

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6:30pm via conference call.

Present: Henry Mores, President Vince Cappelletti
 Bob Venesky Mickey Langham
 Jim Sobiski Paula Henry
 Clyde Kline, Mayor

Absent: Bernie Bowser, Jr., Vice President

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance. There was roll call of all members present.

Public Comment:

Michael Kunselman (Butler Road) asked if anything came of the potential trap and release program for stray cats. He owns a cat rescue and is willing to help in any way possible or answer questions that council members may have. He said it's very dangerous to stop feeding the cats because that's how they become sick and transmit diseases to other cats. President Mores and Councilperson Venesky both have issues with stray cats around their house. Mr. Kunselman would capture the cats from the neighborhood, have them spayed or neutered and release them back into the borough. Council was interested in exploring this option more.

There was a motion by Councilperson Henry to approve the minutes from January'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 January. There were 12 traffic citations and 2 warnings. The police are investigating 2 sexual offender registration predators residing in West Kittanning. John Kaprowski waived his preliminary hearing for drug charges. Joseph Kaprowski agreed to plead guilty to disorderly conduct for Loitering and Prowling.

Mayor Kline commended the police officers on doing a very good job. He said he will not be seeking reelection as Mayor. President Mores said his time served is appreciated.

Committee Reports:

Finance/Insurance: Councilperson Langham said the finance committee met yesterday and reviewed the bills. Secretary Hileman sent an email from Richard Inspection Services in Grove City who offers codes enforcement services. They serve a few municipalities in Armstrong County and Councilperson Langham reached out to Kittanning Borough in particular. They said they are not pleased with the services and plan to stop doing business with them. Councilperson Langham doesn't feel we should consider utilizing their services. Councilperson Cappelletti said the DCED grant application has to be reduced by \$26,000 for further consideration. Removed will be the \$25,000 for GIS mapping and \$1,000 for fees to acquire a piece of land that is no longer needed. Councilperson Langham is getting an updated cost estimate from Gary Pinkerton for the playground grant resubmission to the DCNR. Councilperson Langham said the plow on the green truck needs trimmed by 9" on each side to better fit down the alleys. Mark TK Welding provided a quote of \$240 to do the work. There was an invoice received from Kiski Valley Uniform & Supply company. Councilperson Langham would like the Mayor to tell the officers to check with him before spending any money. He will talk to them. Councilperson Cappelletti is trying to get funding from Region 13 to purchase body cameras for the police. Councilperson Langham said that when an employee is laid off, it should be approved ahead of time by all of council. She would like to check into updating the police cell phones and getting rid of the jet packs that are on the plan because they aren't needed. The police have internet on their cell phones. Councilperson Langham said on the bill list is a payment of \$2,321.00 to IMA/ESS Insurance for half of the borough's amount owed on the fire department's insurance policy. The borough is paying for the cost to insure the grounds, including the playground and the fields.

Public Works: Councilperson Cappelletti said most alleys are barely 8' wide so when they're plowed, the ground on either side is being dug up by the plow as well. There was a motion by Councilperson Cappelletti to have the plow on

the green dump truck cut down by Mark TK Welding. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Special Projects: President Mores asked if there was any new information on the signs. Councilperson Sobiski said they are finished and will be ready to install by spring. Councilperson Cappelletti said the sign posts have been adapted and are ready for the signs to be mounted.

Unfinished Business:

Councilperson Langham made a motion for Secretary Hileman to respond to Richard Inspection Services and let them know we are not interested in their services. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappelletti. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Cappelletti said Councilperson Langham took the petty cash to the bank to try to get it loaded onto a prepaid debit card but they don't offer anything like that. She will check elsewhere.

New Business:

Secretary Hileman said the West Kittanning Municipal Authority asked council to reappoint David Hiles to a 5-year term on their board. The term would expire 12/31/2025. There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to appoint David Hiles to a 5-year term on the board of the West Kittanning Municipal Authority. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Sobiski. All were in favor and the motion carried.

President Mores would like a committee to review and update the regular employee handbook and the police department's policies and procedures manual. It should probably be the responsibility of the personnel committee and the Mayor and Solicitor should also be included. There was a motion by Councilperson Sobiski for the personnel committee, Mayor and Solicitor to update the employee handbook and the police department's policies and procedures manual. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Sobiski would like it to be stated on the website that garbage removal is the homeowner's responsibility. He has a new neighbor who left garbage out for several weeks. Councilperson Langham will get them a newsletter. Secretary Hileman will put it on the website.

Councilperson Henry asked if anyone ever complained about the abandoned vehicles on the property around Chuck Rupp's appliance store. They are probably not in drivable condition. Mayor Kline said Officer Pitzer did look into this situation before and, since they're on private property, it's a little bit of a sticky situation.

Councilperson Henry thinks it needs to be reexamined and the solicitor should send a letter to Mr. Rupp.

President Mores asked Mayor Kline to have Officer Pitzer look into this.

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

Letters to be Read:

None

On a motion by Councilperson Langham, seconded by Councilperson Cappelletti and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman
Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO