

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, December 5, 2022 at 6:30pm at the municipal building at 229 Arthur Street.

Present: Henry Mores, President  
Vince Cappo, Vice President  
Mickey Langham, Mayor

Kevin Hetrick  
Bob Venesky

Absent: Bernie Bowser, Jr.  
Jim Sobiski  
Jake Martin

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment:

Chris Beck (WKFD) said there were 113 calls, year to date. Since the last meeting, the WKFD assisted on 7 calls and responded to 2 fire alarm calls. Gretchen Dosch, secretary for Applewold Borough, was present to talk about their fire coverage. They currently contract with West Hills Emergency Services for coverage, but would like to contract with West Kittanning Borough. They would pay their portion of the workers comp insurance and make a donation to the fire department.

There was a motion by Vice President Cappo to approve November's minutes with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Langham said at the fire hall on election day, there was an application form for the green street address signs and several people applied.

Lieutenant Pitzer said there was 1 traffic citation and 2 written warnings in the month of November. They assisted with a 3-vehicle accident on Franklin Hill Road and a 2-car accident in the Walmart parking lot. They also investigated a case of alleged child abuse.

Committee Reports:

Public Works: Vice President Cappo said there is a mini street roller in the garage that does not work and he's going to discuss under New Business putting it out to bid.

Finance/Insurance: Vice President Cappo said the committee met and reviewed the bills and everything is ok.

Personnel: Mayor Langham said the new police officer, JR Yough, recently started working.

Eric Kunkle (EMC) recently attended the quarterly EMA meeting. He got some good information about emergency rock salt supplies. He asked about getting a 2- or 4-drawer filing cabinet for his materials and binders. Lieutenant Pitzer said there is an extra filing cabinet in the holding cell that's not being used and he can have it.

There was a motion by Councilperson Hetrick at 6:40pm to enter executive session for personnel matters. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice President Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was a motion by Vice President Cappo at 6:49pm to resume the general meeting. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

The ordinance for increasing the tax millage to 9.25 for 2023 was advertised, as required. Councilperson Venesky said council did not want to have to raise taxes but it's necessary to keep up with rising costs. Also, taxes have not been raised in 10 years. There was a motion by Vice President Cappo to adopt the ordinance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Secretary Hileman recapped the proposed 2023 budget. It was advertised, as required. The total budget is \$404,684. There was a motion by Vice President Cappo to adopt the 2023 general fund budget with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was a motion by Councilperson Hetrick to give the 3 street department employees a pay raise on 1/1/2023 and the 3% increase on top of that. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice President Cappelletti. All were in favor and the motion carried. President Mores said we have good workers and we want to retain them.

New Business:

There was a motion by Vice President Cappelletti to put the mini street roller to bid on [www.municibid.com](http://www.municibid.com). There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried. If no bids are received, Council approved of the machine being scrapped.

Secretary Hileman presented a resolution implement Act 57 of 2022, which directs tax collectors to waive additional charges for real estate taxes in certain situations. An example would be where a tax payer purchases a property between December – February and the tax collector does not receive notice in time and the tax bill is sent to the previous owner. There was a motion by Councilperson Hetrick to adopt the resolution with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Secretary Hileman presented a resolution to reappoint Mechling & Heller as the borough solicitors for 2023. The rates would be the same as for 2022. Council discussed exploring another option. There is a new attorney in West Kittanning and they would like to speak to her.

Secretary Hileman presented a resolution to reappoint Laura Brice of Wyant Accounting as the independent auditor for 2023. The rate would be the same as for 2022 at \$65/hour. There was a motion by Vice President Cappelletti to adopt the resolution. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was a question on the invoice from Quandarymat for the secure sockets layer. Secretary Hileman read the explanation from Jared Kuchta. There was a motion by Vice President Cappelletti to pay November's bills with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Letters to be Read:

Mayor Langham took up a collection to have 2 books dedicated at the Kittanning library. The book "Beauties: Hockey's Greatest Untold Stories" was dedicated for Carly Hileman's husband, Colt, and the books "Yard Sale" and "Creative Ideas for Planning Your Next Yard Sale" for Bob Venesky's mother, Marie.

On a motion by Councilperson Venesky, seconded by Vice President Cappelletti and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carly J. Hileman*

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Carly J. Hileman, Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO