

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, June 1, 2020 at 6:30pm at the West Kittanning fire hall.

Present: Henry Mores, President  
Bob Venesky  
Jim Sobiski  
Clyde Kline, Mayor

Paula Henry  
Mickey Langham  
Vince Cappo

Absent: Andrew Sacco, Solicitor  
Bernie Bowser, Jr., Vice President

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment:

None

There was a motion by Councilperson Henry to approve the minutes from May's meeting with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Cappo. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kline read the police report for May. There were 3 traffic citations and 3 written warnings. There were 2 non-traffic violations. The police have been conducting speed enforcement along Butler Road near the entrance to Harrison Street and also in front of Jordan's Ice Cream shop. They have also been citing people for stop sign violations throughout the borough. The police seized a quad and cited the juvenile driver as an unlicensed driver, for operating an unlicensed vehicle and damage to property. On May 29, 2020 at approximately 1:04am, two persons placed graffiti on the front doors of both the borough building and the fire hall. There is video surveillance of the individuals and the police are attempting to identify them.

Committee Reports:

Councilperson Cappo reported that the storm sewer line replacement project has been completed. The total cost came in around \$3,200, even with having to use Pat Ritrosky for one day. They are letting the dirt settle a bit before they lay down coal patch.

John Poproch from PennDOT prepared the list of streets and alleys to be paved this year. Councilperson Henry asked if the alleys on the list were all hills. Councilperson Cappo said yes, they all have the issue of gravel washing down and clogging the catch basin. Councilperson Sobiski asked if the alleys would be paved from one street to the other or just in sections. Councilperson Cappo said it would be street to street. John Poproch said we could see a substantial decrease in next year's liquid fuels allocations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilperson Langham said the finance committee met today and reviewed April's financial statements and May's bills and everything looks good.

Mayor Kline said Officer Pitzer has been citing residents with high grass. Mr. Totos (McKinley Street) did cut his grass recently. The hearings for Joan Kinnard and Michael Kunselman will be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Unfinished Business:

Secretary Hileman explained the proposal from Quandarymat for the website. The total of the proposal is \$4,500, but Secretary Hileman explained the cost could be lower if she and Councilperson Henry can do the content migration themselves. Councilperson Henry made a motion to accept the proposal from Quandarymat to build a website and set up borough email addresses, not to exceed \$4,500, and to contract for a 1-year, level C management plan for \$660/year. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Cappo. Councilperson Sobiski opposed the motion. All the rest were in favor and the motion carried.

The finance committee discussed the outstanding invoice from Bankson for engineering fees for the PENNVEST grant application. The total is \$38,708.76 and was billed in July 2019. Councilperson Langham made a motion to pay half of the invoice now (\$19,354.38), a quarter of the invoice in September (\$9,677.19) and the remainder (\$9,677.19) by the end of this year. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Cappo. Councilperson Sobiski opposed the motion. All the rest were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Henry said there is a dilapidated structure on the Arthur Street property owned by Michael Kunselman and she thinks it should have to be removed per ordinance 66-1.

Councilperson Sobiski mentioned that there are construction vehicles being parked along the streets. In particular, there is one regularly parked on Harrison Street. He said, per the ordinance, that should be prohibited.

Councilperson Langham asked about the \$89.85 invoice from 2Krew Security & Surveillance. Secretary Hileman said that amount is paid quarterly for “commercial monitoring” of the security system at the borough building.

Councilperson Venesky will call 2Krew to get additional information about the service and the coverage.

Councilperson Langham said the finance committee discussed doing a trash day 3 times a year as opposed to the street department going around and picking it up once a month. Residents would have to bring their trash to the dumpster at the borough building and there would be council members there monitoring what is being dropped off. They believe this would really cut costs and they would like to start this in the fall. There was a motion by Councilperson Cappelletto to do trash disposal 3 times/year, beginning October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried. Councilperson Venesky will prepare a list of what items are accepted and what is prohibited. Residents will also have to bring proof of residency when they bring their trash.

Councilperson Langham asked about the status of the audit. Secretary Hileman said Lorrie Greiner had been backed up because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but she will check again with her to see if it's been submitted.

Councilperson Langham wants to make sure the audit is published in the newspaper, as is required by Borough code.

Councilperson Cappelletto said the voicemail was full when he checked it recently. He plans to check into whether it's possible to set up different mailboxes – for the secretary, for public works, etc. He said we pay approximately \$250/month for telephone and internet service and he is going to see if we can get a discount or even free service for being the franchise authority for Comcast. He believes other municipalities receive free service.

#### New Business:

There was a motion by Councilperson Cappelletto to advertise for bids for the paving project. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried. Secretary Hileman will send the ad to the Leader Times. The bids will be opened at the July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Officer Pitzer left a letter at the house with the abandoned pool on Lorraine Avenue explaining that it is creating a health and safety issue. President Mores said the issue is between neighbors and the borough cannot enforce anything. Councilperson Cappelletto said the DEP will not take any action in an instance like this.

President Mores said a lot of people are complaining about stray, unlicensed cats in the neighborhood. Secretary Hileman forwarded an example of an ordinance pertaining to stray cats several months ago on behalf of Solicitor Sacco. She will look for it and resend it.

Secretary Hileman previously relayed a concern from a resident about a loose dog on the corner of Southern Avenue and Bluff Street. Councilperson Venesky asked about the status of that issue. Officer Pitzer spoke to the homeowner about keeping the dog in the yard or tied up. President Mores said there is a rooster crowing very loudly every morning. There was discussion about residents owning “farm animals”. There was a motion by Councilperson Venesky to have Solicitor Sacco draft an ordinance prohibiting the owning of farm animals and other non-domesticated pets. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Cappelletto. All were in favor and the motion carried. Secretary Hileman has been receiving complaints about skunks in the neighborhood. President Mores said residents will have to contact a company on their own for removal. The borough has paid for this service in the past, but cannot afford to continue doing so.

Councilperson Cappelletto commended Secretary Hileman for being the glue that has held council operations together over the last few months of the pandemic. He made a motion to award her a one-time cash bonus of \$250. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Cappelletto said as the county is moving to the “green” phase this Friday, the playground will be opened back up that day. Councilperson Henry asked if there was a way to sanitize the equipment; Councilperson Cappelletto said there really isn't an economically effective way of doing so.

Councilperson Langham asked about the issue of the property lines along Apricot Way. The back yards of the properties along Cleveland Street are encroaching onto the alley. Bob Bower had his property surveyed and it

shows that the alley has shifted onto his property because of the encroachment from the other properties. There is a possibility the borough may have to have the alley surveyed if this becomes a larger, ongoing issue.

There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to pay May's bills with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Henry. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Letters to be Read:

None

On a motion by Councilperson Langham, seconded by Councilperson Henry and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Carly J. Hileman  
Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO