

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, December 7, 2020 at 6:30pm via conference call.

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

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance. Vice President Bowser extended his well wishes to President Henry Mores who was unable to participate in the meeting because he was ill. There was roll call of all members present.

Public Comment:

None

There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to approve the minutes from November's meeting with a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Mayor's Report:

Secretary Hileman read aloud the police report for November. There were 6 traffic citations and 1 disorderly conduct related to narcotics and retail theft. Dustin Mechling was apprehended in Oklahoma and will be transported back to Pennsylvania to face the charges associated with his fraudulent roofing business. Other criminal incidents were as follows: 1 arrest for possession of methamphetamine; 1 arrest for loitering and prowling; WKPD assisted East Franklin Township police on a traffic stop and located 205 stamp bags of heroin; a window was broken out of the Hilltop Bar but no one entered the building; a package was stolen from the porch of 130 Cleveland Street in the afternoon hours of November 30th.

Committee Reports:

Public Works: Councilperson Cappel said the crack sealing went well and the tar buggy rental charge ended up being \$1,987, which is less than was originally quoted. Gary Good tested positive for the corona virus on Thanksgiving so he will be off until he receives a negative test. Councilperson Cappel reported that all the signs ordered have been put up and the crime watch signs recently came in. Councilperson Langham said the crime watch committee will reimburse the borough for the cost of their signs.

Finance/Insurance: Councilperson Langham said the finance committee met yesterday with Secretary Hileman and they are ok with all the bills on the list to be paid. The committee audited the petty cash and there was a small discrepancy. Councilperson Langham got it all straightened out with Rick Cogley. Instead of petty cash being kept in the garage, the remaining amount will be put on a pre-paid card. The street department won't be taking scrap to the junk yard anymore because the payout isn't worth it.

Unfinished Business:

The proposed 2021 budgets for the general fund and liquid fuels fund were presented for discussion. Being no discussion, there was a motion by Councilperson Venesky to adopt the 2021 budgets for the general fund and the liquid fuels fund, as proposed. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business:

Secretary Hileman presented a resolution to fix the tax rate for 2021 at 8.25 mills. The rate will not change from 2020 and this is standard procedure that is required of municipalities each year. There was a motion by Councilperson Cappel to adopt the resolution to fix the tax rate for 2021 at 8.25 mills. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the resolution was adopted.

Secretary Hileman presented a resolution to appoint Lorrie Greiner, CPA as Independent Auditor. This will be a one-year agreement for a fee of \$3,000. There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to adopt the resolution to appoint Lorrie Greiner as Independent Auditor of the 2020 borough financial records. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappel. Councilperson Sobiski opposed the motion. All the rest were in favor and the resolution was adopted.

Secretary Hileman presented a resolution to appoint the law firm of Mechling and Heller as borough solicitor for 2021. There will be a \$400 retainer fee and an hourly fee of \$125.00 to handle legal work in 2021 on behalf of the borough. There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to adopt the resolution to appoint Mechling and Heller as borough solicitor for 2021. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the resolution was adopted.

There were 2 letters of interest received for the seat on the WHAWPCA board of directors – one from Vince Cappel and one from Elizabeth Frederick Zwilling. Councilperson Cappel is willing to withdraw his letter of interest; he was willing to serve if no one else volunteered. Councilperson Venesky said he feels that if a resident is willing to serve, we should take advantage of that. Council agreed and also thanked Councilperson Cappel for his willingness to serve. There was a motion by Councilperson Venesky to appoint Elizabeth Zwilling to the five-year term to commence 1/4/2021 on the WHAWPCA board of directors. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappel. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Vice President Bowser said the fire department is trying to have a drive through event with Santa Claus this weekend. Final details can be found on their Facebook page. He also said the fire department will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items this Thursday, December 10th from 6-9pm. This is in conjunction with a few other local fire departments. All donations will go to the Kittanning Salvation Army.

Councilperson Venesky asked about the status of the website. Secretary Hileman said she sent all the necessary content to the web designers and it should be ready to launch in the near future.

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

Letters to be Read:

None

Vice President Bowser wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

On a motion by Councilperson Langham, seconded by Councilperson Sobiski and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman
Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO