

MUNICIPALITY OF KINGSTON TOWN COUNCIL

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 2, 2020

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, March 2, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Council were present.

Mr. Robert Thompson, Jr. – President

Mr. Rob Jacobs Mr. Jack Schumacher Mrs. Roberta Rowlands

Mr. Anthony Dicton – Vice-President Mrs. Nancy Cooper

Mrs. Margaret Neville

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

SWEARING IN OF RICHARD SMITH – FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC:

At 7:04 p.m. Mayor Paul J. Roberts, Jr., swore in Richard Smith Firefighter Paramedic. Chief Guido welcomed Richard and said that he was previously a volunteer and worked very hard to get where he is today. Chief Guido also thank council, administration, and the civil service commission.

CITIZENS REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

None

ADMINISTRATORS VERBAL UPDATE:

Mr. Keating referred to #9 of the Agenda which addresses the reconditioning of the football field at Church Street Park. There is a 30% match required. There was a mistake in the low bidder's bid. Instead of \$4.50 per square yard, Columbia Excavating quoted \$1.50. Therefore, authorization of a change order of \$43,290.00 is being requested. This Company is still the low bid. \$135,000.00 was originally budgeted on our end. There are two open grants and Mr. Keating

requested, by an Email sent to DCED, combining the two balances in the amount of approximately \$120,000.00 which will cover the overage and the 30% match. There is a Commonwealth Finance Authority meeting the third week of March. As of this date, the consolidation has not been approved, however; Mr. Keating feels very comfortable that Kingston will be approved to consolidate the two grants. If we wait until April, we will push the project back and the kids will not be on the field to play football if this Resolution is not adopted this evening.

We are in the midst of restructuring our General Obligation Note with Fidelity Bank- it is a taxable Note to fund the pension plans. Subsequent to the Work Session, another company came in and looked at our pension plan and it is what was talked about during last year's budget and quoted 2.973% for the life of the bond based on such a number. We would be over funding the pension plans by \$250,000. We have budgeted \$107,000.00 and would not have to use this money. Looking into this even more, and especially with the stock markets ups and downs, if we were to convert our general obligation note into a taxable bond, we would have to lock into a 10-year call period. That would be a substantial savings for this town. This is for our pension only. On the non-taxables there is a 5-year call period. Regarding the 10-year call period, Council should understand that there are hardship conditions with the loan but we are locked in even if the market crashes. There are also closing costs involved and the amount would be close to \$6.4 million. We will be meeting again with Fidelity to hopefully get the rate cut and hopefully we will be able to work this out. With Fidelity there would be no call or closing fees and the \$6.1 million will remain the same. We just need to keep our options open. Mr. Keating is requesting council's approval of Resolution 2020-6 and 7.

Regarding Resolution 2020-10, Sondra is using Mr. Keating's log in and Berkheimer wants Sondra to have one of her own.

AGENDA ITEM:

It was moved by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Schumacher that **Ordinance 2020-1**; Enacting Amendments to the Mandatory Recycling Law of the Municipality of Kingston Specifically Sections 103-17 and 103-18F.

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mr. Jacobs Mrs. Cooper – Yes Mr. Thompson – Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mr. Jacobs and seconded by Mrs. Cooper that **Resolution 2020-8**; Approving a Borrowing from Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

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

Mr. Jacobs Mrs. Cooper – Yes Mr. Thompson – Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mrs. Neville and seconded by Mr. Schumacher that **Resolution 2020-9**; Approving Amendments to the Kingston Civil Service Rules and Regulations

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

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

Mr. Jacobs Mrs. Cooper – Yes Mr. Thompson – Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mr. Jacobs and seconded by Mrs. Cooper that **Resolution 2020-10**; Authorizing, Empowering and Directing the Proper Officers of the Governing Board to Appoint a Liaison Between It and Berkheimer, the Duly Appointed Collector of Local Taxes for the District, for the Express Purpose of Sharing Confidential Tax Information with the District for Official Purposes

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

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

Mr. Jacobs Mrs. Cooper – Yes Mr. Thompson – Yes

Motion passes.

REPORTS:

The Fire Department responded to 399 calls.

The Police Department responded to 632 calls and 45 were in Pringle.

There are 682 memberships at the Rec Center.

DPW collected 218 tons of garbage and 131 tons of single stream recycling.

Code Enforcement issued 9 violation letters, 7 non-traffic citations and performed 17 pre-sale inspections.

Finance reports are attached for your perusal. Our Earned Income Tax is up by \$109,000.00 from where it was in 2019. Our revenue exceeds our expenses by \$384,938.34.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Keating is working on a grant through the Department of Agriculture so that Kingston and Luzerne County are compatible with their digital communications effective 2021. The Historical Society will have a Banner dedication on May 15th between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. The fitness equipment and carpeting will be arriving next week for the Rec Center. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between Kingston and Police that their health insurance will be maintained in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Mayor Roberts had no comment.

Attorney Mattern said that the Franconi and Vet buildings have been demolished and there were no legal issues with A & A Auto.

Mr. Schumacher welcomed Michael (boy scout) and is glad that he is here this evening.

Mr. Jacobs welcomed Michael and is glad he is part of the boy scouts and also congratulated Richard Smith. Mr. Jacobs also congratulated the Kingston police and surrounding police forces for the great job they did with the three major issues that recently happened. Good job.

Mrs. Rowlands congratulated Richard Smith and welcomed Michael.

Mr. Dicton welcomed Michael and wished Richard Smith good luck in his new job.

Mrs. Cooper welcomed Michael and congratulated Richard Smith. Mrs. Cooper thanked Mr. Keating for the great financial job he does for Kingston. There are "Vote By Mail" forms in the bookcase. Banner money and forms are due March 15th.

Mrs. Neville welcomed Michael. Mrs. Neville also thanked the Civil Service Commission for their service.

Mr. Thompson thanked Michael for attending this evenings meeting. The Fire Department hired a good guy

There being no further business, it was moved by Mrs. Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL:

Robert Thompson, Jr. - President

ATTEST:

Julie Norton, Secretary
March 2, 2020