Minutes for the West Kittanning Borough Council meeting held Monday, September 11, 2023 at 6:30pm at the municipal building at 229 Arthur Street.

**Present:** Henry Mores, President Vince Cappo, Vice Pres. **Absent:** Jim Sobiski

Jake Martin Bob Venesky Bernie Bowser, Jr.

Bernie Bowser, Jr. Kevin Hetrick

Greta Kiser, Solicitor

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment:

Jessie Reiss (Cleveland Street) was present to discuss the issues at the rental property behind her house – 217 Rear Cleveland. There are several cats and dogs that run loose. At one point, a couple of their dogs were tied to her fence. Animal control was called a few dogs have been removed. There is trash piled up all around the outside of the house, the grass is extremely high, there is traffic in and out of the house at all hours of the day and night and they drive a white car that is so loud it sounds like it doesn’t have a muffler. Lieutenant Pitzer said he and Officer Willison have been there on multiple occasions and warned them about the grass and the trash. They are to be renting a dumpster to dispose of the trash and, if not, they will be cited. The white car is currently impounded. Lieutenant Pitzer said they will stay on top of the situation and Ms. Reiss thanked him for their efforts. There was discussion among council about contacting the property owner, Timothy Barrett, who lives in Virginia.

Susan Blaney (Summit Avenue) asked council to consider holding trick-or-treat on Saturday afternoon. She stated that weekday evenings it is hard for parents to get home from work in time to get their kids ready and it is dark outside, which is dangerous. Mayor Langham said it is on the agenda so it’ll be discussed under New Business.

There was a motion by Councilperson Martin to approve the minutes from August’s meeting with a 2nd by Vice President Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor’s Report:

Lieutenant Pitzer read aloud the police report for the month of August. There were 3 traffic citations, 2 EMT assists and 2 assists to other departments. There was burglary on Garfield Street where a woman broke into her ex-boyfriend’s house and stole items. There were actually 3-4 people involved and the appropriate charges have been filed. Mayor Langham said the new officer, Scott Haslett, is scheduled to start this week.

Committee Reports:

Buildings: Councilperson Venesky said the thermostat is set at 68 degrees and he asked President Mores if he could bump it up. The batteries need replaced in it, too.

Public Works: Vice President Cappo said the circulating and reciprocating saws need replaced and will be discussed under New Business. Fall trash days are tentatively set for Friday and Saturday, October 20th & 21st. The guys will be renting a tar buggy in October to do crack sealing. There was discussion about installing wedge curbs on sections of Cleveland Street and Southern Avenue.

Finance/Insurance: Vice President Cappo said the committee reviewed the bills and everything looks ok, including the $8,000 invoice from Bankson Engineers for playground project drawings.

Eric Kunkle (EMC) said the American Red Cross will be holding a disaster exercise at the fire hall on October 24th. He reported the fire department has had 159 calls, year to date. On September 29th, they will be doing a fire prevention presentation at Grace Christian School.

Council entered executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Unfinished Business:

There was discussion about purchasing a new computer for the police department. Secretary Hileman needs a new computer, also. She will talk to the County’s IT director about what machines to purchase and from where.

New Business:

The Solicitor drafted a new lease agreement between the Borough and the Fire Department that includes the language required by DCNR for the playground grant. There was a motion by Councilperson Venesky to adopt the lease with a 2nd by Vice President Cappo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Armstrong County Boroughs Association is holding their first meeting in several years on Wednesday, September 20th at the Butler County Community College in Ford City. The cost to attend is $25/person and dinner is included. Mayor Langham and Councilperson Sobiski expressed interest in attending. Councilperson Martin made a motion to pay for whoever wants to attend. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Vice President Cappo made a motion to hold trick-or-treat on Saturday, October 28th from 2:00 -4:00pm. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Martin. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Vice President Cappo said the existing reciprocating & circular saws are broken, cannot be repaired and need replaced. He got a quote from Ace Hardware to get new Milwaukee brand saws for a total of $574.00. There was a motion by Councilperson Hetrick to purchase new saws from Ace Hardware with a 2nd by Councilperson Martin. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There was more discussion about installing wedge curb along a portion of Cleveland Street and Southern Avenue to divert the water runoff. It is particularly bad in that area and even causes flooding at one particular home. Vice President Cappo obtained a quote of $9,893.91 from East American, Inc. They are doing the other paving in the borough. There was a motion by Vice President Cappo to accept the quote and have the work done. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Hetrick. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Fall trash days will be Friday and Saturday, October 20th and 21st from 8:00am – 4:00pm. Rules will be the same as previous times as far as what is/isn’t accepted and that you must show proof of residence. Vice President Cappo made a motion to spend up to $350/dumpster from Phill It Up Disposal. There was a 2nd by Councilperson Martin. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

Letters to be Read:

None

On a motion by Vice President Cappo, seconded by Councilperson Hetrick and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly J. Hileman

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Carly J. Hileman, Secretary/Treasurer/RTKO