

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:30pm at the municipal building at 229 Arthur Street.

Present: Henry Mores, President
Bernie Bowser, Jr., Vice President
Mickey Langham
Jim Sobiski
Vince Cappel
Bob Venesky
Clyde Kline, Mayor
Andrew Cypher, Solicitor

Absent: Paula Henry

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

There was a motion by Councilperson Cappel to enter executive session at 6:30pm to discuss legal property matters with a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried. There was a motion at 6:47pm by Councilperson Cappel to re-enter the general meeting session with a 2nd by Councilperson Langham. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comment:

There were several board members from the Kittanning Library present along with West Kittanning representative, Alice Young. Patricia Goldman, Treasurer, read aloud a letter detailing the many programs the library offers. Krista Mason, Director, read aloud a letter on behalf of Christina Adams, who is in charge of children's activities. Board member, Jay Smoyer, also spoke of the many innovative programs the library offers, including free access to the website www.tutor.com, which provides access to a live tutor from 3-10pm Monday through Friday. President Mores thanked all of the members for being present and for providing all of the educational information.

There was a motion by Councilperson Cappel to approve the minutes from the August 2nd meeting with a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the minutes were approved. There was a motion by Councilperson Venesky to approve the minutes from the August 25th special meeting with a 2nd by Councilperson Sobiski. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Mayor's Report:

The police report for August was read aloud by Officer Pitzer. There were 8 traffic citations and 2 written warnings. The police investigated an incident where a 17-year-old male was loitering and prowling at a local business. The male was identified. There was no damage done and the business owner did not press charges. The police have been finishing up their work with unemployment compensation fraud reports. In total, they received reports for 52 fraudulent claims, which they reported to the state Attorney General. Councilperson Sobiski asked if there is police coverage in the evenings. He said he sees a lot of people burning. Mayor Kline said we only have 2 part-time officers and they do the best they can with the hours they work and the multitude of duties they have. Mayor Kline said if you suspect folks are burning illegally and there is not a local cop on duty, either leave a message on their voicemail or call 911.

Committee Reports:

Public Works: Councilperson Cappel said the paving is complete and came in under budget. They were even able to pave a couple additional areas, including a section of Summit Avenue West. Councilperson Sobiski asked about the alley realignment. Councilperson Cappel said we need to determine what to do with the bush on the Aites' property and then have the solicitor draft an agreement for all parties to sign.

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

Unfinished Business:

Vice President Bowser said his whole family, especially his 2 daughters, have used the library extensively and he feels it is a great asset to the community. Vice President Bowser made a motion to contribute \$3,177 to the Kittanning Public Library for yearly resident privileges. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried. Councilperson Cappo thanked them all for coming and explaining more about the library. He said they provide a lot more services than he realized.

Councilperson Venesky said the Policies and Procedures manual needs reviewed by the Solicitor before council votes to adopt it. Secretary Hileman will send it to council again to review and send it to the Solicitor. It will be on October's meeting agenda.

The renewal of the Public Officials/Employment Practices Liability insurance policy was tabled at the August 25th special meeting. Secretary Hileman since relayed additional information to council regarding the policy. There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to renew the policy for the 21/22 year. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business:

Councilperson Cappo said he thinks the borough could benefit from renting a tar buggy again to seal cracks in the streets before the weather gets colder. Councilperson Cappo made a motion to rent a tar buggy for a cost of \$2,300. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Secretary Hileman said Nelda Aites reached out about holding a women's prayer walk on Saturday, September 18th from 10:00am to 12:00pm throughout the borough. Pastor Edwards (Grace Brethren Church) said it is a multi-church event. There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to grant permission for the event. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Solicitor Andrew Cypher mentioned that the water authority is pursuing an ordinance to have inspection powers similar to those of the sewage authority when homes are bought and sold within the borough. Council would be responsible for advertising and eventually adopting the ordinance on behalf of the water authority.

Councilperson Cappo said we are wanting to use the leaf vacuum from Pat Ritrosky this year in lieu of folks bagging their leaves. Residents would be asked to push their leaves to the alley or the edge of their property. There was some discussion about how to disseminate this information to residents. Councilperson Sobiski asked about liability issues with our employees using the equipment. The Solicitor said that the borough would be responsible for any damage done while we are operating the machine. He will talk with Pat Ritrosky and draft an agreement to be signed prior to use. He also said that if anyone would get hurt using the machine, it would fall under our workers compensation policy, as with any other on the job injury. Secretary Hileman will check with the insurance carrier to find out if any damage to the leaf vacuum can be covered by the borough's insurance policy.

There was a motion by Councilperson Langham to pay August'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 Vice President Bowser and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman

Carly J. Hileman, Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO