

**KITANNING BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

**August 15, 2023**

**Council Chambers**

Meeting called to order at 6:00PM

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Phil Brautigam, Betsy Wilt, Wilbur Stitt, Chris Schiano, Les Ruffaner, Michael Johns, Gerald Shuster, and Andy Peters.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Police Chief Ken Buzzard, Public Works Director Jim Mechling, Fire Marshall Earl Kline, Jordan Shuber, Rebecca Rupert Code Officer, and Betsy Hooks Borough Secretary/Treasurer.

- **A motion was made to approve the August 15, 2023, meeting's agenda.**

Motion: Johns

Second: Ruffaner

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Justin Brown and Joshua Starr spoke regarding the Hometown Holiday Event. They requested Council's approval for the road closures for the Festivities in the streets and the ability to utilize both ends of the Riverfront Park for the Christmas trees. Trees will be installed the week of November 6<sup>th</sup> and uninstalled and disposed of the week of January 15<sup>th</sup>. Road closures will be November 18, 2023, 12-9 PM Market Street between Grant Avenue and Water Street. Also, the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of Market Street on December 8, 2023.

- **A motion was made for the closure of the streets for the Festivities and Parade and utilization of both sides of the park for Christmas Trees.**

Motion: Johns

Second: Shuster

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to donate in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Kittanning Hometown Holiday.**

Motion: Shuster

Second: Brautigam

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

Tree removal at 135 Hazel Street was discussed and recommended by Jim Mechling that it needs to be removed.

- **A motion was made to accept Jim Mechling's recommendation to remove the tree at 135 Hazel Street.**

Motion: Johns

Second: Stitt

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

Alan Buriak spoke regarding possibly having a 5K race in Kittanning Borough in 2024. He is interested in having the race on Thanksgiving Day "Turkey Trot Race". All fundraising goes to the Divine Redeemer Catholic School. Alan was advised to prepare a report on road closures, routes etc. and present it to the Council at a later Council Meeting.

Debbie Johns on behalf of her father, Russell Johns, requested to purchase property owned by Kittanning Borough at 561 Johnson Ave. Per Council, the property must go out for bid.

- **A motion was made to authorize the Borough Secretary to advertise bidding for the property located at 561 Johnson Avenue.**

Motion: Ruffaner

Second: Brautigam

Opposed: none

John Antanitis spoke to express his interest in joining the Zoning Hearing Board.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

An executive session was held for personnel issues and collective bargaining.

Borough Council entered executive session at 7:00 p.m.

The public meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

No action was taken.

#### **MINUTES:**

- **A motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023, meeting minutes.**

Motion: Wilt

Second: Shuster

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

#### **SOLICITORS REPORT**

Jordan spoke regarding the letter sent to the mayor in regards to the compliance of the RTKL on the Borough website. The website has been updated and complies.

Jordan investigated Mr. Rigatti's sewer issues per Council and after conducting a title search, he concluded that this matter should be handled by the Kittanning Borough Municipal Authority.

- **Motion was made to adopt Resolution # 815.2-23 to accept the PA American Water bid for property located at 1600 Johnson Avenue. And to adopt Resolution # 815-23 to authorize Council President to enter the “Oil and Gas Lease Agreement” between Kittanning Borough and MDS Land Holdings, LLC.**

Motion: Brautigam

Second: Stitt

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

#### **ENGINEER’S REPORT:**

Sidewalk at the intersection of Woodward and Northern Ave, the owner of this location is replacing the sidewalk and curb due to poor condition of the existing. They were advised to install a PennDOT Type 1 curb/ramp and was provided with the sidewalk/curb standards for Kittanning Borough.

Holbein Inc. was awarded the 2023 Paving Project and is expected to begin construction on September 11, 2023.

Flood Mitigation Grant – Will be advertised this week for the flap gate repair at Arch Street and Vine Street locations.

#### **BOROUGH CONSULTANT REPORT:**

No report submitted.

#### **MAYOR’S REPORT:**

Submitted in writing.

#### **FIRE MARSHALL’S REPORT:**

Submitted in writing.

#### **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT:**

Submitted in writing.

#### **CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:**

Chief Bussard spoke regarding the street sweeping parking issue, he feels it creates hazard for emergency vehicles due to not moving cars promptly and parking on sides of streets that is not allowed. After a discussion with the Solicitor regarding the Borough Ordinance, Chief Bussard was asked to prepare a report to present to Council for the next Council meeting explaining what he feels will fix the issue.

Chief Bussard spoke about out of service equipment, some of his officers were inquiring about purchasing 12-year-old Glocks. Further discussions will be held at a later date.

#### **PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT:**

Mary Ann Valasek provided the Borough with an invoice for materials used to improve Riverfront Park. John expressed his concerns about the expenses the Kittanning Borough incurs with having extra Police Protection during the events, electricity expenses etc. and would like to see the Borough recoup those

funds, Mrs. Valasek will gladly return to a future Council meeting to answer any questions and concerns they may have and discuss future events for the Arts of the Allegheny.

- **A motion was made to pay the invoice for Riverpark improvements in the amount of \$1,154.86.**

Motion: Wilt

Second: Shuster

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Schiano recommended that the Council have Andrew Laddusaw record the Borough Council Meetings and post them on YouTube in real time. Brautigam expressed concern due to a bill rolling through the government currently, stating that if recorded it must be posted real time with captions which could be expensive. The bill has not yet been passed but Brautigam feels it is on the way. Further discussion to follow.
2. Schiano expressed concerns regarding Mackin Engineering and is attending the meetings. Schiano will reach out to Greg Jones for a written report explaining the grant.

- **A motion was made to authorize the Borough Secretary to work with the Solicitor to develop a new agenda format.**

Motion: Schiano

Second: Shuster

Opposed: none.

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve Chris Schiano to review and develop a new draft ordinance for dilapidated/abandoned homes.**

Motion: Shuster

Second: Brautigam

Opposed: none.

Motion carried.

- **Motion was made for Jordan Shuber to review the current ordinance on Abatement of Nuisance 481.18 regarding porch light complaints.**

Motion: Schiano

Second: Stitt

Opposed: 2

Motion carried.

- **Motion was made to adjourn the August 15, 2023, Council meeting.**

Motion: Brautigam

Second: Schiano

Opposed: none.

Motion carried.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.**

Betsy Hooks, Secretary/Treasurer