

KITANNING BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

December 2, 2024

Council Chambers

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Andy Peters, Chris Schiano, Amanda Slagle, Phil Brautigam, Bill Baum, Jordan Shuber, Les Ruffaner, and Wilbur Stitt.

ALSO PRESENT: Betsy Hooks, Borough Administrator, Chief Joe Riskosky, Leslie Rupert, Code Enforcement Officer, Earl Kline, Fire Marshall, Bill Braun, Engineer, and Public Works Director Jim Mechling.

Jim Waltenpool gave a brief presentation on the Park and Recreation Plan. He recommends that the Borough update the Park and Recreation Ordinance to include all parks, ensure ADA compliance in all parks and address invasive species and weeds in all parks. Jim has done a detailed inventory of all the Parks in Kittanning Borough. He is suggesting a master site plan for Community Park and that restroom access be increased at Riverfront Park. He also suggested that the tennis courts in Whelan Park be redesigned.

Bill Braun provided Council with an update on the demolition at 204 Market Street. He said another engineering firm, Gateway Engineering, also examined the site. They recommended using ties to connect the shared wall that is still standing from the Watterson-McConnell Building that is on the east side of the Klingensmith's Drug Store Building. Bill feels that is a temporary solution and not a permanent fix.

Jennifer Bellas, Consultant, updated Council on Mainstreet Matters Phase II, she also submitted 2 Local Share Grant applications, one for Community Park Road and the possible demolition on N. Grant Ave. Jennifer expressed that we need to apply for an extension to the DCNR Park and Recreation Plan, the Police Grant (PCCD), and the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (COVID funds).

- **A motion was made for Jennifer Bellas to submit a request for an extension for the DCNR Park and Recreation Plan.**
Motion: Jerry Shuster Second: Phil Brautigam Opposed: None

- **A motion was made for Jennifer Bellas to submit a request for an extension for the PCCD Grant (Police Grant).**
Motion: Jerry Shuster Second: Phil Brautigam Opposed: None

- **A motion was made for Jennifer Bellas to submit a request for an extension for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (COVID funds).**
Motion: Phil Brautigam Second: Amanda Slagle Opposed: None

Kendra with the Armstrong County Civil War Round Table requested permission to place a sign at the YMCA and Trail for more visibility for the historical area of Camp Orr. The Council requested a map and more communication from the group to better understand the project. They also let Kendra know that a sign is already placed at Montieth Street.

The Council entered an Executive Session at 6:48 p.m. and returned to the Regular Council Meeting at 7:17 p.m.

- **A motion was made to authorize Jim Mechling to put up protective barriers and signages required at 204 Market Street and in the alley of 204 Market Street to make the site safe to the public and to keep an eye out on the property at Arch Street.**
Motion: Chris Schiano Second: Jerry Shuster Opposed: None
- **A motion was made to accept Bill Braun’s final Engineering Report on 204 Market Street, The McConnell-Watterson Building Demolition.**
Motion: Chris Schiano Second: Phil Brautigam Opposed: None
- **A motion was made to approve the agenda for the December 2, 2024, Council Meeting.**
Motion: Chris Schiano Second: Phil Brautigam Opposed: None
- **A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting for November 12, 2024.**
Motion: Chris Schiano Second: Phil Brautigam Opposed: None
- **A motion was made to approve the proposed 2025 budget and to advertise for Public Review.**
Motion: Jerry Shuster Second: Amanda Slagle Opposed: None
- **A Motion was made to authorize Solicitor, Jordan Shuber, to make a request to Greg Jones to allow Damon Morda, Information Technology, to access all Borough emails from his personal email account.**
Motion: Jerry Shuster Second: Wilbur Stitt Opposed: None

Annual wage increases are tabled until January 6, 2025, Council Meeting.

- **A motion was made to start free parking on Market Street as of December 2, 2024.**
Motion: Amanda Slagle Second: Chris Schiano Opposed: None
- **A motion was made to nominate Chris Schiano to fill the vacancy on the Sewage Authority at the end of the 2024 term.**
Motion: Jerry Shuster Second: Amanda Opposed: Wilbur Stitt
- **A motion was made to send a formal thank you letter to Mike Swartz for his service to the community.**
Motion: Jerry Shuster Second: Phil Brautigam Opposed: None

- **A motion was made to restart the Task Force to address the dilapidated buildings in Kittanning Borough.**

Motion: Amanda Slagle

Second: Phil Brautigam

Opposed: None

A motion by Schiano and 2nd by Baum to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Betsy Hooks, Borough Administrator / Secretary and Treasurer