

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, January 3, 2022 at 6:30pm at the municipal building at 229 Arthur Street.

Present: Henry Mores	Jim Sobiski	Absent: None
Bernie Bowser, Jr.	Bob Venesky	
Vince Cappel	Jake Martin	
Mickey Langham, Mayor		

The meeting was audiotaped by Bob Venesky. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

There was a motion by Councilperson Bowser to accept Mickey Langham's letter of resignation from the position of council member due to her acceptance of the Mayoral nomination. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Cappel. All were in favor and the motion carried. Mayor Langham then swore in newly (re-)elected councilmembers Jacob Martin and Vince Cappel. Bob Venesky was also re-elected, but had already been sworn in.

Nominations were made for President, Vice President and President Pro Tem.

Councilperson Bowser nominated Henry Mores for President. All were in favor and the nomination carried.

Councilperson Bowser nominated Vince Cappel for Vice President. Councilperson Sobiski nominated Bob Venesky for Vice President, but he declined the nomination. All were in favor and the nomination for Vince Cappel carried.

Vice President Cappel nominated Bob Venesky for President Pro Tem. All were in favor and the nomination carried.

President Mores presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Public Comment: None

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

Mayor's Report:

The police report for December was read aloud by Lieutenant Pitzer. There were 3 traffic citations and 2 written warnings. In criminal offenses, there was a juvenile arrested for access device fraud, theft and receiving stolen property in conjunction with a stolen credit card.

Committee Reports:

Buildings: Vice President Cappel said there is a light out in the parking lot but Rick Cogley would like to wait for better weather to get up on a large ladder to change it.

Public Works: Vice President Cappel said we will be getting a bill for repairs to the traffic system at the intersection of Arthur Street and Butler Road.

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

Shade Tree: Councilperson Venesky got a call about a tree on a property off of Northern Avenue. Vice President Cappel spoke with the individual and the tree in question is on the neighboring personal property.

Crime Watch: Mayor Langham said newsletters were passed out to everyone in the borough. She will also leave some copies at the Borough building.

There was a motion by Vice President Cappel to enter executive session at 6:41pm to discuss legal matters. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Bowser. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was a motion by Vice President Cappel to resume the regular meeting at 7:06pm. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Sobiski. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Secretary Hileman explained the \$12,953.67 invoice received from Bankson Engineers for additional work on the Pine Hill Road storm sewer project. There was a motion by Vice President Cappel to pay the bill from the ARPA funds. There

was a 2nd by Councilperson Bowser. All were in favor and the motion carried. Vice President Cappo said we're still awaiting approval from the railroad company on the one easement before the project can be put out to bid. He reached out to the lady in charge and she is on vacation until January 5th.

President Mores said MDJ Owen ruled in favor of Mark Donatelli in the case about the nuisance right of way but we will be appealing the ruling. We have until January 21st to do so and then a hearing will be scheduled in front of one of the Armstrong County judges.

Mayor Langham said the borough was awarded the \$50,000 grant from DCNR for new playground equipment. We had applied first in 2020 and again in 2021. This will provide equipment for younger children (ages 2-5). The current equipment is for ages 5+. She said that, even though she is no longer on council, she would still like to head up the project.

Councilperson Bowser said the fire department is working to get a new lease drafted so they can convert some of the softball field into additional parking.

New Business:

Secretary Hileman explained there are 2 vacancies that need filled: one is for a council member, due to Mickey Langham's resignation, and the term would run through January 2024; the other is for an Emergency Management Coordinator, due to Joe Mores' resignation. Secretary Hileman explained that the council member seat needed to be filled within 30 days of Council's accepting of Mickey Langham's resignation. There was a motion by Councilperson Sobiski to advertise for letters of interest for both positions to be submitted by January 21st for a special meeting to be held January 24th. There was a 2nd by Vice President Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The WHAWPCA sent a letter requesting the reappointment of James Ternent to their Board of Directors. He has served on their board since 1973. There was a motion by Councilperson Venesky to reappoint James Ternent to the WHAWPCA board of directors for a 5-year term, effective 1/1/2022. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Martin. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Vice President Cappo said we try to replace a vehicle every 7 years. Currently, the 2006 GMC is in bad shape and requiring frequent, costly repairs. There are very few new vehicles available and problems with the supply chain are making the problem worse. Vice President Cappo would like permission to explore all options to find a new vehicle. There was a motion by Councilperson Bowser to give Vice President Cappo permission to find a new vehicle. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was a motion by Councilperson Bowser to pay December's bills with a 2nd by Vice President Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Letters to be Read: None

Councilperson Sobiski said the Leader Times listed trash pickup for this Friday but he thought the dumpster was gone. President Mores said the 7th will be the last monthly trash pickup. Vice President Cappo said it was decided to keep the dumpster until the end of January due to folks having trash from Christmas. Councilperson Sobiski said the website needs updated and Secretary Hileman said she will take care of it.

On a motion by Councilperson Bowser, seconded by Councilperson Sobiski and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman, Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO