

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, August 3, 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:

Joel & Carri Haluck (Signstat Corp.) were present to discuss the sign permit application for the new O'Reilly Auto Parts store. They are seeking permission for a 20' tall pole sign approximately 4' L x 12' H and a building sign approximately 5'8" L x 10'6" H x 4' W (or a combined 59.43 square feet). President Henry mentioned the ordinance and said there are stipulations for the brightness of the LED illumination, the hours the sign can be illuminated, etc. Secretary Hileman will provide them with a copy of the ordinance. Councilperson Venesky said the ordinance provides for a \$500 permit application fee and an annual fee of \$100. There is a stipulation in the ordinance that any sign must be 500' from the nearest residence, but council has the authority to approve an application in lieu of that. The Haluck's were thanked for their attendance and the application will be discussed later in the meeting.

There was a motion by Vice President Bowser to approve the minutes from the July 6th regular meeting with a 2nd by Councilperson Cappo. All were in favor and the minutes were approved. There was a motion by Councilperson Cappo to approve the minutes from the July 13th special meeting with a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kline read aloud the police report for the month of July. There were 6 traffic citations and one criminal incident at 127 Garfield Street where a window was shot out of a shed with a BB gun. Felony charges were filed against Mechling Construction for 2 incidents involving home improvement fraud. Residents should always verify that a contractor is registered with the state Attorney General's office. You should also try to obtain multiple quotes for a job, check a contractor's references and check for complaints filed with the Better Business Bureau. Lieutenant Pitzer assisted East Franklin Township police with locating a suicidal male armed with a knife. He also assisted Manor Township and Ford City police with locating a male that kidnapped a young female at knife point. The female was located unharmed and the male was taken into custody without incident. The police have been passing out copies of the burning ordinance to residents to inform them of the regulations before citing them.

Committee Reports:

Buildings

Councilperson Venesky said the new video recording system and cameras were installed on August 4th. 2Krew was unable to install a camera on the garage to monitor the dumpster, however, because they couldn't run the necessary wiring.

Councilperson Cappo would like the building committee to look into putting a light on the flag that operates on a timer. President Mores will also look into this.

Public Works

Councilperson Cappo said the street department replaced an additional 188' of storm sewer drain lines along Pine Hill Road. The total cost should be around \$5,300. The cost was more than the last section replaced because they used 18" smooth wall pipe instead of 15" corrugated pipe.

Finance/Insurance

Councilperson Langham said the finance committee reviewed and approved this month's bills.

Councilperson Langham made a motion that the fire department begin paying their vehicle and building insurance when it renews in September. Councilperson Sobiski asked what the firemen thought about this decision and if

they'd be able to afford it. Vice President Bowser said things would be tight but that they could afford it. He added that they are thankful the borough has paid the insurance for as long as they have. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappelletti. President Mores and Vice President Bowser abstained from the vote. All the rest were in favor and the motion carried. Secretary Hileman said the borough would still be paying the insurance on the football field, softball field and playground area. Councilperson Sobiski asked if the finance committee had thought about putting the insurances out for bid. Councilperson Venesky said council had gone with ESS Insurance in the past because they were local but they're not necessarily local any longer. Secretary Hileman said there are certain requirements to the process and she will check into it.

Councilperson Langham said the finance committee discussed purchasing a dash camera for the police vehicle. Councilperson Cappelletti said they are currently using their cell phones, which is not a practical option. An entire system is around \$3,000, but Councilperson Cappelletti has seen dash cams, which record to an SD card, for significantly less. He made a motion to purchase a dash cam at either Best Buy or Staples for a max of \$200. He will make the purchase and submit the receipt (less sales tax) for reimbursement. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Police

Mayor Kline mentioned there was an article in the newspaper recently featuring Officer Pitzer. He was nominated by a local boy for an "adopt a police officer" program. Everyone congratulated Officer Pitzer and thanked him for his service.

Vice President Bowser asked Officer Pitzer if he currently uses a body cam or would be interested in getting one. Officer Pitzer does not currently have one but would be very interested in getting one. Vice President Bowser asked him to get pricing information. Councilperson Cappelletti said we could check with the county's public safety department to see if Region 13 funding would be available for this equipment.

Unfinished Business:

There were 4 bids received in the re-bid of 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 - \$28,563.08
3. Shields Asphalt Paving, Inc. – Valencia, PA - \$28,679.17
4. A. Folino Construction – Oakmont, PA - \$32,342.18

Each bid contained a bid bond. President Mores said East American, Inc. is the only company that actually came out and measured the streets to be paved. They have done work in the borough in the past and we have been pleased with the results. There was a motion by Councilperson Cappelletti to accept the bid from East American, Inc., pending solicitor review and approval. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Sobiski said there are 3 "100th Anniversary" signs throughout the borough that are in very bad shape. He made a motion to have the signs and posts taken down. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried. Councilperson Sobiski said we should post signs saying building and solicitation permits are required in the borough. Councilperson Cappelletti said we should check with BS Outfitters for signs and pricing. He will work with Councilperson Sobiski.

Councilperson Langham asked if there was any decision about putting a stop sign at the intersection of Cherry Way and Orange Way. President Henry will look into it.

New Business:

Council discussed the sign permit applications for O'Reilly. All agreed that the solicitor needs to say whether or not council can approve the application even though the sign isn't 500 feet from the nearest residence. Council does not want to hold the applications up any longer because Signstat will need to order the signs and it takes 6-8 weeks for them to arrive. There was a motion by Councilperson Cappelletti to conditionally approve the permit applications, contingent upon being able to grant a variance for the 500-foot stipulation. There was a 2nd by Vice President Bowser. Councilperson Sobiski opposed the motion. All the rest were in favor and the motion carried.

Vice President Bowser mentioned the fire department had to loan their chainsaw to the street department when there was a tree down on Pine Hill Road because the borough's broke. Councilperson Cappo said he is aware and is having Rick Cogley price a new chainsaw.

There was discussion about the sample ordinance for farm and non-domesticated animals. There are chickens on Northern Avenue, which is what brought about this issue. Council members will review the sample ordinance and make notes as to what needs changed, added, deleted, etc. and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

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

Letters to be Read:

Secretary Hileman discussed the letter from MECALL Services, the new recycling coordinator for Armstrong County. They would like to continue the recycling trailer program and are looking to partner with 12 municipalities for trailer sites. There are 2 options if the borough is interested in being a host site:

1. The borough provides a secure location for the trailer, monitors the site and transports the trailer to and from the recycling center when full OR
2. The borough provides a secure location for the trailer, monitors the site, notifies the center when pickup is needed and pays a sponsorship fee based on distance from the center and number of collections per year

There was discussion by council and they decided it would not be a good option at this time. We don't have the resources to monitor a secure site and council is afraid the trailer would get filled up with junk.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman
Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO