

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held February 3, 2020 at 6:30pm at the West Kittanning Municipal Building.

Present: Henry Mores, President
Bernie Bowser, Jr., Vice President
Jim Sobiski
Mickey Langham
Paula Henry
Bob Venesky
Vince Cappo
Clyde Kline, Mayor
Absent: Andrew Sacco, Solicitor

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was audiotaped by Secretary Hileman.

Public Comment:

None

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

Mayor's Report:

Officer Pitzer read aloud the report for January:

Traffic – 5 citations, 2 warnings

Ordinance violations –

In May of 2018, Orbin Swisshelm requested approval from Council for a new sign for the Craft House Gastropub. Mr. Swisshelm provided the proper paperwork and approval was granted. Mr. Swisshelm was subsequently arrested on various counts of Theft by Failing to Provide Services in an amount totaling over \$17,000. He is also being investigated by several other counties for thefts in relevance to his charges in West Kittanning. Mr. Swisshelm will have a preliminary hearing on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 2:30pm in front of Magistrate Owen.

The public hearing for The Hilltop Bar occurred as scheduled but the owner did not appear. Mayor Kline and Officer Pitzer were present on behalf of the Borough. Judge Owen found the owners of The Hilltop guilty of disorderly conduct for the garbage issue.

Recently, there have been several bags of dog feces dumped in the area of First Street and Crescent Avenue. The police have posted several signs about illegal dumping and the area is under video surveillance.

There was an isolated incident on January 10th where someone tried to gain entrance through a side window at the Wyant Accounting building in Grape Way. Residents are reminded to always keep residences, vehicles and out buildings locked.

Committee Reports:

Councilperson Langham will be meeting with our insurance representative from ESS/NexTier Insurance to discuss the current coverage levels for the fire department.

Councilperson Langham said the crime watch committee will not meet again until spring.

Council entered executive session at 6:35pm to discuss legal matters. The meeting resumed at 6:50pm.

Unfinished Business:

Councilperson Henry made a motion to pursue ownership of the www.westkittanningpa.com URL through Michele Cogley, Allegheny Graphics and Solicitor Sacco. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Venesky attended the UCC meeting in January. He had information on permits issued over the last 2 years if anyone is interested.

New Business:

Councilperson Langham met with Bob Bower, Gary Pinkerton and a few employees from the county's planning department about obtaining some new playground equipment. The existing equipment is for older ages and the new equipment would be for younger ages. The cost estimate is \$11,479 and she is looking into applying for a grant.

When the weather improves, our street department employees will be doing some maintenance work on the existing equipment and barriers around it.

Councilperson Cappelletti presented the representation agreement from Solicitor Sacco. The letter outlined the scope of his representation and set forth the hourly fee for 2020 at \$140/hour. Councilperson Cappelletti made a motion to appoint Andrew Sacco as the Borough's solicitor for 2020 at a rate of \$140 per hour with \$300 toward his retainer and all communication to him being via Secretary Hileman. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Henry. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Secretary Hileman said the water authority is asking for the reappointment of Doug Gaiser to their board. There was a motion by Vice President Bowser to appoint Doug Gaiser to the West Kittanning Municipal Authority board for a 5-year term, effective January 1, 2020. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Sobiski asked why the Peoples Gas bill was more than \$200 more than the previous month. President Mores said the thermostat was set at 72 degrees for a while and it should remain between 65-68 degrees. Secretary Hileman said she will check the thermostat when she comes in to get the mail. Councilperson Sobiski asked what the 5 of 9 meant for the ESS NextTier Insurance bill. Secretary Hileman explained that the one-year package and auto insurance policy is broken down into 9 installment payments and that was the 5th of 9 for this year's policy. Councilperson Sobiski asked about the \$1,111 invoice on December's bill list for insurance for a new fire truck. Vice President Bowser explained that the fire department purchased a used fire truck to replace 2 existing trucks that will be taken out of service and that is the cost to add it to the insurance. There was a motion by Vice President Bowser to pay January's bills with a 2nd by Councilperson Sobiski. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Henry asked Councilperson Langham if the special projects committee could be included in the project for new playground equipment and she said yes. Councilperson Langham said the folks from the planning department will write the actual grant application. Our street department employees will be able to do some of the labor which should help to leverage some funds.

Letters to be Read:

None

On a motion by Councilperson Henry, seconded by Councilperson Cappelletti and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman
Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO