

KITANNING BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

July 7, 2025

Council Chambers

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

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Chris Schiano, Phil Brautigam, Gerald Shuster, Amanda Slagle, Les Ruffaner, Bill Baum, and Jordan Shuber

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Joe Riskosky, Administrator Betsy Hooks, Scott Kirkwood, Code Enforcement Officer, Earl Kline, Fire Marshall, and Public Works Director Jim Mechling.

Jon Yackmack, Peoples Gas, and Dan Reilly, PA American Water discussed road restoration from Rayburn Street to Lemon Way and Monteith and Victory Streets. They requested that Council approve a Co-opt restoration allowing Peoples to start late December 2025 and PA American Water to finish the restoration in the Spring of 2026. They said that they do not want to pave them twice in a 6 month time frame, they would like to pave curb to curb at one time with each sharing the cost of restoration.

- **A motion was made to approve the request of People's Gas and PA American Water to pave the said streets in the Spring of 2026.**

Motion: Jerry Shuster

Second: Les Ruffaner

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Jean Small expressed concerns regarding the overgrowth on the Riverfront Park banks, she feels that it should be on the Councils agenda to trim the hillside annually. Jerry Shuster agreed and added that it is very dangerous and that they will look into a grant to cover the cost of the trimming. They are hoping to have the hillside cut back prior to the start of the 2025 Fort Armstrong Folk Festival. Jane added that the park will look much better when the river can be seen.

Jeff Howard of CW Howard Insurance Agency spoke regarding allowing him to get an insurance quote from Selective Insurance for the Borough, a lot of information is needed to get the quote, and the Borough would need to provide that to him. Council Members discussed how John Graff assisted the Borough in many ways throughout the past years. John Graff was in attendance at the meeting and let the Council know that he has submitted applications for quotes to EMC Insurance, the current provider for Kittanning Borough, Duncan Insurance for Selective, and others. After much discussion, the Council voted to appoint John Graff Agency to serve as the broker of record through Duncan Financial Group for Selective Insurance.

- **A motion was made to appoint John Graff to serve as the broker of record for Kittanning Borough through Duncan Financial Group to receive a quote from Selective Insurance for the 2025-2026 year.**

Motion: Jerry Shuster

Second: Les Ruffaner

Opposed: Amanda Slagle

Motion carried.

Solicitor, Jordan Shuber, noted that EMC Insurance provides the best quotes to Borough's. They offer great rebates and you will get the most competitive price and that is why John Graff has provided that to the Borough for years. Jordan also noted that C.W. Howard does not write EMC Insurance.

- **A motion was made to approve the Administrator to transfer \$25,305.40 from the liquid fuel account to the general fund for the payment of the Water Way Alley Project.**

Motion: Jerry Shuster

Second: Bill Baum

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made for the Borough Administrator to pay Holbein Inc. for the Water Way Alley Strom Drain.**

Motion: Amanda Slagle

Second: Phil Brautigam

Opposed: None

Motion carried

- **A motion was made to approve Damon Morda to purchase 3 new computers for the Borough office in the amount of \$4,161.96**

Motion: Phil Brautigam

Second: Jerry Shuster

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the closing of N. Water Street near the Allegheny Mariner on July 26, 2025, for an outdoor parking lot, fostering a music concert from 5:00 p.m. to 11 p.m.**

Motion: Amanda Slagle

Second: Les Ruffaner

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding tree branches hanging down, whether it is the property owners responsibility to trim the branches or the Boroughs, Jim Meching will take care of the trees on the trail and will look into the ordinance.

Phil Brautigam discussed an interest in offering a possible tax discount to first responders that reside in the Borough. He said they do great work for the community, and it in turn would be better for us.

A motion by Les Ruffaner and 2nd by Phil Brautigam to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Betsy Hooks, Borough Administrator / Secretary and Treasurer