

KITTANNING BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

May 4, 2026

Council Chambers

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

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Chris Schiano, Jordan Shuber, Bill Baum, Les Ruffaner, Wilbur Stitt, Jeffery Bowser, 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 5:08 p.m. and returned to the Regular Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Essenwein asked Council and all in attendance for a moment of silence in observance of Nation Fallen Firefighters Day which fell on May 3, 2026.

- A motion was made for Jordan Shuber to notify the Police Bargaining Unit to begin formal negotiations.

Motion: Eric Hoffman

Second: Bill Baum

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- A motion was made to hire Greg Conaway to the full time street worker position pending pre-employment testing.

Motion: Les Ruffaner

Second: Eric Hoffman

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- A motion was made for Jordan Shuber to proceed with the litigation process from fraudulent losses against the Borough in regard to the accounting/payroll firm and insurance companies that have denied the claim.

Motion: Wilbur Stitt

Second: Eric Hoffman

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- A motion was made to approve the distribution rate of 4.79 for gas and 0.0912 for electric offered to the Borough and Fire Companies for 3 years pending the Solicitor's review of the contact with IGS Energy.

Motion: Eric Hoffman

Second: Bill Baum

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the request of Anthony Shea to hold a Flag Day Ceremony on June 13, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Motion: Eric Hoffman Second: Wilbur Stitt Opposed: None
Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the May 4, 2026, meeting's agenda.**

Motion: Bill Baum Second: Wilbur Stitt Opposed: None
Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the April 6, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes.**

Motion: Eric Hoffman Second: Wilbur Stitt Opposed: None
Motion carried.

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

Motion: Wilbur Stitt Second: Bill Baum Opposed: None
Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the request from Claire Osborne to hold the Jeep fest in the Northern and Southern areas of the park on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**

Motion: Les Ruffaner Second: Eric Hoffman Opposed: None
Motion carried.

Robert Dunmire asked the Council if they could utilize the Southern end of the park for the Fall Festival, he requested South Water Street to be closed during the event from the bridge to Sheetz or Duncan Donuts on October 9th – 11th – Tabled until next meeting.

The food truck ordinance, street closure ordinance, blighted vacant structure ordinance, tax incentive ordinance and the street sweeping all have been tabled until next meeting.

- **A motion was made to sponsor one candidate to attend the IUP Police Academy for \$7,500.00, with a 3 year employment contract with the Borough.**

Motion: Eric Hoffman Second: Wilbur Stitt Opposed: None
Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the additional paperwork needed to proceed with the purchase of the new garbage truck.**

Motion: Eric Hoffman Second: Bill Baum Opposed: None
Motion carried.

Mayor Essenwein spoke regarding the YMCA playground and the need for the installation of camera to alert the police department of unauthorized activity. He said the YMCA is discussing installing cameras, providing Wifi, and tying in with the police monitors. Council tabled the discussion until next meeting.

- **A motion was made to temporarily suspend pursuing the Streetscape Project pending clarification on all costs, reimbursement timing for the Borough, and details of the project so that the Council can scale the project back if deemed necessary and all grant details.**

Motion: Eric Hoffman

Secon: Wilbur Stitt

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made for the Solicitor to move forward and advertise the Old Tire/Rubbish Ordinance.**

Motion: Wilbur Stitt

Second: Eric Hoffman

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made for the Borough Administrator to transfer \$100K from the General Account to PLGIT to gain better interest rates.**

Motion: Les Ruffaner

Second: Eric Hoffman

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to pay the new Police Secretary once hired at the rate of \$19.00 per hour.**

Motion: Eric Hoffman

Second: Jeff Bowser

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made for the Borough Administrator to re-advertise the Meter Maid Position.**

Motion: Bill Baum

Second: Eric Hoffman

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the request from the Kittanning Elks to hold their Annual Flag Day Ceremony on Monday, June 16, 2026, on Water Street as done in past years.**

Motion: Eric Hoffman

Second: Bill Baum

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the quote from Youngblood Paving to pave N. Grant Street Extension (option 1) 1.5" mill and overlay in the amount of \$5,895.00.**

Motion: Wilbur Stitt

Second: Eric Hoffman

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to accept the proposal for the grant writing position from LSSE and award them as Kittanning Borough's Grant Consultant.**

Motion: Eric Hoffman

Second: Jeff Bowser

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve Scott Stiller to hold his annual Motorcross Event in Community Park the weekend of Memorial Day.**

Motion: Les Ruffaner

Second: Eric Hoffman

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the Mayor's Proclamation naming May to be Military Appreciation Month.**

Motion: Eric Hoffman

Second: Wilbur Stitt

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bill Baum and seconded by Les Ruffaner to adjourn the meeting at 8:10p.m.

Betsy Hooks – Kittanning Borough Administrator, Secretary, and Treasurer