

MUNICIPALITY OF KINGSTON TOWN COUNCIL

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 1, 2019

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Town Council of the Municipality of Kingston was held in Council Chambers, 500 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston, Pennsylvania, on Monday, July 1, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Council were present.

Mr. Robert Thompson, Jr. – President

Mr. Rob Jacobs, Vice President-excused

Mr. Jack Schumacher

Mrs. Roberta Rowlands Mr. Anthony Dicton

Mrs. Nancy Cooper

Mrs. Margaret Neville

Others present: Paul J. Roberts, Jr., Mayor; Paul Keating, Administrator; Harry Mattern, Esq., Solicitor - excused; Julie Norton, Secretary

**CITIZENS REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:**

**Melvin Morris, a representative of WVSA** council regarding a land development plan for property at 179 Wyoming Avenue. There are two parcels and they are “L” shaped. WVSA is expanding their business and parking. Stormwater has been reduced as the stormwater runs away from Carle Street, is captured and infiltrated. They will do stormwater landscaping and ADA accessible sidewalks and curb ramps. Forty parking spots will be added and will use the drive-up for payments. Mr. Morris asked council if there were any questions. Mr. Keating said that this is straight forward and urges council pass Resolution 2019-18. Council had no questions.

**Mike Blessing, 632 Tioga Avenue** spoke to council regarding rental inspections. Mr. Blessing feels that an Ordinance should be adopted for this because properties are changing hands and landlords need to be accountable for their property. Mr. Keating responded saying there are approximately 8,000 rental units in Kingston and, although I am not an attorney, he feels that there would be a liability. We are not capable with our manpower. At this point, Kingston has

received \$67,350.00 in landlord rental fees. Mr. Blessing said that several properties are deteriorating. Mr. Keating said that he cannot recommend something when there are no resources and that he would have to speak to Attorney Mattern. Mrs. Neville believes that the occupancy limits are exceeded and we need to be aware of that issue. Mr. Blessing said that the bad outweigh the good. He sees the issues and has also worked for Kingston. The problem is only getting worse. A neighborhood team should be formed to walk around and see all the problems. Mayor Roberts asked Mr. Blessing where is this happening and did you report the problems. Mr. Blessing said no and he can get the addresses.

**Don Fisk, 60 John Street**, spoke to council regarding the feral cat problem. Mr. Fisk said that he can't enjoy his front or back yard. Properties are being ruined. Approximately ten cats have been rescued. Unfortunately, the neighbors are feeding the cats. Mr. Keating said that if legislation was passed we would not be able to regulate. As long as there is a food source, this matter will continue. Mr. Keating is almost certain that there is nothing Kingston can do regarding feral cats. Mrs. Neville suggested that information be put on Facebook to make residents aware of this problem. Mr. Fisk said that this needs issue needs to be addressed. Mr. Keating said that he would research this issue. Also, in the Fall a mailer will be sent to the residents and will put feral cat information to reach out to residents. A resident of John Street said that there are cans of tuna left out and that there has to be something that can be done. Whiskers World will come and trap the cats. Both Mr. Keating and Mrs. Neville said that if people insist on feeding the animals, they will not go away. Mayor Roberts said that it is not illegal to feed an animal. Mr. Fisk thanked everyone for their time.

**Clark Stewart, 12 Meyers Court**, told council that he is losing money because he can't occupy his building because of the danger of Target Table's deterioration. This demolition has taken way too long. Mr. Stewart feels that permits are not being applied for work that is being done, although some buildings are good, but most businesses are not. Mr. Stewart said that in the area of Rush Inn, there are abandoned vehicles, weeds, debris, etc. and would like to see that area cleaned up.

**Caroline Nelson, 615 Charles Avenue**, spoke to council about the curbs on E. Dorrance and Charles Avenue being too high and are uneven. You can't ride your bike safely and the cars drive too fast. She feels that this is an unsafe area and would like to see something done. Mr. Keating said that he would look into this

matter. Ms. Nelson suggested speed traps or a stop sign. Mr. Keating said that put in a stop sign you need a study.

#### **ADMINISTRATORS VERBAL UPDATE:**

There is a Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release in your packets regarding Canadian Pacific in the amount of \$32,233.71 for overpayment of local realty transfer tax and will be paid in three installments in the amount of \$10,744.57.

