

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, July 6, 2020 at 6:30pm at the West Kittanning Municipal building.

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

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment:

Pastor Larry Edwards (Grace Brethren Church) said that with so much negativity in the world right now, he wanted to thank the borough employees, police officers and council members for all their work for the community.

Karen Scaife (Harrison Street) said she moved to the borough 3 years ago to downsize and the services offered by the borough, particularly the monthly trash pickup, were one of the main reasons she chose West Kittanning. She heard about the possible changes to the trash pickup and she is encouraging us to continue with pickup as is. She said the borough guys do a great job with everything they do. President Mores said we are not doing away with the pickup and we are still under contract with Waste Management through November 2021. Councilperson Cappo said the topic will be addressed under committee reports.

Joe Recupero (Cleveland Street) heard council was discussing an ordinance that would prohibit the ownership of non-domestic animals, including chickens. He asked what prompted this discussion and if there were complaints. He owns one small chicken and would hate to see an ordinance of this type. President Mores said folks have complained about a rooster that is in the borough. He said there used to be an ordinance to this effect and council has to look for it. President Mores said council will discuss it further and let Mr. Recupero know what is decided.

Tyler Scholl (2Krew Security & Surveillance) was present to discuss an upgrade for our security system. The current system was installed in 2014 and is quickly becoming obsolete. After the recent vandalism, security footage from the church had to be used to identify the individuals because our footage was so bad. Mr. Scholl provided a price quote of \$1,465.00 to provide a new network video recorder and a camera for on the dumpster. On the new system, you can see color and can see at night. You can also view the footage remotely on a smartphone or tablet and can set it to send a notification if motion is detected. The cost for a single camera for on the dumpster is \$486.80. The footage will be stored for 30 days. It can also be downloaded onto a flash drive. Council thanked Mr. Scholl for coming to the meeting.

There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to approve the minutes from the June 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting and the June 15<sup>th</sup> special 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 aloud the police report for the month of June. There were 3 traffic citations and 1 written warning. There were 2 felony charges of fraud under the Home Improvement Act. Dustin Mechling, working under the company name Mechling Construction, has been posing as a roofer, but he is not licensed or insured. He will agree to do a roof for a homeowner, request a large sum of money up front and then never return to finish the work. He has already scammed 2 homeowners out of a substantial amount of money and residents are to be on the lookout for him. The borough will be pressing charges with the District Attorney's office. The police located the 2 minors who smashed windows at Hilltop Auto Glass and car windows at Rupp's Appliance. Charges and restitution are pending. The police also located the 2 minors who placed derogatory signs on the church, police station and fire hall. These individuals are doing community service for the borough. Also located was the minor who had been riding his quad on local streets. There were traffic citations issued in that incident. Officer Pitzer is attending a training in Philadelphia for dealing with riots and domestic terrorism.

Mayor Kline said a lot of folks are burning more than is permitted under the burning ordinance. The police are monitoring and addressing this as much as possible. There was a gentleman soliciting in the borough without a permit. If someone comes to your door, they should be able to provide a solicitation permit.

## Committee Reports:

### Buildings

Councilperson Sobiski said the flag should be illuminated at night. President Mores said there is a light on the pole, but the street light that is right on the corner is too bright for the light to kick on. We need an electrician to either put up a spot light or run electricity to the pole.

### Public Works

Councilperson Cappo said the borough employees replaced 300 feet of storm sewer drain line on Pine Hill Road, as was approved at the last meeting. It ended up costing much less than the \$5,000 - \$6,000 that was originally projected. There is now another approximately 300 feet that needs replaced due to sink holes that are developing. He is estimating it could cost as much as \$5,000, but is hopeful it will come in less than that, as before. They will need Pat Ritrosky's excavation services again.

Councilperson Cappo contacted the homeowner with the abandoned pool on Lorraine Avenue. It has since been drained and covered.

Councilperson Cappo spoke with the director of the County's Planning & Development department. There is another multi-modal grant for which we may be able to apply for the Pine Hill Road storm sewer drain project. He is hoping we can get the local match requirement waived.

We ran out of the steel plates that are used to cover sink holes and other holes. Councilperson Cappo was able to get one from a friend and is working on getting another one.

One juvenile recently completed 40 hours of community service working with the street department. There is a second juvenile who just started their 40 hours of community service today.

The street department recently replaced the existing 4" drain lines along Spruce Lane with 10" drain lines and also installed a new catch basin. This should rectify the water runoff issue.

### Finance/Insurance

Councilperson Langham said the finance committee met with Secretary Hileman to go over the bills. Secretary Hileman explained the invoice from Lorrie Greiner for her assistance with QuickBooks. Bankson Engineers were paid one half of their bill from July 2019, as was approved at the last meeting.

As the borough is under contract with Waste Management through November 2021, we will not be changing the frequency of trash pickup just yet. However, residents will be required to start bringing their trash to the dumpster. There are still details to finalize and the change won't take effect until October. The finance committee is also checking into putting up a fence around the dumpster.

### Unfinished Business:

There were 3 bids received for the paving project. The total asphalt required for the project is 247 tons. Secretary Hileman opened the bids and the results were as follows:

1. Holbein, Inc. – Sarver, PA - \$29,640.00
2. East American, Inc. – Indiana, PA - \$32,601.53
3. Shields Asphalt Paving, Inc. – Valencia, PA - \$28,679.17

Each bid contained a bid bond. There was a motion by Councilperson Venesky to accept the bid from Shields Asphalt Paving, pending solicitor review and approval. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Langham said something really needs done about the unlawful burning. Secretary Hileman will post the ordinance in the newspaper as a reminder.

### New Business:

President Mores brought up the sample ordinance about farm and non-domesticated animals that was provided by Solicitor Sacco. Council members are to review it and make notes and be ready to discuss at the next meeting. Councilperson Venesky brought up the proposal from 2Krew. Councilperson Sobiski suggested upgrading the 4 existing outdoor cameras while we're at it since they are old and have poor quality. The price would be \$220 per camera or \$880 for four. Councilperson Langham made a motion to accept the quote from 2Krew Security and Surveillance for a total of \$2,345, including \$1,465 for a new network video recording system and camera and

\$880 to replace the existing 4 outdoor cameras. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Langham said council would like the fire department to start paying their insurance premiums, all but workers compensation. The policies renew in September. She will discuss this with Vice President Bowser, who is also the president of the fire department, and report back at the next meeting.

Councilperson Langham said it's difficult to see at the intersection of Cherry Way and Orange Way due to a fence the homeowner recently had installed. She asked the homeowner to consider moving the fence back but he said no. She asked if a stop sign could be erected. Officer Pitzer said you don't have to do a traffic study to put up a stop sign in an alley, like you do on a regular street. President Mores and Councilperson Cappo will look at the area in question.

Councilperson Langham said there will be community yard sales on Friday and Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Councilperson Cappo asked that folks do not hang signs on utility poles.

Vice President Bowser said there will be no community band concert at the fire hall.

President Henry said we received 10 copies of the updated Borough code book. If you take a copy, please sign the sign-out sheet for tracking purposes.

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

Letters to be Read:

None

On a motion by Councilperson Cappo, seconded by Vice President Bowser and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Carly J. Hileman  
Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO