

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held October 7, 2019 at 6:30pm at the West Kittanning Municipal Building.

Present: Paula Henry, President	Henry Mores	Absent: None
Bernie Bowser, Jr., Vice President	Bob Bower	
Bob Venesky	Clyde Kline, Mayor	
Nancy Capone	Andrew Sacco, Solicitor	
Mickey Langham		

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

Ken Howard (Bankson Engineers) was present to discuss the collapsing retaining wall along Apple Way. They have done a survey and he presented a map of the area. The section that is collapsing is approximately 3' high and 18' long and is mostly within the Borough easement. Their recommendation would be to remove the section that is collapsing and replace it with compacted fill. They also suggest paving the section of the alley that is adjacent and putting in a curb to divert water flow. The landowner would have to give their permission for this to be done.

Dawn Andryka (Cleveland Street) said the boulders that her neighbor had laid along her property on Southern Avenue are a hazard and prohibit parking along the street. Parking is already prohibited along Ms. Andryka's side of Southern Avenue. The boulders may interfere with snow plowing or could damage the plow if they were hit. There is a water line directly underneath where they are placed. The property owner said she put them down to divert water flow. There was much discussion among council. President Henry said the homeowner had them moved back 2' from where they were originally placed but they are still partially on Borough right of way.

There was a motion by Vice President Bowser to approve the previous month's minutes with a 2nd by Councilperson Bower. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Mayor's Report:

Officer Pitzer read aloud the report for September.

Traffic – 1 citation, 4 warnings

Ordinance violations – 2 warnings issued for high grass

Officer Pitzer, Mayor Kline, President Henry and Councilperson Langham recently met with Brandon Marlan about using portions of West Kittanning to shoot a new Netflix movie. Officer Pitzer had a brief appearance in the movie and the Borough will be reimbursed for his time by the film company.

Council decided to hold trick-or-treat on Wednesday, October 30th from 6-8pm. Vice President Bowser asked if Officer Pitzer could be on duty that evening. Fire department personnel will also be out.

Committee Reports:

Councilperson Mores said the 2006 GMC Sierra was repaired and is back in service. Gary Good had been off work since early September due to a medical issue, but returned to work today.

Councilperson Bower said work will soon begin on the 2020 budget. He is currently the chair of the finance committee, but his term will expire at the end of this year. Councilperson Langham is familiar with the budget process and borough finances from having been an auditor for several years so Councilperson Bower would like her to take his place on the finance committee. President Henry said that would be a good idea and she will revise the committee listing.

Councilperson Langham received a resume for a police officer. The gentleman is able to work Tuesday and Wednesday mornings as well as weekends. The police committee will review the resume and conduct a background check.

Councilperson Capone's term will expire at the end of the year and she asked if she needed to provide a list of all the shade tree situations she has worked on to the new Shade Tree committee. President Henry said no and said she appreciates all the work she has done during her tenure.

Councilperson Langham said the next crime watch committee meeting will be Tuesday, October 15th at 7:00pm.

Council entered into executive session at 6:49pm for insurance purposes. The meeting resumed at 6:54pm.

Unfinished Business:

Vice President Bowser made a motion to obtain quotes for the retaining wall repair and paving of Apple Way. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Secretary Cowan said Bernie Bowser, Sr. is interested in filling the vacancy on the WHAWPCA board of directors and is the only person that has expressed interest. There was a motion by Councilperson Bower to appoint Bernie Bowser, Sr. to the WHAWPCA board of directors to a term that will expire on January 4, 2021. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Capone. Vice President Bowser abstained from the vote. All the rest were in favor and the motion carried.

Vice President Bowser asked if there was still a vacancy on the Kittanning library board. Secretary Cowan said there is still a vacancy and anyone interested should contact the Borough.

Councilperson Bower said the lines have been painted on the basketball court and the fence will be constructed soon. Vice President Bowser mentioned that there is no 3-point line. Councilperson Bower will check into that.

New Business:

The county has hired a company to set up a pictometry system encompassing the whole county and they are making this technology accessible to all municipalities free of cost. The maps will have 2 additional layers that can be superimposed – flood zones and water and sewage lines. They are asking the Borough to sign an agreement saying only authorized personnel will be granted access to the maps. There was a motion by Councilperson Bower to approve the agreement with a 2nd by Councilperson Mores. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Bower brought up 3 letters that were recently received. The first was from Town and Country Transit asking for a contact person for emergency road closures. Henry Mores already receives all of the one-call information so he will be the contact person. The second letter was from a gentleman at PennDOT reaching out about a potential project affecting a portion of roadway in the Borough. The information will be discussed further with Rick Cogley. The third letter was from an anonymous resident about the parking of large trailers on the streets. There is an ordinance that prohibits this and it needs to be enforced. Councilperson Bower will speak more about this issue with the Mayor.

Councilperson Langham said there are a few places in the borough where cement pads have been poured on borough right of way and they really should be removed. She also said the boulders along Southern Avenue present a hazard and should not be permitted on borough right of way. Council agreed. Vice President Bowser made a motion to instruct the property owner that the boulders need moved off borough right of way and onto her personal property. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried. Councilperson Langham will speak with the owner.

President Henry said the parking space markers on the sidewalk in front of Michael Kunselman's property on Arthur Street need removed. They are a hazard and don't leave much room on the sidewalk. The entire council never gave permission for them to be placed there; only a couple individuals gave him permission.

Whenever a homeowner is getting any kind of work done, it is their responsibility to find out what, if any, ordinances are applicable. Contractors should also check with the borough before doing any kind of major work.

There was a motion by Councilperson Bower to pay September's bills with a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Letters to be Read:

None

On a motion by Councilperson Langham, seconded by Vice President Bowser and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Cowan
Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO