Fifth item: Motion to advertise for new Secretary/Asst. Treasurer made by Hutta. Second by Figner. Motion passed.
- Sixth item: Motion to ratify Liquid Fuels report for extra street that was paved, but not on original report made by Hutta. Second by Adamitis. Motion passed.
- Seventh item: Needed to ratify to have State Peer helper return for more Office Staff Education. Motion made by Hutta. Second Adamitis. Motion passed.

Secretary's Report: (*)**

One: 2025 Budget was advertised and posted for the allotted time. Motion to pass 2025 Budget Made by Hutta. Second by Adamitis. Motion passed. President noted that there was not a tax Not a tax increase for the upcoming year.

Two: Pres. Remington commented on a situation where her daughter received a text from an anonymous source who threatened to harm Pres. Remington. She relayed to those present that this is a form of cyber bullying and it needs to stop where the Borough is concerned.

POLICE: (Gavornik)
No Report

Solicitor Report:

Amendment to Ordinance for property Maintenance Code. Motion made by Hutta. Second By Adamitis to accept 2021 Code. Motion passed.
Noted that the Borough already had a Winter Parking Ordinance that was accepted in 2019. Police should follow the fees in that Ordinance when ticketing.

Fire Report: (Adamitis)

- Motion made by Hutta. Second by Radocha to accept the fire report. **Motion passed.**
Report on file at Borough Office.

Code Enforcement/Zoning Report: (Luis Negron)

- Reported that PPL has disconnected wires on the Demolition houses on 6th St., so the project can move forward.
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- .

Jr. Council Report: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration: New office hours : Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 11AM-4PM. Closed Wednesday until further notice.

Noted that the Tax Collector will be open New Year's Eve 12/31/24 from 11AM-2PM.

Building/Complex: (Remington)

- Councilman Radocha noted that there was some equipment outside the complex door that needed to be put inside ,and that the repairs needed to the steps in front of the Complex should be addressed soon.
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Demolition/Grants: (Remington)

- .

Financing/Utilities: (Gavornik)

- Not at this time..

Handicap: (Figner)

- 137 6th St. It was noted that the property has parking next to the house⁴ and there were some other issues to be addressed yet. No action taken..

Police: Motion was made by Hutta, Second by Figner, to sell Ford Police Truck to Tamaqua Borough for 28,000.00. When asked if the radio goes with it? The answer was it will be sold as is. Motion passed. the money will go into the Police budget, or the General Fund if needed.

Police Pension

Memorial :

- Pres. Remington remarked, that when it is feasible, the Borough plans to add some solar lights around the Memorial when the budget allows..

Recreation :

- No update on situation at the Basketball Court at this time.
- **It was noted that the lights need to be turned off after a certain time, not left on all night long.**

Streets: (Radocha)

- Presented bid for Boyle snow plowing @\$115hr. and applications for John Arner and Bill Chuma for plowing drivers @ \$15hr. Motion to hire all made by Hutta. Second by Figner. Motion passed. Suggestion presented to raise hourly rate to \$18hr. but no action taken.
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Old Business:

Motion made by Hutta to award TPD contractors the inspector job for the Kline's Hill Project. Second by Adamitis. Motion passed.

Due to the situation concerning the Police Dept., it was suggested the Borough reach out to other Boroughs and get information or some ideas on how to move forward with finding Police coverage. In the interim, the State Police will be utilized for coverage.

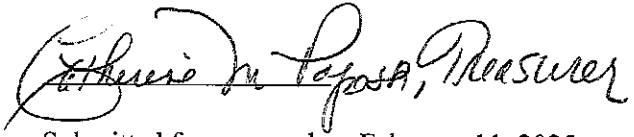
New Business:

- Pres. Remington asked that the council meetings be returned to the Borough Hall, until further notice due to safety issues and handicap accessibility.
- Motion made by Hutta. Second by Adamitis. Motion passed
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Adjournment 9:01PM

Motion made to adjourn by Hutta and seconded by Adamitis. **Motion passed.**

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine M. Lopez, Treasurer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Submitted for approval on February 11, 2025

