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

**Present:** Vince Cappo, Vice President Kevin Hetrick **Absent:** Henry Mores, President

 Jim Sobiski Bob Venesky Jake Martin

 Bernie Bowser, Jr. Mickey Langham, Mayor

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment:

Larry Edwards (Grace Brethren Church) said the church will be carrying out their annual VANquish hunger program. Bags will be passed out on 11/13 and picked up on 11/20.

There was a motion by Councilperson Bowser to approve the minutes from October’s meeting 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 the month of October. There were 3 traffic incidents, 1 medical assist and 1 assist to another department. The officers are monitoring a couple local houses with suspicion of drug activity.

There are currently 2 cell phones for the police department and only one is being used. Mayor Langham said we will be cancelling the unused line, which cost about $50/month. We will be needing a jetpack for the laptop we are getting for the police vehicle. Vice President Cappo checked with AT&T about this and it will cost about $50/month.

Committee Reports:

Public Works: Vice President Cappo said the guys will be picking up leaves and grass through November 28th. We have a good supply of salt and will be ready for the first snowfall.

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

Shade Tree: Mayor Langham said West Penn Power recently removed a tree on Garfield Street that was “hot”. The homeowners had birds getting killed in the tree and it was found to have a hot wire running through it.

Police: Mayor Langham said trick or treat went very well. The police and fire trucks were out to ensure safety.

There was a motion by Councilperson Bowser at 6:35pm to enter executive session for legal matters. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried. There was a motion by Councilperson Hetrick to resume the general session at 6:52pm. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Bowser. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Secretary Hileman got a quote from CDW Government (a Costars vendor) for a laptop for the police vehicle. With this technology, they will be able to run license plates while out on the patrol without it being broadcast. The quote for a laptop, monitor stand and docking station is $2,179. The borough was awarded a grant for up to $5,000 for this equipment. There was a motion by Councilperson Bowser to purchase the equipment quoted by CDW Government with a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor Langham reported on the mock drill put on by the Red Cross at the fire hall. The premise was that Kittanning got flooded and everyone was assigned a role; Mayor Langham was a little girl who lost her parents. The fire hall is the only facility in the county that is a certified emergency shelter. The Red Cross will leave a trailer of supplies parked there.

New Business:

Secretary Hileman discussed the proposed 2024 budget. She worked with the finance committee to develop the budget, which totals $418,000. There was a 3% increase in salaries included, along with normal increases in utilities, insurances, etc. There was a motion by Councilperson Bowser to advertise the proposed 2024 general fund with a 2nd by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The WKMA asked that Joseph Recupero be appointed to a 5-year term on their board. There was a motion by Councilperson Hetrick to appoint Joseph Recupero to a 5-year term on the West Kittanning Municipal Authority board, running 1/1/2024 through 12/31/2028. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Venesky. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The pavement on Pine Hill Road where the drainage work was done last year is in bad shape. It is the area from the Northern Avenue intersection up to the Orchard Lane intersection (approximately 5,000 square feet). Councilperson Hetrick had a representative from Young Blood Paving come in and give an estimate. Paving would be extremely expensive so they discussed tar & chip. The cost for that would be around $31,000. This is for informational purposes only and we hope to put the project out to bid in the spring.

The lady from Young Blood Paving also looked at the curve at the top of Pine Hill Road by Lincoln Street, as there have been several accidents there. She said the pavement looks good and the accidents are most likely due to speeding. Councilperson Hetrick reached out to Rae-Lyn Enterprises for pricing on signage. They suggested a flashing type of LED sign that would be $3,000 per sign.

Vice President Cappo said the Ford and new GMC trucks both need front tires. Flynn’s Tire only sells the tires, they don’t put them on, and they quoted $275/tire. Lockhart’s Auto Repair quoted $270/tire for the Ford and $223/tire for the GMC. Vice President Cappo made a motion to accept the quote from Lockhart’s Auto Repair. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Bowser. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was a motion by Councilperson Bowser to pay October’s bills with a 2nd by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Letters to be Read:

Vice President Cappo summarized a letter received from the PA Preparedness Education Network (PPEN). They are a local non-profit organization that offers preparedness programs, holding most of their classes at the West Kittanning fire hall. They are reaching out to local businesses and elected officials for donations to purchase equipment, training materials and stockpile relief supplies. There was discussion about what, if any, other local municipalities had donated. Vice President Cappo will try to get some more information for the next meeting.

On a motion by Councilperson Hetrick, seconded by Councilperson Bowser and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Carly J. Hileman, Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO