

Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, January 9, 2023 at 6:30pm at the municipal building at 229 Arthur Street.

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

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

There was a moment of silence to recognize the passing of former Councilperson, Nancy Capone.

Public Comment:

Greta Kiser (Arthur Street) was asked to attend the meeting as a potential candidate for Borough solicitor. She met with Vice President Cappo and Councilperson Venesky and gave a proposal for her services. President Mores said it would be discussed under Unfinished Business.

Chris Beck (WKFD) said there have been 4 calls year to date. He thanked the borough for receipting the donation from the Snyder Foundation and turning it over to the fire department. He said their 501(c)(3) status has finally been approved so they will be able to accept donations in the future.

There was a motion by Councilperson Martin to approve December's minutes with a 2nd by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor's Report:

Lieutenant Pitzer read aloud the police report for December. There were 3 traffic warnings and 3 parking tickets issued. There will be a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for Blak, the Sheriff Department's K-9, on Saturday, January 28th at the fire hall from 3-7pm. Blak sustained an injury to his spine and the surgery will cost upwards of \$10,000 so the funds raised will go toward that cost.

Committee Reports:

Finance/Insurance: Councilperson Venesky said the committee met and reviewed the bills and everything looks ok.

Special Projects: Mayor Langham said Gary Pinkerton, from Jeffrey Associates, is waiting for new product catalogs to be released to give us an updated price on playground equipment. Once we have that information, the committee will meet again and devise a new cost estimate.

There was a motion by Councilperson Bowser at 6:37pm to enter executive session for personnel matters. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was a motion by Councilperson Martin at 6:47pm to resume the general session. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Mayor Langham said Ms. Kiser was at the special projects committee meeting and was a big help in reviewing the new drawings. We are hoping to get the playground equipment ordered as soon as possible so it will come in in time to be installed for the summer.

Vice President Cappo and Councilperson Venesky met with Ms. Kiser in December to discuss the possibility of her serving as the Borough solicitor. She recently opened a law office at 217 Arthur Street and she lives in the borough, as well. Ms. Kiser submitted a proposal with a \$1,000 retainer and a \$100 hourly fee. She will also attend the

monthly meetings. There was a motion by Councilperson Venesky to appoint Greta Kiser as Borough solicitor for 2023 with a 2nd by Councilperson Bowser. All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business:

At the recommendation of the West Kittanning Municipal Authority, there was a motion by Councilperson Venesky to appoint Robert Bower to a 5-year term on their board (1/1/2023 – 12/31/2027). There was a 2nd by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was discussion about the fire department adding Applewold borough to their coverage area. Gretchen Dosch, Applewold borough secretary, said their council did not receive the agreement yet from their solicitor. They meet tomorrow and are hoping to have it by then. President Mores asked Chris Beck if he feels comfortable taking on this territory and he said yes. Applewold doesn't receive a great deal of calls. Councilperson Venesky asked if the WKFD would receive Applewold's allocation from the Volunteer Fire Relief Association and Ms. Dosch said yes. The discussion was tabled until February's meeting when we will hopefully have the agreement. Mayor Langham said Jason Hufhand (currently serving as police chief in North Buffalo Township) expressed interest in working for the WKPD part time. There was a motion by Councilperson Martin to hire Jason Hufhand as a part-time police officer. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

Letters to be Read:

None

On a motion by Councilperson Bowser, seconded by Councilperson Hetrick and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman

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Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO