Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, October 2, 2023 at 6:30pm at the municipal building at 229 Arthur Street.

**Present:** Henry Mores, President Vince Cappo, Vice Pres. **Absent:** Jake Martin

Jim Sobiski Bob Venesky Greta Kiser, Solicitor

Bernie Bowser, Jr. Kevin Hetrick

Mickey Langham, Mayor

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment:

Karen Scaife (Harrison Street) asked why there is no whistle at the fire hall. Vice President Cappo said the old whistle was taken down when the roof was repaired and there were issues getting a new whistle installed. With the current system, fire fighters get an alert on their phone when there’s a call. Ms. Scaife said it’s a bit of nostalgia and she would like to see it reinstated. Councilperson Sobiski asked if it was also for weather and other emergencies as well and EMC Eric Kunkle said yes. He also mentioned that the app for calls recently went down and there was a call and no one was notified so he is going to advocate to get the whistle back in operation.

There was a motion by Vice President Cappo to approve the minutes from September’s meeting with a 2nd by Councilperson Hetrick. Councilperson Sobiski abstained from the vote. All the rest were in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor’s Report:

Lieutenant Pitzer read aloud the police report for the month of September. There were 4 traffic citations, 3 medical assists and 4 assist to other departments. The department is currently working on an investigation of a burglary on Garfield Street; they need the DA to sign the warrant. Mayor Langham said there were card vandalized on Garfield Street so please lock your car doors. Mayor Langham said we are working on getting a quote for a laptop under the police grant. We have to purchase it and then will get reimbursed with grant funds from the state. Trick or Treat will be held Saturday, October 28th from 2 – 4pm.

Committee Reports:

Buildings: there is a beeping noise coming from the room where the equipment for the security system are housed. Councilperson Venesky will contact 2Krew about it.

Public Works: Vice President Cappo said leaf and brush pick up will continue through November 28th, weather permitting. We will be getting up to 3 dumpsters from Phill It Up Disposal for trash days at a cost of $300/dumpster. Phil will also provide a dumpster for scrap metal free of charge. The county maintenance department recently replaced the bulbs in the lights along West Kittanning hill with LED ones. Per the cost sharing agreement between West Kittanning Borough, Armstrong County, Applewold Borough and East Franklin Township, we will be receiving a bill for our share of the cost, which is 18%.

Finance/Insurance: Vice President Cappo said the committee reviewed the bills and everything looks good. Mayor Langham said the committee will be meeting with Secretary Hileman in the near future to work on the 2024 budget.

Shade Tree: Councilperson Hetrick said the electric company will be taking down trees: 1 on Garfield Street, 2 on Arthur Street and 2 in front of the playground.

Eric Kunkle (EMC) said the fire department has had 168 calls, year to date. The American Red Cross is setting up a shelter at the fire hall for a disaster exercise on October 24th. They are the only facility in Armstrong County that is approved to operate as a Red Cross shelter. The Red Cross is doing a presentation at the PPEN meeting this Thursday. The fire department is still waiting on the generator to be delivered. Mr. Kunkle said there was another rollover accident at the top of Pine Hill Road due, in part, to the slippery road surface.

Council entered executive session at 6:49pm to discuss personnel matters. The general session resumed at 7:00pm.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Vice President Cappo said the street department would like to rent the tar buggy one more time before winter. President Mores added that it really helps to preserve the streets and prevent further spreading of cracks and is a lot cheaper than paving. There was a motion by Vice President Cappo to rent the tar buggy with a 2nd by Councilperson Bowser. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor Langham and Councilperson Sobiski recently attended the Armstrong County Association of Boroughs meeting. The meeting was informative and they talked a lot about the mandatory reorganization meeting that’s to be held January 2, 2024. There was discussion about what paperwork is needed by newly elected council members. Secretary Hileman will contact James Webb at the county’s election department to find out for sure.

There was a motion by Councilperson Bowser to pay September’s bills with a 2nd by Vice President Cappo. 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 7:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Carly J. Hileman, Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO