

KITANNING BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

September 9, 2024

Council Chambers

Meeting called to order at 6:05 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Bill Braun updated the Council on the status of the Kittanning Riverfront Park Bank Stabilization Project, he said that they are working with DCNR regarding mussels, they found a way to avoid them by still placing rip rap in. The DCNR is going to give a us list of what can be planted between the sidewalk and the river. Bill let the Council know that it is too late in the year to start the project and planned it for next spring.

Bill also spoke about the Water Way storm drain project; he told Council that the price to complete the project ranged from \$35,000 to \$40,000. Amanda Slagle and Gerald Shuster expressed concern regarding the need to complete this project by the end of the year. Jim Mechling said that a local company would perform all related machine work for no cost to the borough if the borough provided the material.

- **A motion was made to complete the project without paving if the funds are not available, if the funds are available, they will have the alley paved in the spring.**

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

- **A motion was made to repair the Rayburn Street flooding issue not to exceed \$5,000, minus the paving.**

Motion: Brautigam Second: Shuster Opposed: None

Lastly, Bill spoke regarding the Market Street Demolition, they are going through the review process, the two top floors of the Klingensmith Drug Store building are unstable. He will provide the Council with his report on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week. He stated that it is not in immediate danger but should be addressed very soon. Gerald Shuster asked about the possibility of losing another building, Bill said it is possible.

Ms. Wills, on behalf of Fall for Animals, requested the sale of wine at the event stating that she would have all permits to do so, she also asked the Council if the event could be moved due to

the closing of streets from Penn Dot. She requested that the event be held on September 28 and 29, 2024, be moved to the Northern portion of Riverfront Park.

- **A motion was made to approve the relocation of the Fall for Animals Event.**

Motion: Brautigam Second: Slagle Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Paul Hale spoke to Council regarding obtaining a menagerie permit, he contacted the Pennsylvania Game Commission and was directed to meet with the Council to obtain a permit, the animals that are required to have a permit are Sugar Gliders, a flying squirrel, that will be always kept in cages. Solicitor Shuber let Paul know that he will research the menagerie permit and guide Council.

Cindy Thomas expressed concerns with the barriers at the Riverfront Park at Market Street and South Water Street, the barriers were covering the crosswalk button for pedestrians to cross. The barriers were still there one week after the concert that took place. She claimed that her wheelchair got stuck on the barriers and she called the non-emergency line to request an officer to have them removed. Cindy was upset about how the situation was handled. Phil Brautigam said that the Council was very sorry this had happened, and, in the future, it will be handled differently.

The Council entered an Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. and returned to the Regular Council Meeting at 7:16 p.m. having made no decisions.

- **A motion was made to approve the September 9, 2024, Borough Council Agenda.**

Motion: Shuster Second: Schiano Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting for August 5, 2024.**

Motion: Slagle Second: Stitt Opposed: None

Motion carried.

- **A motion was made to approve the Municipal Minimum Obligation for the Police and the Union Pensions.**

Motion: Brautigam Second: Slagle Opposed: None

- **A motion was made to authorize Solicitor Jordan Shuber to negotiate a new contract with Comcast for the Borough.**

Motion: Slagle Second: Brautigam Opposed: None

Motion carried.

