

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, November 1, 2021 at 6:30pm at the municipal building at 229 Arthur Street.

Present: Henry Mores, President  
Bernie Bowser, Jr., Vice President  
Vince Cappel  
Clyde Kline, Mayor

Jim Sobiski  
Bob Venesky  
Mickey Langham

Absent: Paula Henry

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

Public Comment:

Mickey Langham (West Kittanning Grace Brethren Church) said the church has the opportunity to purchase the house on Cleveland Street neighboring the school building. Raymond Tarr, an elder of the church, was also present. He isn't sure exactly how they plan to use the property, but he said they were in talks with the folks from Bureau Veritas. On behalf of Council, President Mores said how much the school is appreciated.

Mark Donatelli (Arthur Street) was present to discuss the cement slabs he put on the right of way in front of his house. He apologized to Councilperson Langham for venting to her about the situation when she was at his house. He asked her to confirm her telling him that his project was not interfering with the water line. Councilperson Langham said that was true. Mr. Donatelli said he was told he could blacktop the right of way area and asked how that wouldn't be considered an obstruction. He said the rocks that were there have destroyed 3 of his vehicles since he lived there. He is upset that the borough is pursuing legal action when they should have told him when he first started the work that it wasn't allowed. He did bust up the concrete that he had laid but he bought pieces of lumber to put there instead.

Michael Kunselman (Butler Road) asked who should be notified that the street light across from his business (near Troy Alan) is out. Officer Pitzer was present and he said he would handle it.

There was a motion by Councilperson Cappel to approve the minutes from October's meeting with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Langham. Councilperson Sobiski abstained from the vote. All the rest were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Mayor's Report:

Officer Pitzer read aloud the police report for October. There were 6 traffic citations. The WKPD received 2 new Unemployment Compensation fraud claims, bringing the total to 71. There was one ordinance citation issued for high grass and weeds on Bluff Street.

President Mores asked if the police sent anything to the owner of 106 Harding Street. Officer Pitzer said they did not but the Solicitor did send a certified letter about the condition of the premises.

Councilperson Venesky asked if any kind of notice had been sent to Chuck Rupp regarding the holding pond. Mr. Rupp did mow the hillside and the area around the pond but the inside still needs trimmed. Officer Pitzer will address it with Mr. Rupp.

Committee Reports:

Public Works: Councilperson Cappel said the guys rented and used the tar buggy recently. The company also did a demo of the Sealmaster crack sealing machine. He said they were pleased with the results and would like to possibly rent one next year. Councilperson Cappel said we have plenty of salt and are prepared for winter.

Finance/Insurance: Councilperson Langham said the finance committee met with Secretary Hileman to review the bills and everything looks good.

Police: Mayor Kline called Senator Joe Pittman's office about the overwhelming number of unemployment compensation fraud claims the police department has received. He was told there was no help available and nothing that their office can do. Councilperson Venesky also stopped at Senator Pittman's office to inquire about the issue and was told the same thing. He is going to keep pursuing the issue.

Crime Watch: Councilperson Langham thanked the police and the fire department for patrolling on trick or treat night. There was a large turnout. Some of the members of the crime watch committee met and have developed an educational pamphlet for residents.

Unfinished Business:

Secretary Hileman said the proposed ordinance to establish inspection powers for the WKMA has been advertised for the required amount of time and now needs to be adopted. There was a motion by Vice President Bowser to adopt the ordinance "defining and regulating utilization of the public water system". There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the ordinance was adopted.

Secretary Hileman presented a resolution that was drafted by Solicitor Andrew Cypher. The resolution is to officially declare the improvements on the right of way at 208 Arthur Street a nuisance. This is necessary in order for the solicitor to pursue legal action against Mr. Donatelli. There was a motion by Councilperson Venesky to adopt the resolution. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Cappel. All were in favor and the resolution was adopted. Councilperson Sobiski asked if someone could take pictures of the area to show the Magistrate at the hearing.

New Business:

Secretary Hileman met with the finance committee to discuss the 2022 general fund budget. The tax rate was kept the same at 8.25 mills. There was a 3% wage increase included. All other revenues and expenses were pretty much based on previous years' averages and trends. A motion is needed to advertise and post the budget for the required amount of time and, if there are no material changes, it can be adopted at December's meeting. There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to advertise the proposed 2022 general fund budget. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Cappel. All were in favor and the motion carried. Councilperson Langham said there are some decisions to be made next year regarding the backhoe and the green truck.

Secretary Hileman read aloud the resolution to appoint Laura Brice from Wyant Accounting as the Borough's independent auditor for 2022 for a fee of \$65/hour. There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to adopt the resolution with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Cappel. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was some discussion about amending Ordinance #186 "Vehicles and Traffic" to prohibit parking on the southern side of First Avenue that was recently leveled and paved. That area is used for parking mainly during football practice and games. Since the season is over, there are several months to try and come up with a solution.

Councilperson Sobiski mentioned the invoice from Stouffer's for repair of the GMC and asked if there was a maximum amount of spending that a single council member can authorize. It was explained that the repairs and cost estimate were discussed and approved at the last meeting. There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to pay October's bills with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice President Bowser. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Letters to be Read:

None

On a motion by Vice President Bowser, seconded by Councilperson Langham and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carly J. Hileman*

Carly J. Hileman, Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO