

KITANNING BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

December 4, 2023

Council Chambers

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

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Phil Brautigam, Betsy Wilt, Wilbur Stitt, Chris Schiano, Les Ruffaner, Gerald Shuster, Mayor Williams, and Solicitor Jordan Shuber.

ALSO PRESENT: Officer in Charge Joe Riskosky, Public Works Director Jim Mechling, Fire Marshall Earl Kline, and Rebecca Rupert Code Officer.

The Council Member entered Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and Negotiations, the regular meeting resumed at 6:15 p.m.

- **A motion was made to approve the December 4, 2023, meeting's agenda.**

Motion: Stitt

Second: Ruffaner

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Clair Osborne with Fort Armstrong Folk Festival spoke regarding the 2024 festival. She requested that the festival be held August 1, 2023, through August 4, 2023, at the Kittanning Riverfront Park with Friday being Bike Night, Saturday Jeep Fest, and Sunday the car show.

- **A motion was made to approve the dates for the Fort Armstong Folk Festival.**

Motion: Brautigam

Second: Stitt

Opposed: None

MINUTES:

- **A motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023, meeting minutes.**

Motion: Stitt

Second: Schiano

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to change the free parking to add an additional week, free parking will be December 11, 2023, through January 3, 2024.**

Motion: Schiano

Second: Wilt

Opposed: None

- **A motion was made to approve all reports submitted to Council.**

Motion: Schiano

Second: Ruffaner

Opposed: none.

ENGINEER – Bill Braun spoke about the Riverfront Stabilization Project, they are getting cost estimates for hard armor, riprap, and geo-cell to help with erosion. McCormick Taylor is working on a request for proposal for preliminary engineering and they are looking to have the design by December or January.

FIRE MARSHALL - Earl Kline wanted to wish everyone in the community Happy Holidays and reminded everyone to make sure if you have a real Christmas tree to keep it watered and to make sure that smoke detectors are working properly.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Budget discussion was held, and the budget copies are in the Kittanning Borough Office for public review. The next meeting for budget discussions will be held on December 18, 2023.

CHIEF OF POLICE – Chief Bussard submitted his letter of resignation as of January 3, 2024.

- **A motion was made to accept the resignation of Kenneth Bussard, Chief of Police.**

Motion: Stitt

Second: Schiano

Opposed: None

- **A motion was made to appoint, effective January 3, 2024, Joseph Riskosky, as the Chief of Police.**

Motion: Schiano

Second: Ruffaner

Opposed: None

A request for a handicap parking permit was tabled and it was requested by the Council that Officer Riskosky and Jim Mechling investigate the request for such needs. Further discussion will be held on January 8, 2024 Council Meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the Comprehensive Plan and requested that Mackin Engineering attend the January 8, 2024, Council Meeting. The council is requesting that Mackin Engineering provide information and visuals.

OLD BUSINESS

- **A motion was made to approve the LERTA application for Habitat for Humanity at 1165 Wilson Street.**

Motion: Brautigam

Second: Wilt

Opposed: none

NEW BUSINESS

Officer in Charge, Joe Riskosky made a recommendation to hire two candidates, Jason Huffhand and Brittany Gray, for full time Police Officers at the beginning of January 2024.

- **A motion was made to approve the hiring of the two candidates for full time Police Officers in January 2024.**

Motion: Stitt

Second: Schiano

Opposed: none

A motion was made by Schiano and seconded by Wilt to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Betsy Hooks, Secretary/Treasurer