

KITTANNING BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

March 2, 2026

Council Chambers

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

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Chris Schiano, Thomas May, Bill Baum, Les Ruffaner, Wilbur Stitt, Jeffery Bowser, Kraig Walker, and Eric Hoffman.

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

Council entered into an executive session at 6:08 p.m. and returned to the Regular Council Meeting at 7:06 p.m.

- **A motion was made to give the following rate increases for 2026 effective January 1, 2026.**

Betsy Hooks **\$2.00 increase per hour**

James Mechling **\$2.00 increase per hour**

Scott Kirkwood **\$1.00 increase per hour**

Jeanne DeMore **\$1.00 increase per hour**

Motion: Eric Hoffman Second: Les Ruffaner Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to allow Betsy Hooks, Borough Administrator, to accept sewage and garbage bill payments at the Kittanning Borough Building effective March 9, 2026.**

Motion: Eric Hoffman Second: Jeff Bowser Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the March 2, 2026, meeting's agenda.**

Motion: Eric Hoffman Second: Bill Baum Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the February 2, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes.**

Motion: Les Ruffaner Second: Eric Hoffman Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve reports as submitted.**

Motion: Bill Baum Second: Wilbur Stitt Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the TAN loan for submission to the DCDE**
Motion: Wilbur Stitt Second: Bill Baum Opposed: None
Motion carried.
- **A motion was made to approve the FNB Equipment Finance application for the purchase of a new garbage truck pending the Solicitors' review.**
Motion: Eric Hoffman Second: Bill Baum Opposed: None
Motion carried.
- **A motion was made to approve the Resolution for the 2026 Emergency Mitigation Plan.**
Motion: Wilbur Stitt Second: Fred Laird Opposed: None
Motion carried.

Mayor Essenwein gave an update on the property located at Arch St. and N. Grant Avenue, they are currently putting a new roof on and securing the building for the safety of the residents. The owners discussed that they will be using the community resources for labor. They are going to call Lenape Vo tech to see if there is any interest in giving the students hand on experience.

A motion was made by Eric Hoffman and seconded by Wilbur Stitt to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Betsy Hooks – Kittanning Borough Administrator, Secretary, and Treasurer