

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

Present: Paula Henry, President
Bernie Bowser, Jr., Vice President
Bob Venesky
Nancy Capone
Henry Mores
Mickey Langham
Bob Bower
Clyde Kline, Mayor

Absent: Andrew Sacco, Solicitor

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was audiotaped by Council and the Leader Times.

Public Comment:

Greg McKelvey (Freeport Road) is currently the zoning officer for East Franklin Township. He is also a Republican candidate for County Commissioner. He has been attending local municipalities' meetings to introduce himself. He thanked council and the mayor for their public service work. The primary election is Tuesday, May 21st and he would welcome any support.

Michael Kunselman (Butler Road) thanked Councilpersons Henry and Bower for the suggestions for his new sidewalk. He installed bumpers so people could not park on the sidewalk. President Henry cautioned that people could trip on them and file a lawsuit against him. She said maybe he could paint them so they stand out. Mr. Kunselman said the culvert behind his property on Butler Road is caving in again. He called Butler Petroleum who owns the property. They came to the site to check it out, but got verbal with Mr. Kunselman.

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

Mayor's Report:

Secretary Cowan read aloud the resignation letter from Officer Gahagan. He has obtained full-time employment with the Indiana County Sheriff's office. He said it has been an honor to serve the community and thanked council and the residents for their friendship and support.

Secretary Cowan read aloud a thank you letter to Officer Gahagan on behalf of the Mayor and council members. All members reiterated their gratitude.

President Henry introduced Officer Frank Pitzer, who will be working as a part-time police officer.

The police report for April was read aloud by Officer Gahagan.

Traffic – 5 citations, 5 warnings

Non-Traffic – 1 disorderly conduct

Criminal – 1 theft, 2 warrant arrests, 1 fraudulent business, 1 receiving stolen property, 2 bad checks, 1 indecent assault

Ordinance – nuisance vehicles, large item trash, grass and brush

Committee Reports:

Councilperson Venesky asked what would be done about the leaking garage roof. Councilperson Mores arranged for a contractor to remedy about 80% of the problem. There is over \$100,000 of equipment in the garage and we cannot afford to have water damage. The garage was fairly dry after the last rain and we've only incurred expenses of about \$600, thus far.

Councilperson Mores said the 2006 GMC and the 1996 Ford trucks needed repairs in order to pass state inspection. The street department employees are picking up grass and brush on Mondays and Tuesdays, weather permitting. They are planning to repaint the white lines at the stop signs. We are going to get a price quote from Williams & Willman for painting the street lines. We are also going to contact Kittanning borough about using their street sweeper on the gutters, drains and berms of Butler Road.

John Poproch from PennDOT will be coming soon to survey what streets need paved this year. We will continue to try to pave some of the alleys that get washed out badly.

It was previously discussed about the residents along Allison Drive wanting the borough to maintain their road.

According to the deeds, it is the responsibility of the homeowners to maintain the road, as it is a private lane.

Solicitor Sacco sent a letter to each homeowner stating this. The borough does plow the road as a courtesy and pick up their trash and grass.

Councilperson Capone received a call from Carly Cowan wanting to take down a dead tree at the back of her property. Permission was granted. Jeff Kunst (220 Bluff Street) would like to remove a tree. It is on personal property so he is allowed to do so. West Penn Power will be out trimming trees, but West Kittanning Borough is not on their list of areas to trim.

Councilperson Langham welcomed Officer Pitzer and invited him to the Crime Watch committee meetings, which are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm.

Council entered executive session at 6:59pm for personnel matters. The meeting resumed at 7:15pm.

Councilperson Langham made a motion to hire Jeffrey Livengood as a part-time street department employee to start the last week in July. There was a 2nd by Vice President Bowser. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Langham made a motion to hire Jason Hufhand as a part-time police officer to work 24-32 hours per week at \$15.00/hour. There was a 2nd by Vice President Bowser. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Vice President Bowser made a motion to obtain bids for repaving the basketball court and getting the curb fixed.

There was a 2nd by Councilperson Bower. All were in favor and the motion carried. It was suggested to get a fence installed along the edge of the court nearest the fire hall.

Councilperson Bower had Gary Pinkerton inspect the playground. He recently retired as Director of the Butler County Recreation Authority. There are 5 bolts missing from the playground equipment and the clamps on the swing set are illegal and need replaced. Mr. Pinkerton recommended pressure washing the playground equipment. He also said a play area for ages 2-5 would fit nicely between the pavilion and the hockey court. He is willing to present more information to council, if they wish. The necessary repairs will be made to the existing equipment.

Councilperson Langham discussed the planned upgrades to the memorial wall. They are working with Jay Ford. They will be having a work day to get rid of the existing red brick. The date will be posted on the board at the fire hall.

There was a motion by Councilperson Bower to donate \$500 to the West Kittanning Honor Roll for upgrades to the memorial wall. There was a 2nd by Vice President Bowser. Councilperson Langham abstained from the vote. All the rest were in favor and the motion carried.

President Henry reminded folks that June 7th and 8th will be community yard sale days.

New Business:

Councilperson Mores said a large sink hole developed at a property on Lorraine Avenue. The street department checked it out and it is not due to any Borough pipes or lines; it is the property owner's responsibility and they are taking care of it.

Councilperson Mores said there is a blighted property on Garfield Street where the retaining wall is collapsing. The house is empty and in very poor condition. He suggested having Solicitor Sacco send a letter to the homeowner to rectify the situation.

There was discussion about whether or not to have HQ Pest Management set traps in the borough again this spring and summer. There have been a lot of skunks over the last few years, but it is also costly to the borough.

Councilperson Bower said we really need to enforce the garbage can ordinance. It may cut down on the number of pests in the borough.

The West Kittanning Municipal Authority sent a letter requesting the appointment of Joseph Recuperio to finish the term of Kenneth Trudgen, which will expire on 12/31/2023. Councilperson Mores made a motion to appoint Mr. Recuperio. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. Councilperson Bower abstained from the vote. All the rest were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Mores asked what council wanted to do about the Pennvest offer for the Pine Hill Road storm sewer replacement project. There was discussion about the pros and cons. Solicitor Sacco has all of the necessary

information and the legal authority to proceed with whatever council decides. Council needs to meet with Solicitor Sacco before the next meeting to discuss further.

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

Letters to be Read:

Secretary Cowan read aloud a letter from the Kittanning Public Library. Marie Mores is resigning from their board after 12 years of service and they would like a resident of West Kittanning to fill her seat. If anyone has a suggestion, please let us know.

On a motion by Councilperson Bower, seconded by Councilperson Langham and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Cowan
Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO