

KITANNING BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

May 5, 2025

Council Chambers

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Claire Osborne spoke about the Fort Armstrong Folk Festival, she let the Council know that there will be no trucks in the park. She welcomed anyone that would like to speak at the Opening Ceremony. The dates of the festival are July 31, 2025, through August 3, 2025.

Sally Simpson requested a permit to hold "A Day of Action for Single Payer Healthcare" in the Riverfront Park on May 31, 2025. She noted that there will be informational speakers on single parents paying for health coverage.

Brad Yount spoke regarding a fundraiser that he is having in the Community Park, Royal Family Kids Camp on June 19, 2025. He asked about the pads for the disc golf and the dugout roof needs repaired. Jim Mechling will look into this for him. They also need signs for the pars, Amanda Slagle let the Council know that Andy Laddaslaw will cover the cost of the signage for the Borough.

- **A motion was made to accept the bid from Sure Shot Excavation for the Riverfront Park Bank Stabilization in the amount of \$252,995.00.**

Motion: Phil Brautigam Second: Jerry Shuster Opposed: None
Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to allow DKI as the review committee for the Façade applications then forwarding all applications for the Council's review and approval.**

Motion: Phil Brautigam Second: Amanda Slagle Opposed: None
Motion carried.

The Council entered an Executive Session at 6:11 p.m. and returned to the Regular Council Meeting at 6:47 p.m.

- **A motion was made to approve the May 5, 2025, Meeting Agenda.**

Motion: Phil Brautigam Second: Wilbur Stitt Opposed: None
Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the April 7, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes.**
 Motion: Jerry Shuster Second: William Baum Opposed: None
 Motion carried
- **A motion was made to approve the Resolution for the Job description of the Codes Enforcement Officer.**
 Motion: Amanda Slagle Second: Wilbur Stitt Opposed: None
 Motion carried.
- **A motion was made to change the Code Enforcement Officer’s position from part to full time with benefits dating back to May 1, 2025.**
 Motion: Jerry Shuster Second: Amanda Slagle Opposed: None
 Motion carried.
- **A motion was made to dissolve the Kittanning Borough Parking Authority.**
 Motion: Les Ruffaner Second: William Baum Opposed: None
 Motion carried.
- **A motion was made to hire Howard Camp and Ryan Jones to the Kittanning Police upon completion of all testing requirements.**
 Motion: Phil Brautigam Second: Amanda Slagle Opposed: None
 Motion carried.

Per Chief Riskosky, Jason Hufhand resigned from the full-time Police Officer position, he offered to work part-time as needed if approved by Council. Phil Barutigam thanked Jason Hufhand for his services and wished him the best in his new position.

- **A motion was made to allow Jason Hufhand to work part-time for the Police as needed.**
 Motion: Phil Brautigam Second: Jerry Shuster Opposed: None
 Motion carried.
- **A motion was made to discontinue the use of weed killer on the trail and park banks.**
 Motion: Les Ruffaner Second: Phil Brautigam Opposed: None
 Motion carried.
- **A motion was made to put out a request for a proposal for a new garbage truck:**
 Motion: Phil Brautigam Second: Jerry Shuster Opposed: None

- **A motion was made to approve the Resolution for Ameriprise to acknowledge Betsy Hooks, Administrator, as a Kittanning Borough Contact.**

Motion: Amanda

Second: Phil Brautigam

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Phil Brautigam gave recognition to Todd Stitt and Ricky Mechling for their years of service at Kittanning Borough and wished them the best for their retirement. Phil requested that the Borough Administrator please send a letter thanking both.

Solicitor, Jordan Shuber, discussed the bankruptcy case against Diaz and Stolitza, he explained that the borough will no funds from the bankruptcy. They owe the Federal Government a lot of money and they are first in line. The only solution is to get a quick claim deed signed over for the property and sell to a new owner.

- **A motion was made to approve Attorney Spyra to proceed with a quick claim deed for the property at 204 Market Street.**

Motion: Jerry Shuster

Second: Amanda Slagle

Opposed: Les Ruffaner

Motion carried.

The Kittanning Elks requested to have the Annual Flag Day Ceremony on Water Street on June 13, 2025, as they have for many years per Phil Brautigam. The Council discussed parking issues with the Ceremony going on and the Meredith Inn customers. Jerry Shuster recommended that the two parties communicate with each other regarding parking to eliminate any issues for this year. Amanda Slagle asked if the agenda item should be tabled, Phil let Amanda know that no action needed to be taken, Jordan Shuber agreed with Phil.

A motion by Les Ruffaner and 2nd by Jerry Shuster to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Betsy Hooks, Borough Administrator / Secretary and Treasurer