

KITANNING BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

September 11, 2023

Council Chambers

Meeting called to order at 6:00PM

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Phil Brautigam, Betsy Wilt, Wilbur Stitt, Chris Schiano, Les Ruffaner, Michael Johns, Gerald Shuster, Mayor Williams and Solicitor Jordan Shuber.

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Ken Buzzard, Public Works Director Jim Mechling, Fire Marshall Earl Kline, Rebecca Rupert Code Officer, and Betsy Hooks Borough Secretary/Treasurer.

- **A motion was made to approve the September 11, 2023, meeting's agenda.**

Motion: Brautigam

Second: Stitt

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brian Armitage discussed road closures due to paving, gas companies and water companies repairing at the same time. He is concerned with the quality of workers that are employed as well as the danger it may cause due to an emergency. He feels that there is a better way to repairs the roads, Mayor Williams feels that better communication with the Borough may improve this issue.

Melissa Vanderhagen spoke regarding her sidewalk needing repairs. She was notified of it being her responsibility as the homeowner and it was suggested by Solicitor Shuber to contact the Borough Engineer for suggestions for the repair/replacement of the sidewalk.

Melissa Shaffer, Liz White and Ronald Olsen also spoke at the meeting regarding the Orphans of the Storm. They provide many services that help Kittanning Borough with taking in dogs and cats, assisting the Police Department with after hour calls regarding strays. They also provide spade and neutering as well as medical care. They are asking Kittanning Borough to add a line item in the budget annually to donate to the OOTS. It was requested that they get an average cost for assisting Kittanning Borough and it will be further discussed.

- **A motion was made to enter into Executive Session**

Motion: Schiano

Second: Stitt

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 6:45 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 7:40 p.m.

- **A motion was made to explore the appointment of an Assistant Police Chief from internal candidates.**

Motion: Brautigam

Second: Stitt

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made per the request of the Code Enforcement Officer that her status change from a full-time position to part-time position with the following working hours - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The salary will remain the same, no benefits included.**

Motion: Schiano

Second: Brautigam

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

MINUTES:

- **A motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2023, meeting minutes.**

Motion: Brautigam

Second: Stitt

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

All reports submitted were approved by Council.

Earl Kline, Fire Marshall spoke regarding the smoke detector ordinance for the Borough and asked that it be reinstated. The council approved the Fire Marshall to work with Solicitor Shuber to investigate this matter.

Rebecca Rupert asked about getting the fines for ordinance violations raised to the statutory limit, the current max out is \$600.00 and would like them to be raised to \$1000.00.

- **A motion was made to increase the fines to the statutory limit for ordinance violations.**

Motion: Schiano

Second: Wilt

Opposed: none

Finance Committee Report – Betsy Wilt Chairperson

A motion was made to award the low bidder, Sure Shot Excavating, LLC. the Storm Water Backflow Preventers Project in the amount of \$20,465.00 for the installation of two backflow devices on Arch and Vine Streets.

Motion: Wilt

Second: Brautigam

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **A motion was made to appoint Jordan P. Shuber, Esquire, of Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter & Graham, LLC. as the Borough's permanent Solicitor.**

Motion: Schiano

Second: Brautigam

Opposed: none

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Schiano announced that there is no opening on the Zoning Board Committee and that all letters of interest will be placed on file in the Borough building for future reference.
 2. Mackin Project – The Council requested that Mackin Engineers attend the next Council meeting on October 2, 2023, to explain what projects they are working on and the progress/status of such.
 3. Johns expressed a concern with an exposed drain on Johnson Ave. stating it is needed to be repaired prior to paving, the repairs were approved.
 4. Brautigam expressed concern with abnormal water flooding at the intersection of Water and Arch Streets, Jim Mechling will investigate this matter.
 5. Ruffaner discussed placing a mirror at the intersection of Woodward and North Ave. It was recommended that Jim Mechling take pictures for the Council to allow them to make recommendations.
 6. Mayor Williams made a request to postpone street sweeping for two weeks due to the street maintenance projects in the Borough, the council unanimously voted to approve the postponement.
 7. Chief Bussard notified the Council that Police Officer Kyle Lewis requested to come back and work part-time to help the department.
- **A motion was made to bring back Officer Lewis as a part-time employee.**

Motion: Schiano

Second: Ruffaner

Opposed: none

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Betsy Hooks, Secretary/Treasurer