

KITANNING BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

February 3, 2025

Council Chambers

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

ALSO PRESENT: Betsy Hooks, Borough Administrator, Chief Joe Riskosky, Earl Kline, Fire Marshall, and Public Works Director Jim Mechling.

ABSENT: Sewage Authority Representative

The Council entered an Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. and returned to the Regular Council Meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Tyler Woodside, President of the Armstrong County Historical Museum, let Council know that a meeting would be held on February 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at the Living Water Church. The meeting will be co-hosted by Downtown Kittanning Inc. to explore interest in establishing a historic district in Kittanning Borough. Tyler requested that Council Members please attend.

Mr. Kammerdiner spoke regarding handicap accessible sidewalks in the Borough, letting Council know that some need improved. Andy Peters let Mr. Kammerdiner know that they will be more diligent and check them out for improvements. Jennifer Bellas let Council know that handicap ramps are included in Phase 2 of the Streetscape Project.

Josh Callendar from LSSE updated Council on the current projects. The Riverfront Park Bank Stabilization Project is waiting on Federal Authorization from the Army Corps of Engineers and is expected to be received by the end of March 2025.

- **A motion was made to allow LSSE to put the Riverfront Park Bank Stabilization Project out for bid once all necessary approvals have been received.**

Motion: Jerry Shuster Second: Amanda Slagle Opposed: None
Motion carried

- **A motion was made to approve the agenda for the February 3, 2025, Council Meeting.**

Motion: Chris Schiano Second: Jerry Shuster Opposed: None
Motion carried

- **A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting for January 6, 2025, and January 21, 2025.**

Motion: Chris Schiano Second: Wilbur Stitt Opposed: None
Motion carried

- **A motion was made to hire Attorney Dennis Spyra to assist with the Diaz Bankruptcy at \$190.00 per hour.**
 Motion: Phil Brautigam Second: Jerry Shuster Opposed: None
 Motion carried
- **A motion was made to put out a request for proposals for auditor services and to specify in the request that there be experience with Municipal Government entities, the Borough Administrator is authorized to get 3 bids.**
 Motion: Chris Schiano Second: Amanda Slagle Opposed: None
 Motion carried
- **A motion was made to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for West Hill Elementary School.**
 Motion: Phil Brautigam Second: Jerry Shuster Opposed: None
 Motion carried
- **A motion was made to approve the Tax Rate Resolution as drafted.**
 Motion: Chris Schiano Second: Amanda Slagle Opposed: None
 Motion carried
- **A motion was made to authorize Solicitor Jordan Shuber to send a letter to the former grant writer.**
 Motion: Jerry Shuster Second: Chris Schiano Opposed: None
 Motion carried
- **A motion was made to approve the 2025 Amended Budget.**
 Motion: Amanda Second: Chris Schiano Opposed: None
 Motion carried
- **A motion was made to approve the Borough Administrator to attend the Municipal Accounting 101 Training online, February 12 - 13, 2025.**
 Motion: Amanda Slagle Second: Chris Schiano Opposed: None
 Motion carried
- **A motion was made to start interviewing for the part-time Code Enforcement Officer at \$18.00 per hour that could lead to a full-time position.**
 Motion: Chris Schiano Second: Phil Brautigam Opposed: None
 Motion carried
- **A motion was made to authorize Chief Riskosky to hire Sharon Rullo as the part-time Meter Maid.**
 Motion: Chris Schiano Second: Phil Brautigam Opposed: None
 Motion carried

- **A motion was made to authorize Chief Riskosky to order a 2024 Dodge Durango in the amount of \$57,018.94. Down payment not to exceed \$5,000.00.**

Motion: Phil Brautigam

Second: Amanda Slagle

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Earl "Buzz" Kline discussed the recent calls of children walking on the ice in the river and advised all adults to discuss the dangers with their children. The ice may look solid but with moving water underneath, it is not as thick as it appears. If someone happens to fall into the water, the current would be too strong for anyone to get back out, 9 chances out of 10 the situation would be unfavorable for that person or child. Earl explained that when a call comes in for this kind of situation, the fire company, ambulance, and police all arrive at the scene.

On a good note, per Kline, Hose Company #4 has a new firetruck being delivered the first week of March. They paid in full for the new truck with no cost to the Borough.

Amanda Slagle updated Council on the Park and Recreation Plan, they receive the review from the state and there are a few minor things that they are asking for. They would like clarification on the two public meetings that were held, they asked if we had a resource if we wanted to apply for a grant to help with consulting to help implement the plan. Lastly, they wanted to show within a 10-minute walk there is a park. The playground at the YMCA has no fencing and is open to the public, they would like to add it to the map to show that the Borough is fully covered within the plan.

Jerry Shuster spoke about staff members working at the Borough building after all other staff have left, he feels that for security reasons a panic button be put in the office to alert the police in case of an emergency. He also spoke regarding the lighting in the parking lot, it is very dark, and more lights need to be installed for the protection of the staff.

Jerry also mentioned the ice and snow on the sidewalks, it needs to be enforced that they be attended to. Some of the sidewalks are very icy and this is dangerous for those who walk through town. The police will monitor until a code enforcement officer is hired.

- **A motion was made to approve the TACT local match for 2025-2026.**

Motion: Wilbur Stitt

Second: Les Ruffaner

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Chris Schiano spoke regarding the Sewage Authority, he will be attending the next meeting on February 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. as a full-fledged member of the Municipal Authority.

- **A motion was made to approve the Sons of Veterans of the Civil War to use the John Murtha Amphitheater on May 26, 2025, with a parade on the same date.**

Motion: Jerry Shuster

Second: Bill Baum

Opposed: None

Motion carried

- **A motion was made for Jennifer Bellas to apply for an extension for the Façade Grant.**
Motion: Amanda Slagle Second: Phil Brautigam Opposed: None
Motion carried.

A motion by Chris Schiano and 2nd by Bill Baum to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Betsy Hooks, Borough Administrator / Secretary and Treasurer