

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:30pm at the municipal building at 229 Arthur Street.

Present: Bernie Bowser, Jr., Vice President

Mickey Langham

Jim Sobiski

Vince Cappo

Absent: Henry Mores, President

Paula Henry

Bob Venesky

Clyde Kline, Mayor

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance. Vice President Bowser extended well wishes to Henry Mores as he is recovering from some health issues. His wife, Marie, said he is to be moving from the hospital to a rehabilitation facility this Thursday.

Public Comment:

Pastor Larry Edwards (Grace Brethren Church) said enrollment at the Grace Christian school has increased 25% since last year and they are in need of more classroom space. They have spoken with Bureau Veritas and have discussed options, including adding onto the building, renting space elsewhere or putting up some kind of temporary/mobile unit. It would be very costly to add onto the building and there isn't viable rental space available so they are looking into setting up a temporary trailer that would be large enough to hold 2 classrooms. Pastor Edwards said they would need to be granted a variance by council to do so and he asked their thoughts on it. Councilperson Cappo said he will research the issue and get back to him.

Bob Bower (Southern Avenue) asked if there was any news on the alley situation. Councilperson Cappo said there was a meeting between Henry Mores, the borough solicitor and the neighboring parties and the Aites' were to get their property surveyed. He wasn't sure where things stood now but he said we will check with the solicitor. Mr. Bower said the survey had been done because he spoke with the surveyor when he was onsite. He said it's now been 60 days since he brought it up to council at a meeting and he was looking for some information. Councilperson Cappo assured Mr. Bower that council is willing to do whatever needs to be done to rectify the situation.

There was a motion by Councilperson Henry to approve the minutes from the May 3rd meeting with a 2nd by Councilperson Cappo. All were in favor and the minutes were approved. There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to approve the minutes from the special meeting held May 21st. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Mayor's Report:

The police report for May was read aloud by Lieutenant Pitzer. There were 6 traffic citations and 3 warnings. Lieutenant Pitzer developed a Pepperball Gun policy and distributed it to all officers. Residents are reminded to always lock homes, vehicles and out buildings. If any West Kittanning business is interested in having an active shooter class conducted, contact the police department and they will do it free of charge.

Mayor Kline reminded residents to take down garage/yard sale signs after their sale is over. He also reminded folks to pick up after their dogs while walking them in the neighborhood. Councilperson Cappo mentioned that he contacted a couple utility companies last summer and folks are not even permitted to hang signs on utility poles.

Committee Reports:

Public Works: Councilperson Cappo said we received the bill from Stephenson Equipment, Inc. to repair the backhoe. It will be discussed under New Business.

Finance/Insurance: Councilperson Langham said the finance committee met and reviewed the bills and everything looks good.

Personnel: Councilperson Langham said Lieutenant Pitzer is going to cut down his hours some in order for Officer Bowser to work more hours. Officer Bowser will be starting a new job but the start date got pushed back until some time in July. He will still be with the borough part-time once he starts the new job, however.

Shade Tree: Councilperson Sobiski asked if Mrs. Freeman contacted Councilperson Henry about a couple trees on her property on Cleveland Street. Councilperson Henry said no, she had not yet heard from Mrs. Freeman but will check in with her.

Special Projects: Councilperson Sobiski asked where council stood on the issues of personal days and call-out time for the revised employee handbook. Vice President Bowser said it would be discussed in executive session.

Police: Councilperson Langham has a prepaid debit with \$200 on it from scrap money. She would like it to be used to purchase a body camera for the police officers. Councilperson Venesky offered to purchase the camera and be reimbursed, but he would be charged sales tax. Secretary Hileman will call the company and try to do a tax-exempt purchase using the debit card.

Council entered executive session at 6:55pm to discuss personnel matters. The meeting resumed at 7:20pm.

Unfinished Business:

Councilperson Cappo said the borough was awarded a DCED grant to replace the storm sewer drain lines along Pine Hill Road. We were awarded approximately \$284,000, which was not the full amount requested. PennDOT and the county's Planning department will handle the entire process and the work will probably be done next summer.

Councilperson Langham said the grant application was submitted to DCNR for new playground equipment, but we probably won't hear anything for a while.

Councilperson Venesky said he is going to drop the issue of getting a new time clock because no one seems to be in favor of it. If things are working well now, there's no need to make a change.

New Business:

There were 3 bids received for the paving project that was advertised. Secretary Hileman opened the bids and the results were as follows:

1. East American, Inc. - \$38,870.04
2. Protech Asphalt Maintenance - \$51,895.11
3. Shields Asphalt Paving - \$67,715.72

All bids included bid bond. There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to accept the bid from East American, Inc., pending Solicitor review and approval. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Henry said a local family had requested to rent the community room on July 17th for a baby shower. She gave the application and check to Secretary Hileman. The fee is \$100 plus a \$50 security deposit that will be returned after the event if all goes well.

Councilperson Henry suggested getting a couple containers with bags for dog poop. It might help with the issue of folks not cleaning up after their dogs. She will get some prices.

Councilperson Henry said community yard sales will be held Friday, July 9th and Saturday, July 10th.

Several weeks ago, the borough workers were clearing away trees that had been cut down from around the softball field. A piece of lumber got caught underneath the backhoe and broke off the reverse solenoid coil, causing it to not go into reverse. The backhoe was repaired by Stephenson Equipment, Inc. (SEI) and the cost was \$1,932.28. There was some discussion about who should be responsible for paying the bill because it was on fire department property. There was also discussion about whether or not to turn the incident into the insurance company, in which case there is a \$500 deductible. The fire department had agreed previously to donate \$150 to the borough for the cost of fuel for the work done. There was a motion by Councilperson Cappo to turn the incident into the insurance company with a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

Letters to be Read:

None

O a motion by Councilperson Langham, seconded by Councilperson Cappel and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman
Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO