

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, October 4, 2021 at 6:30pm at the municipal building at 229 Arthur Street.

Present: Henry Mores, President
Bob Venesky
Mickey Langham
Vince Cappo
Clyde Kline, Mayor

Absent: Paula Henry
Bernie Bowser, Jr., Vice President
Jim Sobiski

The meeting was audiotaped by Bob Venesky and videotaped by Michael Kunselman. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment:

Bob Toy (Harding Street) said the property next to his – 106 Harding Street – has been vacant and an extreme eye sore for about 7 years. He has approached council about it multiple times in the past, but nothing has been done. The chimney is falling down, the grass is always high, there is junk laying around the property and probably rodents inside. He said the electric company had Asplundh cut down several pine trees back in June and the logs are still laying there. Councilperson Cappo said when the electric company has trees cut down, it is the property owner's responsibility to have the logs removed. He said the previous solicitor did send a letter to the homeowner, who lives in another state, and nothing was really done. He said we have a new solicitor this year and we will have him address the issue and see what action can be taken.

Andrea Masters (Nixon Street) lives on the street below Harding Street and can attest to the deplorable condition of the property Mr. Toy is speaking of. She said that during a recent heavy rain, the runoff came down from that property to her yard and flooded her basement. She said she has videos of the streams of water flowing from 106 Harding Street into her yard. Mrs. Masters also wanted to voice her concern about the cars that speed down her street. She said that there are a lot of kids in that vicinity and it creates a very dangerous situation. She has personally asked the individuals to slow down and it hasn't worked. They are also not stopping at stop signs. Officer Pitzer got some more information from Mrs. Masters and said he will address the situation.

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

Mayor's Report:

Councilperson Venesky asked about the grass in the holding pond by the Echnoz building. Mayor Kline said that Chuck Rupp attempted to mow it with a zero-turn mower but it didn't work. He said the magistrate hasn't been enforcing the citations issued by the police so he's not sure what action to take. Councilperson Venesky suggested having the solicitor send a letter to Mr. Rupp. The police will try to contact Mr. Rupp again about the issue.

Officer Pitzer read aloud the police report for September. There were 5 traffic citations and 1 written warning. The police are investigating 3 new cases of unemployment fraud, bringing the total to 66 cases. Councilperson Venesky said folks should reach out to the local Senator and State Representative to urge them to do something about the extensive time and money this issue is costing our borough. Mayor Kline did speak with someone from State Representative Abby Major's office and they couldn't offer any assistance.

Committee Reports:

Public Works: Councilperson Cappo said the street department rented the tar buggy for 3 days recently. They are able to do crack sealing on about 5 ½ - 6 blocks with a 3-day rental. The updated drawings are done for the Pine Hill Road storm sewer replacement project and some other preliminary work has been started. The actual construction won't take place until sometime in 2022. The traffic light system at the Route 268/Butler Road

intersection was damaged by lightning back in July. The invoice was submitted to the insurance company since the damage was caused by lightning.

Finance/Insurance: Councilperson Langham said the committee met and reviewed the bills. The agreement with Waste Management for the dumpster is ending in November. Secretary Hileman is going to check on the cost to have 2 large green cans. Once the dumpster is gone, trash pickup will be held once a year instead of monthly.

Crime Watch: Councilperson Langham said there will be a crime watch committee meeting on October 12th at 6:30pm at the borough building.

There was a motion by Councilperson Cappo to enter executive session at 6:51pm to discuss financial matters. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was a motion by Councilperson Cappo at 6:56pm to reconvene the general session. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Secretary Hileman briefly explained the changes made to the Policies and Procedures manual by the Solicitor. There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to adopt the updated Policies and Procedures manual. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Secretary Hileman explained that a motion was needed to enable the Solicitor to pursue any kind of action regarding the right of way at 208 Arthur Street, owned by Mark Donatelli. There was a motion by Councilperson Cappo to empower the Solicitor to take legal action and file an injunction on the Borough's behalf regarding the right of way at 208 Arthur Street. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business:

Councilperson Cappo explained the signs that were needed from Stephenson Equipment, Inc.; some are replacements and some are needed due to new PennDOT regulations. There was a motion by Councilperson Cappo to order signs from Stephenson Equipment, Inc. totaling \$1,445.19. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Secretary Hileman presented the proposed ordinance for the West Kittanning Municipal Authority that was presented by the Solicitor at last month's meeting. The ordinance would give the WKMA inspection powers, similar to those of the WHAWPCA, when a property is sold in the borough. There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to advertise the proposed ordinance. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Secretary Hileman presented the agreement with Pat Ritrosky to use his leaf vacuum. The solicitor drafted the agreement to use the vacuum for \$1. The borough will add the equipment to their insurance policy and it should not cost more than \$100/year. There was a motion by Councilperson Cappo to approve the agreement. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to hold trick-or-treat on Saturday, October 30th from 4-6pm. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Langham spoke to Laura Wyant Brice of Wyant Accounting about being appointed as the Borough's independent auditor for 2022. She charges by the hour instead of a flat rate. She had an office on McKinley Street but recently moved to Ford City. Secretary Hileman said if this is something council wishes to pursue, she will have the Solicitor draft a resolution to appoint Wyant Accounting as the Borough's independent auditor. It can be voted on at November's meeting.

Councilperson Cappo said the red 2006 GMC truck is currently out of service; the power steering pump and steering box need replaced. Stouffer's Inspection and Repair gave an estimate of \$1,613 to do the repairs. There was a motion by Councilperson Cappo to have Stouffer's repair the truck. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Cappo made a motion to rent the tar buggy again for an approximate cost of \$1,900. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

Letters to be Read:

None

Councilperson Langham said she is taking a collection from council members and borough employees to put a book in the library in honor of Paula Henry's mother who recently passed away. Please give her the money if you would like to contribute.

On a motion by Councilperson Langham, seconded by Councilperson Cappelletti and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman

Carly J. Hileman, Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO