

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

Present: Henry Mores, President	Jim Sobiski	Jake Martin
Vince Cappo, Vice President	Bob Venesky	Bernie Bowser, Jr.
Mickey Langham, Mayor	Kevin Hetrick	

Absent: None

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment:

Chris Beck (WKFD) gave the monthly report. They have had 81 calls year to date and 2 calls for West Kittanning borough since the last meeting. The fire department recently renewed their insurance policy with VFIS. The premium went down \$19, for a total of \$12,198/year, or \$3,049.50/quarter. They are working with Terry Bowser and Snyders on converting part of the softball field into a parking lot. A trench needs dug from the downspouts on the buildings to the appropriate exit points. Shields Paving recently donated 7 loads of millings, which can be used for the project. The fire siren was reinstalled and will be hooked back up. The fire department has discussed eliminating the 9:00pm whistle. The siren will ring 3 times for calls and weather-related emergencies

There was a motion by Councilperson Sobiski to approve September’s minutes with a 2nd by Councilperson Martin. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor’s Report:

Lieutenant Pitzer read aloud the police report for September. The officers are still investigating an incident of sexual assault on a juvenile who’s since moved to Michigan. They offered junk vehicle warnings on a few vehicles belonging to Chuck Rupp and he is going to have them moved. The department is going to apply for a grant through PCCD for Communications IT equipment, such as radios and a computer for the car. Mayor Langham found a lady who writes grants and charges \$30/hour. The grant application is due October 13th. There was a motion by Councilperson Martin to approve paying Dianne Emminger \$30/hour to complete the grant application. There was a 2nd by Vice President Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried. Mayor Langham priced skunk traps at Tractor Supply and they are \$45/trap. She will use the gift card from scrap money and purchase 2.

Committee Reports:

Buildings: The downspout on the front awning is still leaking. Councilperson Venesky will show Vice President Cappo where it is so he can tell the street department guys.

Public Works: Vice President Cappo said Gary Good backed the 2014 Ford into a cement post at the fire hall when they were working there ripping out bushes. The driver’s side door, mirror, fender and running board were slightly damaged. They got 2 quotes – one from Kittanning Collision for \$3,874.45 and one from Reesman’s Auto Body for \$3,883.63. There is a \$500 deductible. Vice President Cappo said Kittanning Collision doesn’t really want the work and Reesman has worked on our vehicles several times in the past and we’ve been pleased with their work. Vice President Cappo made a motion to accept the quote from Reesman Auto Body. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Martin. All were in favor and the motion carried. The invoice will be paid from the newly created Operating Reserve bank account. The paving is complete and we are waiting on the weigh bills and PennDOT approval to pay the bill. The Pine Hill Road project is about 80% complete. They are waiting for the paving to be done and they will do their final cleanup. They have until October 30th to have it completed. Kevin Kline is going to do the lettering on the new truck. It will cost \$400 and he is going to re-letter the 2014 Ford at no cost.

Finance/Insurance: Vice President Cappo said the committee reviewed the bills list and everything looks good. The committee also had a meeting about the 2023 budget. Secretary Hileman prepared a preliminary budget,

factoring in a 3% wage increase and other known increases in expenses and projected revenues and there's a potential deficit of \$28,000. The last time real estate taxes were raised was for 2013. The current millage is 8.25 and the finance committee discussed the option of a 1 mill tax increase, which would generate approximately \$20,000 of additional revenue. There was much discussion. Council would like to know what the average increase would be per tax bill. Councilperson Martin will get that information from tax collector, Linda Olinger.

Personnel: Councilperson Bowser said the new officer, Robert Yough, will start working sometime within the next 2 weeks.

Eric Kunkle (EMC) recently submitted for a certification from PEMA. He got all of the office supplies from Staples so he can begin putting binders together.

Mayor Langham asked Councilperson Martin about the 911 address sign ordinance. The ordinance has been adopted, it now needs communicated to residents and enforced. At community day, the fire department had a sign-up sheet for folks who wanted to purchase signs from them for \$12. Not many people signed up so they only ordered 50 kits so far. The fire department will also help put up the signs for residents who need help. There was much discussion about what deadline to set and how best to convey this information to all homeowners.

There was a motion by Vice President Cappo at 7:19pm to enter executive session for personnel reasons. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Martin. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was a motion by Vice President Cappo at 7:47pm to resume the regular meeting. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Martin. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Council discussed the rental of the community room and feels it's not financially worth it for the work involved. Councilperson Bowser said the taxpayers are ultimately paying for the building and it would be nice to keep it available for rental. Councilperson Martin made a motion that all future requests to rent the community room be brought before council at a meeting and will be approved at their discretion. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Bowser. All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business:

There was discussion about when to hold trick-or-treat and it was decided for Wednesday, October 26th from 5-7pm.

Vice President Cappo said the pole saw is currently broken, the carburetor went out on it. Estimates to repair it were almost as much as a new one would cost. There was a motion by Vice President Cappo to purchase a new Echo pole saw from Unique Lawn Care for \$599.99. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

Letters to be Read:

None

On a motion by Councilperson Bowser, seconded by Councilperson Martin and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman

Carly J. Hileman, Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO