

Kittanning Borough Council Meeting

July 10th, 2023

6:00PM

Meeting called to order at 6:00PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call: Members present, Betsy Wilt, Phil Brautigam, Chris Schiano, Les Ruffaner, Gerald Shuster, Michael Johns, Wilbur Stitt, Andy Peters, and Mayor Williams

Others present: Jim Mechling Public works director, Ken Bussard Chief of Police, Buzz Kline Fire Marshall, Rebecca Rupert Code Enforcement, Jordan Shuber Solicitor, Bill Braun Senate Engineering, and Greg Jones Consultant

AGENDA:

- Motion made to approve the July 10th, 2023, Borough Council Meeting Agenda.

Motion: Johns Second: Stitt Opposed: none

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Louis Rigatti of 416 Highland Ave brought his concerns over his sewage lines being connected to another house and the problems that have occurred over the years with sewage back up and odors.

Melissa Copenhaver of 430 Union Ave expressed concern over her denied LERTA application. She believes that the denial was incorrect due to the application process not being properly followed or explained to her.

Lisa Schrecengost of 1326 Johnson Ave expressed concerns over the neighbor's ever growing weed issue.

MINUTES:

- A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting for June 5, 2023.

Motion: Brautigam Second: Wilt Opposed: none

Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No bids received on the advertised lot owned by the Borough on Johnson Ave. He will reach out to the original group that had expressed an interest in purchasing the lot. There are two options if no accepted bids occur; 1. Re-advertise 2. Go to the other bidders.

ENGINEERS'S REPORT: (Submitted in writing)

118 Oak Ave has a right of way that is 30 ft off the Borough and 33 ft off the State. Clearfield Ave needs 40 ft of pipe, an easement for the pipe, should televise it.

Paving bids received and opened July 7th.

Low bid being Holbein at \$260.00 / ton. They will pave 1-15 alleys.

Other bidders were Shields and Done Right.

The Borough can change the order or rebid. Borough has \$243,800.00. The Borough must move on the paving this year. We are short \$20,000.00.

- Motion made to accept the bid from Holbein with the Borough making up the \$20,000.00 shortfall.

Motion: Johns Second: Shuster Opposed: None

Motion carried.

The Streetscape project will be one block on Jefferson Street off Market Street, both directions. Budget at \$1.7 Million. This to include new sidewalks, light poles, flower boxes and electrical connections. The timeline for this project would be mid-summer best case scenario.

Flood grant would cover three culverts flap gates. We need five done adding Vine and Arch Streets. The grant is \$47,000.00 and the Borough contributes \$7,500.00 totaling \$57,000.00.

The five culverts cost \$68,000.00.

- Motion was made to put out bid to add the Arch Street and Vine Street flap gates for repairs.

Motion: Brautigam Second: Shuster Opposed: None

Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:40 PM:

For real estate matters. No official action taken.

Out of session at 6:50 PM.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Requested regional training for Officers and suggested a retention period for Officer's trained by the Borough.

He is donating his yearly salary from the Borough back to the Borough for the Police Department.

He thanked this Council for addressing the Police Department's needs.

He wants to be proactive in the search for the next police chief of Kittanning Borough. There are several officers and candidates that have expressed an interest in the position. The current Chief would be available to assist the new Chief to create a smooth transition period.

The Council thanked the Mayor, the Police Chief, and all the Officers for the services they provided to the citizens of the Borough.

He received a letter from the State RTK commission (504B letter) stating that the Borough is not in compliance with the RTK information on the website. Consultant Jones will add the proper information and contacts to the website to bring it up to compliance.

FIRE MARSHALL'S REPORT: (Submitted in writing)

Suggested a training matrix like they have for fire departments that may work for the Police department in the search for continuing training opportunities.

There is an ongoing issue in the Borough with burn barrels and the burning of household trash. He wants it noted that you are not permitted to cook over a burn barrel. He wishes to create a door hanger notice for all residents in the Borough that will include information on the burning ordinances, garbage collection, various common code violations, street sweeping, and such. Kittanning has a population that is a large percental of rentals. They come and go and may not be aware of regulations.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT (Submitted in writing):

Officer Corson to attend EVOC training on pursuit policy.

The department needs taser cartridges.

- Motion made to purchase taser cartridges.

Motion: Shuster Second: Brautigam Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Kittanning is in for a very busy weekend with multiple events scheduled.

Questions were asked about outside alcohol sales, the establishment must provide a rider from the insurance company to the Borough.

Lots of concerns about electric bicycles running stop signs. They can be cited.

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT (Submitted in writing):

Demolition of 150-156 N McKean Street is slated to begin near the end of July 2023. Permit has been approved.

BOROUGH CONSULTANT REPORT:

Streetscape update given, was touched upon by Engineer. Working with various sources within Government and the Community.

Riverfront Update, information provided by the Engineer. Meetings to be held in the future.

It was asked if the Borough has a parking authority. The Borough currently does not have a parking authority. Information will be forwarded to the State that it was dissolved.

The Armstrong County Borough's Association is reforming.

- Motion made for Kittanning Borough to join the Armstrong County Borough's Association.

Motion: Wilt Second: Brautigam Opposed: None

Motion carried.

This membership could create circuit rider programs for Parks and Rec, Code Enforcement issues, planning.

The cost would be split among the member Boroughs for summer help at 20-40 hrs. per week doing grass cutting or small maintenance jobs to help combat blight.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- BETSY WILT, CHAIRPERSON:

Suggested that the Borough advertise for temporary street department workers.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT- CHRIS SCHIANO, CHAIRPERSON:

Need an MOU to allow persons to cut grass and use non-powered equipment as to not violate an contracts.

SEWAGE COMMITTEE REPORT – LES RUFFFANER, CHAIRPERSON:

Nothing new to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- PHIL BRAUTIGAM, CHAIRPERSON:

Nothing new to report.

PARKS, RECREATION- Revitalization -LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT- WILBUR STITT, CHAIRPERSON:

- Motion made to explore options for clearing the riverbank.

Motion: Wilt

Second: Stitt

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Reallocate \$5,000 to \$10,000 to forestry services for the Borough.

STREETS-BUILDING-MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT- MIKE JOHNS, CHAIRPERSON:

Nothing new to report.

CODES COMMITTEE REPORT- WILBUR STITT, CHAIRPERSON:

Nothing new to report.

TOWN AND COUNTRY TRANSIT REPORT- ANDY PETERS, CHARIPERSON:

Nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion on Resolution #515-23 Snyder Gas Lease.

Sale of Borough Property advertisement- Resolution #516-23.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion for Handicap parking spaces to be added at 141 Oak, 901 Wilson, and 1421 Johnson Ave.

Motion: Johns

Second: Ruffaner

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

The Downtown Kittanning Revitalization Committee requested a donation from the Borough. It was discussed to create a budget item for this request.

- Motion to donate \$1000.00 to the Downtown Kittanning Revitalization Committee.

Motion: Wilt

Second: Schiano

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

The gazebo tree was hit by lightning and the tree is to be removed and replaced. The Borough has a bid for the removal. Several other damaged trees need to be checked out for possible removal/replacement.

- Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Ruffaner

Second: Johns

Opposed: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM

Betsy Hooks, Secretary Kittanning Borough.