

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, September 14, 2020 at 6:30pm at the West Kittanning Municipal building.

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

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment:

Robert Toy (Harding Street) said the abandoned property beside him at 108 Harding Street is in horrible condition and asked if council can do anything about it. There is a dead tree in the yard, the chimney and porch roofs are falling down and there is junk in the back yard. No one has lived there in 5-7 years. Mr. Toy was at a council meeting about a year ago to complain about the property and the solicitor was to send the homeowner a letter. President Mores said he will personally call Solicitor Sacco to ask whether or not he sent a letter in the past and ask him to send another one.

Chris Beck (WKFD) was present to discuss the fire department's insurance policy. He is on a committee that was formed to look into the existing levels of insurance coverage and try to obtain better pricing. He worked with Diane from ESS/NexTier insurance to shop out the policy. She got a quote from VFIS, who specializes in insurance for fire departments, for \$9,302 with increased coverage and limits. Renewal of the existing policy through Selective Insurance would've been \$16,818. Mr. Beck thanked council for all of their support and for paying the insurance for so many years. Councilperson Langham said council is still required to provide coverage on the buildings, the grounds, the playground, football field, softball field and hockey court because we lease them from the fire department. The amount of the coverage for those items is \$4,605 but she is in favor of splitting the cost of the policy as it would still save the borough a substantial amount of money. She thanked Mr. Beck for all his work on this project and said it will be brought up under new business.

There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to approve the minutes from the August 3rd 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 August 31st special meeting with a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kline said we have had a lot of individuals soliciting without a permit. He looked throughout the borough for "No Soliciting" signs and found that there aren't many and the ones we do have are positioned far back from the road. He asked if those signs could be moved closer to the road to be more visible and if we could possibly get more signs. President Mores said we will try to move the existing signs closer to the road and the special projects committee will look into getting additional signs.

Lieutenant Pitzer read aloud the police report for August. There were 5 traffic citations, 1 incident of theft of services, 1 warrant served on a wanted person living on Harrison Street and two warnings issued for high grass. The police thanked council and the mayor for the new surveillance cameras at the police station and the new dash cam for the cruiser. These tools are crucial the officers' safety as well as the safety of the community.

Committee Reports:

Public Works: Councilperson Cappo said the garage door was recently repaired, but now the motor needs replaced and will cost around \$1,200. The cross member that supports the dump bed on the red truck needs repaired and is estimated to cost around \$2,000. The hydraulic line on the green truck blew and had to be replaced. To date, the street department has replaced 560 feet of storm sewer drain lines on Pine Hill Road. We may have to pay for additional paving to cover where the road was dug up, but that will be brought up under New Business. The borough submitted a grant application to the DCED through the county's planning department for \$310,025 to replace the remainder of the storm sewer drain lines on Pine Hill Road. We can use the amounts we've already spent – on engineering fees and work done already – to fulfill our match requirement.

Finance/Insurance: Councilperson Langham said the borough has paid over \$15,000 a year for the past several years for the fire department's insurance. She feels that splitting the lower premium amount would save the borough a substantial amount of money, while providing the necessary insurance coverage for the grounds, buildings, playground, etc. She made a motion to pay \$4,650 to the West Kittanning Fire Department toward their insurance for the 20/21 policy renewal. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried. Councilperson Langham said the public works department needs a new chainsaw. The one that broke was repaired but still doesn't work properly. She made a motion to purchase a new chainsaw from Unique Lawn Care for \$419.99. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappel. All were in favor and the motion carried. Councilperson Cappel priced chainsaws elsewhere and this price is comparable. Councilperson Langham made a motion to pay an additional \$9,926.40 from the liquid fuels fund for additional paving along Pine Hill Road. The paving will be done by East American, who is doing the main paving in the borough, and will repair the sections that had been dug up to replace storm sewer drain lines. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappel. All were in favor and the motion carried. Councilperson Cappel said the paving is scheduled to begin the first week of nice weather in October.

Special Projects: Councilperson Sobiski passed out a packet showing examples and price information for signs he would like to purchase. He is proposing 4 signs that say "Borough of West Kittanning" and 6 signs that say "Building Permits Required". He got a quote from BS Outfitters, however, they do not have the necessary 10 foot posts or fasteners. He also got a quote from Stephenson Equipment, Inc. for \$569.70 and they do carry the posts and fasteners. Councilperson Sobiski made a motion to accept the quote from SEI for 10 signs and the necessary posts and fasteners. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried. Councilperson Sobiski received the email forwarded by Secretary Hileman from the Keystone Market Trust. They expressed interest in repairing our 2 existing keystone marker signs for a minimal cost. Councilperson Sobiski will contact them to get more information and a price. He will also ask about moving the one existing sign that is on Northern Avenue at Grape Way.

Police: Councilperson Langham said how beneficial it would be to our officers to have body cameras. Lieutenant Pitzer said, with the current economic climate, it would protect citizens as much as it would officers. Councilperson Langham made a motion to purchase 2 body cameras at a cost of \$189.99 each plus \$9.95 shipping. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappel. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Crime Watch: Councilperson Langham said the next crime watch committee meeting is Tuesday, October 13th.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Secretary Hileman presented the sign permit application from Rite Aid. They are not changing the size or illumination of any of the existing signs, they are just changing the logos and branding. The application was reviewed by Solicitor Sacco. There was a motion by Councilperson Cappel to approve the sign permit application from Cima Network on behalf of Rite Aid Corporation. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Sobiski. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Secretary Hileman presented a letter from the Kittanning Library requesting \$3,177 for annual library privileges for borough residents. There was a motion by Councilperson Venesky to pay the \$3,177 annual amount to the Kittanning library. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Langham mentioned that there was a Ford City resident at the last crime watch meeting and he commented on how impressed he was at how well the crime watch committee, mayor and police work together. Councilperson Langham made a motion to hold trick-or-treat on Saturday, October 31st from 2:00 – 4:00pm. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappel. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

Letters to be Read:

President Mores presented a letter from the West Kittanning Fire department to the County's Public Safety department. The letter states that West Kittanning Borough Council has reviewed and approved the fire department's new run card dispatching procedures. There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to approve the new dispatching procedures. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappel. All were in favor and the motion carried.

On a motion by Councilperson Langham, seconded by Councilperson Sobiski and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman
Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO