

KITANNING BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

October 7, 2024

Council Chambers

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

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Mayor Robert Williams, Andy Peters, Chris Schiano, Gerald Shuster, Amanda Slagle, Phil Brautigam, Bill Baum, Thomas May, Les Ruffaner, and Wilbur Stitt.

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

Cherly McGabe with Comcast spoke regarding the Comcast Franchise Agreement with Kittanning Borough. Cherly let the Council know that she would send a revised agreement with changes discussed at the meeting, the gross revenues will remain the same, it was determined that leased access and late fees will not generate a significant amount of franchise fees, she added services to community facilities which will ensure that the entities will keep the courtesy video services they are currently receiving.

Clair Osborne with the Fort Armstrong Folk Festival asked to be notified of any construction in the park so that they are prepared for the 2025 Folk Festival. The dates for the Fort Armstrong Folk Festival are July 31, 2025, to August 3, 2025. There was a discussion regarding parking and better communication needed, Claire will be at a Council Meeting before June.

- **A motion was made to accept the dates for the Fort Armstrong Folk Festival to be held from July 31, 2025, to August 3, 2025.**

Motion: Brautigam

Second: Slagle

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Stormie George raised concerns regarding the property at 717 Woodward Avenue, claiming that the resident did not get the variance for the fence. Per Thomas May, this is a legal matter, and she will need to contact an attorney and suggest she get the property surveyed.

The Council entered an Executive Session at 6:43 p.m. and returned to the Regular Council Meeting at 7:25 p.m.

- **A motion was made to appoint an Interim Assistant Grant Writer and that will be a stop get measure until we find out what our current Grant Writer can do, what his other commitments are and can he perform the full scope of the job.**

Motion: Shuster

Second: Wilbur

Opposed: None

Motion carried

- **A motion was made to appoint an Interim Codes Enforcement Officer, salary position with no benefits at this time, to assume the duties as soon as possible. The same salary as the previous Codes Officer. The Interim Codes Enforcement Officer will be Leslie Rupert with no guarantees of the position.**

Motion: Shuster Second: Baum Opposed: None
Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Police Chief Joe Riskosky.**

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

- **A motion was made to hire Dale McGlaughlin as a Full Time Police Officer at the Floater Position.**

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

- **A motion was made to approve October 7, 2024, Borough Council Agenda.**

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

- **A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting for September 9, 2024.**

Motion: Shuster Second: Stitt Opposed: None
Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve 2 handicap applications, Celest Shankle and Josh Walker, the third was put on hold for David Wilder.**

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

Buzz Kline spoke regarding Armstrong County Public Safety Code Red, letting everyone know that you can sign up on the website to receive general information and emergency notifications. It sends critical communications from evacuation to missing child alerts.

Bill Braun spoke regarding the Riverfront Park Bank Stabilization Project; A letter will be coming regarding the list of native plants species appropriate for revegetating the steep upper bank above the sidewalk. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed that mussels are present in the proposed work area and are proposing a reduction of R-5 riprap along the wetted perimeter.

Bill also discussed the Alley Storm Drain Project. They received three quotes to eliminate some deep puddles in an along the edge of the alley. To do the project this year they recommend awarding it to Holbein Inc. for \$18,475 (no asphalt or concrete patches, excavation filled with 2A limestone).

- **A motion was made to award the project to Holbein Inc. in the amount of \$18,475 pending receipt of funds.**

Motion: Shuster

Second: Brautigam

Opposed: None

On the Klingensmith's building, Bill Braun, informed the Council that they are moving out of the building, they are getting a second engineer to report on the building, and he suggested that the sidewalk be barricaded permanently.

Lastly, Bill Braun announced that he will be retiring at the end of the year.

- **A motion was made to approve the pension audit.**

Motion: Slagle

Second: Shuster

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Thomas May let the Council know that Solicitor, Jordan Shuber, will be filing a motion to dismiss for the Portia Diaz Bankruptcy Proceeding due to improper filing of the paperwork. Tom May said that a letter was sent to the gentleman requesting the menagerie permit letting him know that he will need to apply with the Game Commission for the permit. Tom let the Council know that the loan for the Borough has been advertised. Regarding the Floyd litigation, the incident happened outside the Borough, Jordan Shuber sent the attorneys a letter stating that. Lastly the Otell litigation is currently in the Discovery Phase.

- **A motion was made to approve authorization of the loan in the amount of six hundred thousand dollars.**

Motion: Shuster

Second: Stitt

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Amanda Slagle requested a meeting to be scheduled for the beginning of November to discuss the 2025 budget. She also suggested reaching out with Senator Pittman's office to get assistance to find more funding for the demolition.

- **A motion was made for Amanda Slagle and Gerald Shuster to work on a formal letter for additional funding for the demolition of the McConnell-Watterson Building.**

Motion: Slagle

Second: Brautigam

Opposed: None

Motion carried

- **A motion was made to accept the resignation of Joseph Crissman as Code Enforcement Officer.**

Motion: Brautigam

Second: Slagle

Opposed: None

Motion carried

The Council discussed the Park Comprehensive Plan Draft approval, Brandi Rosselli is scheduled to attend the November 12, 2024, Council meeting to go over the plan with the Council.

Gerald Shuster recommended that the application for the rental of the parks be reevaluated, the recent activity resulted in broken water lines due to parking in the park. It needs to be enforced that there is no parking or driving in the parks.

- **A motion was made for Council to review the procedure for renting the parks for all purposes.**

Motion: Shuster

Second: Stitt

Opposed: None

Motion carried

- **A motion was made to approve the Resolution to Continue the public transportation.**

Motion: Brautigam

Second: Schiano

Opposed: None

Motion carried

A motion by Schiano and 2nd by Ruffaner to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Betsy Hooks, Borough Administrator / Secretary and Treasurer