Mayor Roberts has begun the selection of Police Chief. A memo has been given to all members of the police force.

We recently had an engineering meeting regarding projects and the Rec Center. We will obtain bids for hot water heater, roof and painting. We have estimated \$20,000.00 for the cost but is part of our LSA grant.

Attorney Mattern mentioned that the deed for Target Table has been prepared and is at the courthouse being processed. Once we receive the recorded deed, Kingston will own the building and then it will be taken down. We are in the home stretch. In the Franconi matter, Attorney Vinsko's brief is due and filed. Attorney Mattern is going to request an extension of time.

There is no garbage pick up on Thursday. Put your garbage out on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

The pool, in one week, made \$40,080.20 and \$8,000.00 was from the concession stand. The pool and the rec center are very busy.

Regarding the Resolution and Ordinance referring to Park Place, we have been receiving complaints that there is parking at different times and it is a problem going in and coming out.

Resolution 2019-16 appointing Michael Blessing to the Shade Tree Committee.

Resolution 2019-17 refers to a DCED grant. Mr. Keating needs this Resolution passed as part of the grant process and will fill in the dollar amount.

We have already discussed Resolution 2019-18 regarding WVSA's Land Development Plan.

There was recently an arbitration hearing with the police.

**AGENDA ITEM:**

It was moved by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Neville that **Resolution 2019-15** approving experimental traffic controls and regulations on Park Place.

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mr. Schumacher -Yes	Mr. Dicton – Yes	Mrs. Rowlands – Yes
Mrs. Cooper – Yes	Mrs. Neville – Yes	Mr. Thompson – Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Neville that **Resolution 2019-16** confirming the Mayor’s appointment of a citizen to the Shade Tree Committee.

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mr. Schumacher -Yes	Mr. Dicton – Yes	Mrs. Rowlands – Yes
Mrs. Cooper – Yes	Mrs. Neville – Yes	Mr. Thompson – Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Neville that **Resolution 2019-17** (Paul needs to give me a dollar figure)

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mr. Schumacher -Yes	Mr. Dicton – Yes	Mrs. Rowlands – Yes
Mrs. Cooper – Yes	Mrs. Neville – Yes	Mr. Thompson – Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Neville that **Resolution 2019-18** approving a land development plan for property owned by the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority at 179 Wyoming Avenue in the Municipality of Kingston

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mr. Schumacher -Yes                      Mr. Diction – Yes      Mrs. Rowlands – Yes

                    Mrs. Cooper – Yes      Mrs. Neville – Yes      Mr. Thompson – Yes

Motion passes.

## **REPORTS:**

The Police Department responded to 747 calls and 32 were in Pringle.

There are 521 memberships at the Rec Center. 597 residents used the Rec Center. Camp and the pool are open. There are 484 children enrolled in Kamp Kingston and 406 families have rented the rec.

DPW collected 219 tons of garbage and 111 tons of single stream recycling. 40 tons of asphalt was used for the Pringle Street project. Also, the Church Street Park track will be milled and paved. There is one basketball hoop at Keiper Park and the second one will be installed in about two weeks.

Code Enforcement issued 28 violation letters, 6 non-traffic citations, 5 permits and inspected 21 properties.

Our revenue exceeds our expenses in the amount of \$563,612.16. Kingston is right on budget.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Keating had no comment.

Mayor Roberts had no comment.

Mr. Schumacher said that he is glad that Mike Blessing was appointed to the Shade Tree Committee. Mr. Schumacher asked if the stumps are supposed to be taken out because there are so many in this town. Mr. Keating said “yes”.

Mr. Diction welcomed Mike Blessing. Have a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Rowlands also welcomed Mike Blessing and have a happy 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Cooper wished everyone a happy 4<sup>th</sup> and welcomed Mike to the Shade Tree Committee.

Mrs. Neville believes that if we put information on social media residents would have a better understanding of this community. She welcomed Mike Blessing to the Shade Tree Committee and hopes that he can help with the tree issue we are facing in this community. Mrs. Neville thanked the residents for coming out this evening and feels that this is how we can learn to be a better community through our residents.

Mr. Thompson thanked the residents for coming this evening and agrees that cats are a huge issue. He welcomed Mike to the Shade Tree Committee.

There being no further business, it was moved by Mrs. Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL:

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Robert Thompson, Jr. - President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

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Julie Norton, Secretary - 7/1/19