

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, August 2, 2021 at 6:30pm at the municipal building at 229 Arthur Street.

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

Absent: Bernie Bowser, Jr., Vice President
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:

Mark Donatelli (Arthur Street) was present to discuss the right of way in front of his house between the sidewalk and the road. He removed the 3' worth of gravel that was piled up in that area and he had begun putting down sand and pavers. He's completed work on approximately 14' already. He has lived at the property for 12 years and has had 3-4 cars destroyed from the gravel there. He said the gravel also gets washed down the road when it rains and ends up in the storm sewer drains. He said borough employees and police officers witnessed him doing this work and they should've stopped him if it was not permitted. Mr. Donatelli said the tree in front of his house is lifting up the sidewalk, making it dangerous. He stated that the sidewalk is his responsibility to fix and maintain but he's not permitted to touch the tree that is causing the problem because it's on borough right of way. President Mores asked if he sought council's permission before starting the work; Mr. Donatelli said no, he did not know that was the process. President Mores told him to cease work for now and said council would consult with the solicitor on the issue and get a response to him.

Michael Kunselman (Butler Road) presented a handout to council listing the benefits of feral cats to the community. He explained that stray cats will get very sick if you quit feeding them and will become diseased. He said if anyone has questions or concerns, they can contact him.

There was a motion by Councilperson Cappel to approve the minutes from the July 12th meeting with a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Mayor's Report:

The police report for July was read aloud by Lieutenant Pitzer. There were 12 traffic citations and some non-traffic summary offenses. There was one arrest for an incident of domestic violence. The department is continuing to receive complaints regarding unemployment fraud. The state has set up a PA fraud hotline at 1-800-692-7469 and a website at www.uc.pa.gov/fraud where you can get more information and report fraud. Lieutenant Pitzer did a program at Crawford's ATA in the borough. They sent him a thank you card and a check for \$100, which he turned over to Secretary Hileman. The check will be deposited in the general fund but earmarked for police needs.

Committee Reports:

Public Works: Councilperson Cappel reported that Bankson Engineers had to re-do some of the drawing for the Pine Hill Road storm sewer drain replacement project. The Apricot Way alley has been surveyed and marked and the street department can start excavating to move it to the correct location. The traffic light system at the Butler Road/Rt. 268 intersection recently had to be repaired. A bad storm caused damage that required the computer system be replaced. Since the damage was caused by weather, we should be able to turn this expense into the insurance company. The gentleman who purchased the property at 202 Rear Bluff Street is still awaiting approval from the US Postal Service to change his mailing address to 202 Apple Way.

Shade Tree: Councilperson Langham reported that Rose Freeman had her trees cut down, as was approved by the Shade Tree committee.

Finance/Insurance: Councilperson Langham said the finance committee discussed the upcoming insurance renewals. Secretary Hileman will return the renewal paperwork to IMA/ESS insurance to see what amount they quote for the policies. We may seek quotes from other agencies. With the dumpster contract expiring 11/30/2021, council needs to discuss whether or not to keep a dumpster or to get rid of it and reduce to only a spring and fall trash day.

Personnel: Councilpersons Sobiski and Langham have met several times and came up with revisions for the policies and procedures manual. Secretary Hileman will re-type the entire manual and distribute to council for discussion at next month's meeting.

Council entered executive session at 6:52pm to discuss legal matters. The meeting resumed at 7:11pm.

Unfinished Business:

Mayor Kline said Chuck Rupp has it on his to-do list to cut the weeds around the retention pond by the Echnoz building.

New Business:

Secretary Hileman presented the \$3,177 invoice from the Kittanning Library for annual resident library privileges. Councilperson Cappo asked how many residents actually use the library. Secretary Hileman will get an answer and report back to council. The invoice approval was tabled until next month's meeting.

Councilperson Langham said the fire department is holding community day on Sunday, September 12th. Activities will commence at 1:00pm and will include a DJ, bounce house and face painting for kids, corn hole tournament, truck parade and pet parade, car show and maybe more.

There was some discussion about who is responsible for making sure fire extinguishers are up to date in rental properties. Jeff Fox, member of the fire department, suggested contacting fire chief Chris Beck.

Councilperson Cappo discussed the updated drawings needed for the Pine Hill Road storm sewer project. There are 2 easement drawings needed along with drawings to reflect the current supply and equipment list because a portion of the work has been done over the last year. Bankson Engineers quoted a cost of approximately \$10,000 to prepare the drawings and documents for the easements and the updated design drawings and itemized material quantity list. Councilperson Cappo made a motion to allocate \$12,000 from the Borough's ARPA allocation to cover the cost of the drawings needed for the Pine Hill Road storm sewer project. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

Letters to be Read:

None

On a motion by Councilperson Langham, seconded by Councilperson Sobiski and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman

Carly J. Hileman, Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO