

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held May 7, 2018 at 6:30pm at the West Kittanning Municipal Building.

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

Absent: Nancy Capone
Andrew Sacco, Solicitor

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was audiotaped by Council and the Leader Times.

Public Comment:

Buddy Swisshelm (Outdoor Sign and Lighting) was seeking approval for a new sign at the Craft House Gastropub. It is an illuminated sign and will be on the existing structure underneath the current sign. It is for Craft House advertisements only, they are not selling advertising space. Councilperson Bower does not think the sign creates a problem. Vice President Bowser and Councilperson Mores feel the sign is in compliance with the ordinance, except for the proposed hours of illumination. President Henry said the other illuminated billboards are dimmed as low as possible at night. Mr. Swisshelm said the sign's illumination can be turned down to 10%. Councilperson Bower made a motion to approve the sign with the condition that the illumination be turned down to 10% at dark and the sign be turned off completely at 2:00am. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the sign was approved.

There was a motion by Councilperson Bower 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:

Officer Gahagan read aloud the police report for April. There were 14 traffic citations and 8 written warnings. The following non-traffic incidents occurred: 1 disorderly conduct and 2 bad checks. The following criminal incidents also occurred: 2 thefts, 2 warrant arrests, 1 drug paraphernalia, 1 possession of narcotics, 1 DUI and 2 possessions of narcotics with intent to deliver.

Officer Gahagan discussed the crosswalk situation in the Borough. The timing is such that motorists have a green light the same time as pedestrians have the go ahead to cross. The time allotted pedestrians is very short, approximately 3 ½ seconds. PennDOT is ultimately in charge of the length of time and they will only lengthen it if there are 100 pedestrians an hour. Vice President Bowser made a motion for Councilpersons Bower and Mores to write a letter expressing our concern to both the local Senator and State Representative. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Councilperson Mores said the street department recently replaced collapsed drain lines at the following places: the intersection of Pine Hill Road and Sedwick Avenue, along the 200 block of Harrison Street and at the intersection of Harrison Street and First Avenue. They also cut roots out of the blocked drain line on Nixon Avenue. John Poproch from PennDOT will be coming soon to get specs for the annual paving bid. The paving will be done later in the summer, around August/September.

Councilperson Mores said residents living behind Stull's garage on Pine Hill Road would like to cut down 2 trees. He checked out the situation and the trees are on their property, so they are free to cut them down.

Councilperson Langham said the next crime watch committee meeting will be tomorrow, May 8th at 7:00pm.

Councilperson Langham would like the Leader Times to print that residents are to take down yard sale signs once the sale is over.

Council entered executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Unfinished Business:

No decision has been made yet about updating the Borough code book. Councilperson Mores will bring the information he gathered on the project to the next meeting.

Secretary Cowan announced there is an informational meeting regarding the County's proposal to establish a land bank this Thursday, May 11th at 9:30am in the Commissioners' conference room. The letter of intent has been drafted and can be submitted if/when Council wishes.

Secretary Cowan relayed that Solicitor Sacco spoke with Mike Tappe of Butler Petroleum regarding the sink hole on their property. Mr. Tappe said their contractor would be at the site early this week to survey the situation and see what needs done to fix it.

Councilperson Bower passed around a few of the new ordinance violation door hangers. He ordered 250 to start with. Mayor Kline asked if the telephone number listed is for the police department. Secretary Cowan said, no, it is the regular Borough number.

New Business:

Councilperson Bower said there is an 8" water line that runs from Harrison Street, across Butler Road, down over the hillside to Applewold. The portion at the beginning of Ferne Drive is collapsing because people park on the berm of the street, directly over top of the line. He would like to put up a "No Parking" sign to prevent this from happening.

Councilperson Mores made a motion to purchase and erect 2 "No Parking" signs. Without a supporting ordinance, No Parking signs are not enforceable. Vice President Bowser suggested putting an ordinance in place first, so the signs can be enforced. Councilperson Mores rescinded his motion.

Councilperson Langham made a motion for Secretary Cowan to advertise in the newspaper for a new street department employee. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Mores. All were in favor and the motion carried. Resumes must be turned in by May 18th.

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

Letters to be Read:

None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Cowan
Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO