

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, February 7, 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 Cappo	Jake Martin	
Kevin Hetrick	Mickey Langham, Mayor	

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Langham swore in newly appointed Council member, Kevin Hetrick.

Ken Howard, from Bankson Engineers, was present to discuss the agreement with the railroad company as part of the Pine Hill Road storm sewer replacement project. With the current scope of work, there is a 90-foot section of pipe that is on property belonging to the railroad. If the borough wishes to work on any part of the storm sewer system that is on railroad property, they would have to enter into a license agreement, which would include annual fees, processing fees and insurance coverage/limit obligations. Ken Howard has spoken with Attorney Tyler Heller and Borough Solicitor Andrew Cypher about the situation. They are all of the opinion that borough can chose to remove that section of pipe from the scope of work and eliminate the need for a contractual agreement with the railroad company. In the application to the railroad, the borough was seeking to replace a certain section of pipe and we can say that we changed our minds. There was a motion by Vice President Cappo to forego the agreement with the railroad company and proceed without replacing the section of pipe on their property. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Bowser. All were in favor and the motion carried. Ken Howard said his firm would make the necessary revision to map #3, which may cost the borough around \$500 for the couple hours' work required. Councilperson Martin asked whether we could slip line that 90-foot section of pipe and if the cost could be rolled into the existing grant. Ken Howard said he believes it can be slip lined but we would have to check with the county as to whether the cost can be included.

Public Comment:

Pat Scanlon (Orchard Lane) was present to discuss the uprooted trees in the alley above his property. He said it is not his personal property, he believes it's borough right of way and he would like them removed. Mr. Scanlon said the map that Rick Cogley used to determine the location was incorrect and he measured from his property line pin. President Mores said once the snow is cleared, he will go up and measure.

Chris Beck (WKFD) gave an update on the fire calls in January and February. He tried unsuccessfully to get ahold of Tyler Heller and Andrew Cypher to revise the lease with the borough so he re-typed it and simply excluded anything pertaining to the softball field. President Mores said we would send it to our solicitor to review and get back to them. Councilperson Bowser thanked the members of the WKFD for shoveling and plowing snow for residents who are unable to do so. Mr. Beck said if anyone is unable to shovel, call the fire department and leave a message and they will help out.

Pastor Larry Edwards (Grace Brethren Church) passed out treat bags to council, the police, borough employees and members of the fire department as a token of appreciation from the church folks.

There was a motion by Vice President Cappo to enter executive session at 7:00pm to discuss personnel matters. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Bowser. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was a motion by Vice President Cappo to resume the regular meeting at 7:16pm. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Bowser. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was a motion by Councilperson Bowser to approve the minutes from the 1/3/2021 regular meeting and the 1/24/2021 special meeting. There was a 2nd by Vice President Cappo. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Mayor's Report:

The police report for January was read aloud by Lieutenant Pitzer. There were 4 traffic citations and 9 snow removal warnings issued.

Committee Reports:

Buildings: President Mores asked the building committee to explore options for a local company to service the furnaces and air conditioning units. The companies that installed the units and have been servicing them are from the Slippery Rock and Grove City areas and President Mores would like to use a local company. Councilperson Venesky said he will look into this as soon as the weather breaks so we can get a company to come out and service all the units at once. Councilperson Venesky will stop at 2Krew Security & Surveillance Co. to update the contact list to include the 3 members of the building committee and Rick Cogley.

Public Works: Vice President Cappo said the salt spreader on the white truck is broken so they are looking for parts to fix it. Jeff Livengood's schedule has been adjusted and he is working 2 weekdays and Saturday and Sunday. Vice President Cappo said this will only be during the winter months and Councilperson Venesky said it might work well during the summer, too.

Finance/Insurance: Vice President Cappo said the committee met and reviewed the bills and everything looks good. He commended the folks from the fire department for working to get their insurance costs down.

Shade Tree: President Mores said when the weather breaks, he and Councilperson Venesky will go and measure at Pat Scanlon's property.

Special Projects: President Mores asked the special projects committee to work with Mayor Langham on the playground project.

Unfinished Business:

Vice President Cappo said the white Explorer (police vehicle) is rusting out pretty badly. It has already been puttied and the cost estimate for the body work required (approx. \$6900) now is more than the vehicle is worth (approx. \$2,200). Vice President Cappo made a motion to put the vehicle out to bid. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. Councilperson Bowser opposed the motion. All the rest were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilperson Bowser said the personnel committee interviewed 3 applicants for part-time police officer – Phillip Young, Robert Yough and Kyle Lewis. He said Mr. Yough would only be able to work 1 or 2 days a month. He said the other 2 individuals are both very qualified and are already trained. Councilperson Bowser made a motion to hire Phillip Young and Kyle Lewis to work a combined 40 hours/week at \$17.50/hour with a 90-day probationary period. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Sobiski. All were in favor and the motion carried. Mayor Langham thanked council for their work to hire the new officers.

Vice President Cappo found a chassis at Walker Motor Co. that would suit our needs. It is a 2022 GMC 3500 series and we would get it for the costars price of \$42,140. To get a chassis built from Ford, we would have to wait until December. The uplift package from Stephenson Equipment Inc. would be \$53,280, making the grand total \$95,420. He would like to use \$30,000 of ARPA funds as a down payment and finance the remainder through NexTier Bank. This should be an allowable expenditure of ARPA funds because it enables social distancing and is for the betterment of the community. Councilperson Sobiski asked about the specs and Vice President Cappo gave details regarding the weight, bed type, tail gate, etc. This truck will be comparable to the 2014 Ford F450, but will not have an extended cab. Councilperson Bowser asked if the finance committee had reviewed the finances to see if the budget can accommodate this purchase and Vice President Cappo said yes. There was a motion by Vice President Cappo to purchase the chassis and uplift package and put \$30,000 down from the ARPA fund and finance the remainder through NexTier Bank for a term of 60 months. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Martin. Councilperson Sobiski opposed the motion. All the rest were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business:

Councilperson Martin spoke about the benefit of having an ordinance requiring every home to be posted with their address. He said a lot of residences in West Kittanning are not very clearly marked, which makes it difficult for emergency personnel, mail carriers, visiting nurses and others to find homes. Vice President Cappo obtained a copy of the addressing ordinance from Manor Township which the special projects committee will review and tailor to the borough's needs. The signs are fairly inexpensive; ranging from \$11 - \$16. Chris Beck said the fire department may be

willing to get involved. They could possibly purchase signs in bulk. Mayor Langham said there are approximately 700 residences in the borough.

Secretary Hileman said the water authority recommended the reappointment of Rick Cogley to their board of directors. His term expired at the end of 2021. There was a motion by Vice President Cappelto to reappoint Rick Cogley to the West Kittanning Municipal Authority's 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 Cappelto spoke with Brown River Towing Company and they are willing to take anything they can burn for heat as well as the paint. McCutcheon Enterprises specializes in removal of hazardous materials. Some materials they can take without analyzation but if they'd have to analyze a substance prior to removal, it may be as much as \$600/sample. There was a motion by Councilperson Martin to get rid of whatever we can to Brown River Towing Company and use the ARPA funds to have McCutcheon Enterprises remove the rest. There was a 2nd by Vice President Cappelto. All were in favor and the motion carried.

President Mores said there are hazardous materials, including hydraulic fluid, anti-freeze aluminized paint, oxidizer, etc., that have been lying around in the garage for quite some years.

Secretary Hileman reached out to the solicitor about establishing a spending limit for individual council members between meetings. Vice President Cappelto said it would help business keep moving if council members were authorized to spend a certain amount - \$250 or \$500, for example – in between meetings without formal approval. He said vehicle repairs would continue to be addressed as they arise. Secretary Hileman has not yet heard from the solicitor about how to put this into effect so it will be tabled.

Secretary Hileman said the borough must submit their tonnage request for the 22/23 costars road salt contract by March 15th. For the past several years, we have requested 175 tons. We are required to purchase at least 60% of the amount requested and are able to purchase up to 140%. There was a motion by Councilperson Martin to request 175 tons of rock salt for the 22/23 season. There was a 2nd by Vice President Cappelto. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was a motion by Councilperson Bowser to pay January's bills with a 2nd by Councilperson Martin. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Letters to be Read:

Secretary Hileman mentioned that James Ternent made a \$100 donation to the borough in appreciation of the workers.

On a motion by Vice President Cappelto, seconded by Councilperson Martin and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman, Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO