

MUNICIPALITY OF KINGSTON TOWN COUNCIL

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 26, 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, May 26, 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

Mr. Thompson: The board session of Kingston Council, May 26, 2020, will now come to order. We're going to stand for the pledge while here at the people and the council in the Council of Chambers.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Thompson: Julie will you please call the roll?

Julie: Mr. Schumacher?

Mr. Schumacher: Here.

Julie: Mr. Jacobs?

Mr. Jacobs: Here.

Julie: Mrs. Rowlands?

Mr. Rowlands: Here.

Julie: Mr. Dicton?

Mr. Dicton: Here.

Julie: Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson: Here.

Julie: Mrs. Cooper.

Mrs. Cooper: Here.

Julie: Mrs. Neville.

Mrs. Neville: Here.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. We have seven members present this evening.

Mr. Keating: Let Eric go first.

Mr. Thompson: Eric, you still there?

Eric: Yes, sir.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. Go ahead.

Paul: Just so everybody knows, Eric is representing Dave Kovalchik on the subdivision, and we'd like to let him go first to explain the subdivision and to answer any questions you may have. Thanks. Go ahead Eric.

Eric: Thank you, guys. As you guys already know, I'm Eric Hill, representing Dave Kovalchik, for the Subdivision. And really quickly, I'm not sure who I met with back in February, so I apologize if I repeat myself from what I said then. But the client and are I are looking to add Parcel A.

Do you guys have my subdivision map in front of you still?

Julie: Yes.

Paul: It's in the package, Eric.

Eric: Yeah, so we're looking to add Parcel A to 254 Schuyler Ave from the Kovalchik property to give them parking. One of the comments in the initial meeting was the driveway and he will have every bit of a driveway that's available at that property. The engineer brought up several comments, some about contours. Was there enough contours? I don't know if you guys have the comments in front of you from Borden Lawson.

Paul: I reviewed those, it's Paul Keating and I've discussed this with our solicitor. You were approved by the Planning Commission for this subdivision. It's a very simple subdivision. Just so every knows, Kovalchik has the accounting firm basically across where Vanderlin's Restaurant or maybe remember it as Convenience Restaurant. Used to be on Skyler. And right next to Kovalchik is like an old factory and he owns the piece or property behind that, and they are just looking to join these together. A very straight-forward simple subdivision.

Eric: Correct. And there's nothing proposed, there's no construction proposed, they're not building anything. Mr. Kovalchik is selling his practice. And the neighboring property has no parking currently. And this will allow them to have parking.

Mr. Thompson: Okay.

Paul: Yes. With that, I recommend that council take action on this this evening. But before taking my word, do you have any questions for Eric, please direct them at him at this time.

Mr. Thompson: Eric, it's Mr. Thompson. I just have a quick question. There was no problems with the highway occupancy was there? About egress and –

Eric: Yes, sir. I had a no on my drawing that said, you know, should they ever want to build a driveway they would need to get the proper agreement at that time. They both currently have available driveways that they utilize, and there's nothing proposed. But the – I put a standard note on there to protect the township that if they ever do want to expand the driveway or make it bigger that they would have to go through the proper agencies at that time.

Paul: Thanks Eric. And again, just to answer Mr. Thompson's question further. Kovalchik would be on the west side of the Schuyler Avenue. There is no parking on that side of the street in that area anyway. It's our street, it's not a state road. So, I don't see any issues if he were to put a curb cut in there. Because it's not affecting anybody's off street parking or any other business parking.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. Anybody have any questions for Eric? Okay. Thank you, Eric. We're going to have our regular meeting after this work session tonight.

Paul: And Eric, you don't, we put you on first, you don't have to stick around. It's Paul Keating. You can email or call me in the morning. And I'll let you know what happens, but I think – I don't see a problem with that this evening.

Eric: Perfect. One quick question. What time should I call you tomorrow, Paul?

Paul: Any time, I'm here all day tomorrow.

Eric: Okay. I'll give you a shout and then I guess that was the only question I really had. No, I really appreciate your guy's time, and thank you so much.

Paul: Thanks Eric.

Female: You're welcome.

Eric: Yep, you guys have a great night.

Paul: You too.

Eric: Thank you, bye.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. We're going to move on to number five, Administrative's Verbal Update. Paul?

Paul: Thanks Mr. Thompson. We do have one citizen request that was dropped off. I'm going to just discuss that briefly now, but also read it officially at our meeting. So, it's recorded in the minutes. But dropped off this afternoon, Julie brought back to me and we scanned and emailed that off to all members of council. Was a petition from some residents. There was an accident on the 21st at Rutter and Butler. Just so everyone knows we checked with the police chief this afternoon. A pizza delivery person ran the stop sign on Butler attempting to cross

Rutter. And caused the accident. I mean, it would be my recommendation with something like this, I mean, I'll look to see if there's anything we could do for pedestrian markings or maybe like thermal plastic stop bars on Butler Street on the pavement. And some type of signage alerting motorists that there are pedestrians in the area on Rutter Avenue. But I think with the traffic volume in that area you would really snarl traffic up putting stop signs in there. And I asked our police chief this afternoon just to look at the accident history for both Rutter and Butler, and Rutter and James. And in the last two years at Rutter and Butler, this is two years, there's reportable accidents and two non-reportable accidents. And the police department also made seven traffic stops there. Four citations were issued for running the stop signs on Butler. Three warnings were issued.

Also, Rutter and James. There were two reportable accidents in the last two years. Six traffic stops. Three citations, three warnings issued.

Anybody have any questions or want to comment on what was received. I mean, I didn't put much time into this. This was just received this afternoon.

Margaret: Paul, this is Margaret, can you hear me?

Paul: I can hear you.

Margaret: Okay, sorry. Thank you. Well, listen, again, I too just received this a short while ago. But I do believe that these are issues that we need to address as council, you know. And as a community. I know that corner is dangerous, just like Tioga is as well, on Butler. And, you know, I know we've talked about traffic studies, you know. I'd like to definitely table this to have a discussion, you know. When we can kind of go through what's our plan, you know. There are significant accidents. I mean, I understand that that's what the police have reported, but that is an extremely dangerous intersection. So, I mean, backing up traffic and keeping people safe, I mean, I'm going to go with the keeping people safe. People walk down that block all of the time going to Dairy Queen. It is dangerous. Dangerous.

Paul: I agree. Again, I think, Margaret, what I said earlier –

Margaret: Yeah.

Paul: I'd rather look at maybe putting some signage in that area to bring greater attention to motorists and pedestrian to see how that works for awhile before going through the expense of a traffic study for a stop sign. I'm only one person.

Margaret: I know.

Paul: But I would not recommend a stop sign on Rutter Avenue at that location. We have them at James, and we have the light at Pierce Street. I think you will really bottleneck that area up, that's just my opinion. But we will definitely look into this and try to make that area stand out some for safer vehicular conditions on Butler and motorists more – motorists/pedestrians on Rutter Avenue.

Margaret: Yeah. I don't think we've done a great job at educating our community on what actual crosswalks are. And, you know, actually fining people if they don't yield to pedestrians. You know, that's something that – I mean, we've kind of put crosswalks in I think a little, you know, not to, for lack of a better word like willy nilly. You know, we've thrown in a lot of crosswalks and we've really failed to educate, you know, or fine people or give them warnings when they blow through them and someone's trying to cross.

Paul: I can't speak for the police chief. He's not here.

Margaret: Right.

Paul: But I do know that there's been a lot of attention placed on stop signs in various locations of the community. And that whole area over there between Pearce and Dorance, and Rutter and Tioga, that's squared area has been an area of emphasis.

Margaret: Okay. Butler Street does not have a crosswalk. It has a walking, but it is not a crosswalk. So, I mean, those are things that we – I think, would want to talk about. If you have a legitimate legal crosswalk they have to not – there's not a stop sign, but they're going to have to yield to pedestrians.

Paul: Margaret, are you talking about a crosswalk across Rutter Avenue, is that what your asking?

Margaret: Yeah.

Paul: Is that where?

Margaret: Yes. Yes.

Paul: Okay. I never noticed –

Margaret: So, the difference between the two lines and an actual crosswalk, that's what I'm saying – I think we actually really need to educate ourselves and the community on what that is. So, a legal crosswalk is those white lines, how would you say that? Are they vertical, horizontal across the road? Where you actually yield to pedestrians. So, it doesn't have to be at a stop sign. It's at a corner intersection, any type of intersection.

Paul: We can look at that. Margaret, again, we can look at different options.

Margaret: Yeah. No, and I'm all for looking at it. I just want you guys to be aware that when we put up signs, unless we figure out exactly what's the proper – you know, just like you talk about expenses with the stop signs, there is a direction to cross the street. There's two white lines, but it is not a crosswalk. You know, there are options other than stop signs, but we have to make sure that our community's educated. A lot of people in our area do not yield to crosswalks.

You go to New York State and they'll like almost hang you if you don't stop for, you know, a pedestrian.

Paul: Okay.

Mr. Thompson: We will look into this, Margaret.

Margaret: Okay. Thanks.

Mr. Thompson: Thanks. You're welcome.

Paul: Yes, thanks Mr. Thompson. Before I get into my report, I guess I'll go over the agenda first this evening. There are a few things on here that we've discussed and introduced already. The Ordinance 2020-2 and 2020-3. One is for prohibitions concerning the Municipal Administrator. The other is an extension of our audit date. Any questions on that?

After – we were the first last month to pass this resolution on the property tax. And after speaking with Dave Pedri about August 17th they somehow changed it to August 18th. So, we just want to make sure we're consistent with the county on that.

Also, we've discussed 2020-16 already this evening. That's the Kovalchik subdivision. 2020-17, just requires, this is just a formality matter. Requires municipalities official consideration. We've talked about this during our capital budgeting process. We've been approved for a Rain Garden and Corn Street Park. It's going to be fully funded by the Wyoming Sanitary Authority. It's just that we need to authorize this agreement, so this can move forward. And their ready now to move forward with – this is considered a BMP, a Best Management Practice under our MS-4 license and program. Any questions on that [inaudible]? Okay.

We also have, and this was at the request of Chief Hunsinger of Forty-Fort would like a Memorandum of Understanding between the Municipality and the Westside Career and Technology Center in the event that there's an evacuation of the Westside Career and Technology Center to use Korn Street Park as an official sheltering area. Again, this is a formality also because it's a public park. But they're asking that we enter into an agreement with them on this, and there's a certificate insurance also that accompanies that. Any questions on that? Okay.

I'm going to move now into my update and what I'd like to start out with. I asked Sondra for year end financial reports for the General Fund. Our accumulative for the month of January through April. And the statements are in our new format on the QuickBooks system. And I'm really please to report that our fund balance at 4/30/2020 is positive \$337,175.78. And that number comes by our revenues exceed expenditures by \$437,508.69 this year. Last year at this time, the number was \$100,332.91, and I've been watching daily our more significant sources of revenue. Our earned income tax, again, ending April is \$1,402,299.95 or 30.1 percent of budget. We're at 33 percent in this year. But last year at this time we were at \$1,311,170.44 or 28.8 percent. So, earned income tax is actually up by \$91,129.51 through April 30 or 6.95 percent from last year. Again, these are all good signs for our town during this pandemic.

Also, our total spending, and this is, you know, what we've talked about now for the past two months. The first thing that we did was stop all, you know, nonessential spending in our town back in March. And it's really paying off, because last year at this time we spent \$2,986,486.96 (4/30/19), or 33 percent of our budget. This year we've spent \$2,970,985.10 which is \$15,000 less than spending last year. And that includes a payroll that basically went up by three percent. So, we've dropped our overall spending by 1.3 percent through 4/30 of this year. And on a roughly \$10 million budget, that is significant.

Last year also, our total revenues were \$3,086,819.87, this year \$3,408,493.79. Our bottom-line revenues are \$321,673.92 ending April. The way we come up with that fund balance that I explained earlier is you take our total revenues 4/30/2019 to 4/30/2020, that number I just gave you \$321,673.92 and add to that the \$15,000 in spending that's down, you come up with the \$337,175.78. That's something I did this afternoon to tie all of our financials in and to make sure everything balances. And I'm really pleased with the numbers.

And looking ahead for May, even though we're deep into May but not quite at the end of May, our total revenues as of Friday, the 22nd, were \$4,591,451.03. Last year, for the whole entire month of May we were \$4,569,998.81. I checked today with Sondra, we have an additional \$174,000 of deposits that aren't in that number that I just read. So, we're having a very good year given the circumstances.

I think if we continue to keep our spending shutoff as we have and, you know, we get a feel for what the damage of that second quarter's going to be come July, August, and September, I really, I think at this point in time we can weather, we're looking pretty good because as of the 22nd our revenues exceed expenses by \$1,013,589.04. At the end of May last year that number was \$816,149.12, so we are, you know, looking, you know, pretty good. And if you look at, you know, the numbers that Sandra gave me today that weren't posted in my Friday financials, our revenues are at 50.99/51 percent of total budget coming out of, you know, the month five where that would be a nice number for the end of June. So, I'm really please with where we're at financially, and thank all of the department heads for, you know, working with me on controlling the spending to be able to come up with these numbers.

Any questions on our finances? Okay.

Just like to give a little bit of a project update so everyone knows what's going on. Our Rec Center, as you know, is closed since the 16th of March. We have been doing work at the center. At last month's meeting I reported that the new carpeting was installed. Subsequent to that meeting we had three new 65-inch televisions, all paid for by an LSA Branch, installed in the fitness room. And we were just funded on Friday through DCD for the fitness equipment, and we're shooting for June 2nd or June 3rd for the new fitness equipment, \$81,000 worth of new fitness equipment to be installed in our Rec Center. The old equipment's going to come up to the basement of the Municipal Building for the Police Department, and I'd like to thank Fashion Floor for donating the rubber flooring that was applied in this

building for the police department. So, that project is basically winding down right now.

We have a lot going on at Church Street Park. I actually encourage everyone to drive by and to check out the progress over there. The new playground equipment is up. We need to get the subsurface, the base in over there, and then the mulch on top of that. We have thermal plastic markings that should be going down this week on the walking track over there.

And they're really coming along on the football field. That is totally torn up at this time. All of the grass has been removed. We're hoping to have that project complete by the end of June, weather permitting. And the new soccer fields have really taken nice for us, they're green, they're thick, can't wait to get the kids on these.

We also have our West Union Street project under way. All of the handicapped ramps are being installed by the Donny Bower Construction Company, that council awarded the Community Development Bid to last year. We're hoping that we can get paving over there soon. I asked if there's any shot at getting that done by the end of June, and that looks favorable as well. Weather permitting.

The project that remains, I want to say the biggest thorn in my side, and most difficult, are Multi-Modal Project on Third Avenue. Trying to get this easement from the rail company has been a real challenge. We're getting bounced around from Virginia to Atlanta to Chicago. It's just been a major undertaking to a point of where we actually stopped the project last week because, you know, the easement, we have a \$36,000 permitting an easement budget in the grant, and we have already more than that out of the grant on this easement. Because of just layer after layer of bureaucracy that the rail company is making us jump through. So, I actually put a letter together. We were able to make a contact, a gentleman in Harrisburg that has some ties to this area, and after talking to him for an hour and putting an email together. He seems confident that he can help to move this through the managerial chain and get us to where we need to be. But until we hear back from them that project is currently at a halt.

And we're also awaiting approval from the Lippi Family, who own the New Bridge Centers at the corner of Pierce and Third. We'd like to get an easement from them also to tie into there the public electric that comes off of their property and we still haven't heard back from them. So, that project has become a challenge, but I'm still confident that these things will come together and that will

be one of the nicest things that we've done in town for a long, long time. I think once it all does together.

We also have two pending grant applications out there. One is an LSA for this municipal building project. We've heard nothing on when they're going to be funded. And then, we have the street scaping project yet pending on West Union Street. So, you'll be the first to know if we hear anything on that.

I'm also going to ask tonight just when we do our regular meeting that it's read into the minutes with your packages. We piggybacked on the public utility contract for paving a part of Market Street and Schuyler Avenue. We had major sewer issue in the fall of last year in the Market and Page area. The road was deteriorated beyond any type of general maintenance or preventive maintenance. It needed curb to curb paving. And they're doing this for not much more than what it would cost us to do it in that area with our own equipment. So, if you drive over there, you'll see also that project is going on right now. Hopefully, by tomorrow that's paved over there.

Any questions on what I've discussed so far? Okay.

The last two things that I have – it looks like we will not be able to hold our summer camp program this year. I'm not at all comfortable with starting. We'd have to start probably sometime in July. I'm just not comfortable with the setup with the building over there. With the different restrictions that are placed on us now in these everchanging guidelines that keep coming out. I just don't think that we can do that effectively. I do, however, think that we will be able to open the pool in a sensible manner.

Now, did everybody get my email this afternoon from the Pennsylvania Recreational and Parks Society?

All: Yes.

Paul: At your leisure check that out. Now, the last two times that they've come up with something, and there's actually a different version of their data in with your packages this evening. They seem to use DCED and DCED is a direct arm of the governor's office for publicating a lot of their documents. But before our meeting tonight I did speak with Representative Kaufer's Office, and they are trying to get some type of guidance for me. Again, from the governor's office. They feel that what I sent you guys this afternoon, now, even though the last two

sets of documents that came from this same group were approved by DCED that these reopening guidelines may be inconsistent with what was just put out by the governor that may put some additional hurdles in front of us and challenges. But I do think at some point in late June or early July we will be able to open the pool. I think the input that the mayor or more so looking for is I can't give anyone a straight answer as to whether or not we're going to break even on this endeavor by keeping the pool limited to Kingston residents only. And preexisting members only. Or if we're going to go into the hole on it. But if anybody objects to opening the pool in some type of sensible manner with no guarantee with what the overall, you know, financial picture's going to look like. If you object to opening the pool, you can tell me now, or shoot me an email, or give me a call. But we're going to open the pool regardless just to take the [inaudible] on June 14th. We pushed it back that far, so we don't, you know, lose a lot of money with water and chemicals or what have you. But we needed a two-week period or so to make sure that all of our equipment functions properly, and this year we're going to need all of that time and then some to make sure that we have proper sanitizing measures in place. That we have the wellness check-in end of this in place. But if you object to doing that please let me know.

Nancy: I think we should do what we can to open the pool. In lieu of what you said earlier about our budget, and things aren't as bad as you thought they might be. I just think that would be a good thing to do.

Paul: And then, even with that I still want to say – things look very good financially right now at this point in May. Just like anybody else in the world I don't have the crystal ball to tell anybody what July, August, and September holds, but I do think all of the mitigating that we've done cutting of those nonessential expenses, I think we have the flexibility to at least give this a try.

Rob: Paul, I have a few questions.

Paul: Sure.

Rob: Okay. How long were you thinking about keeping the pool open?

Paul: The mayor and I actually talked about this a little bit this morning. I mean, our goal Rob, would be to do a ten-week period as we always do. It will depend on, and I think the odds are in our favor a little bit here, we normally loose kids as you know early to mid-August to sports and college or high school. I know Valley

West is going back, I think the second week in September this year. And, Anthony, correct me if I'm wrong on that.

Anthony: September 8th is the first day.

Paul: Okay. September 8th. I think we'll have the personnel around if we try to leg this out a little bit deeper into August. And maybe what we can do, Rob, is if we don't think it's feasible, or we don't want to take a full crack at ten weeks, you know, maybe, you know, we define opening season as an eight-week period and prorate the memberships accordingly. But if personnel and circumstances allow, we'll keep the pool open for the other two weeks.

Rob: Okay. That sounds good. The only concern I have, and again, I have a little experience here, is we're definite that it's Kingston residents and long-time members only. I assume that's – maintain that as well. And there's got to be some kind of check on that, because everyone and their brother is going to try to get in. And, you know, I think if we can break even, we're going to be in good sMr. Mattered. We're not going to make any money obviously because of the number of guests that we're going to have. If we do feel that we're in a situation where we're overextending ourselves towards the end we may be able to just go weekends, you know, if that's an option as well.

Paul: And the other thing is, I mean, when I say open, it's going to be at significant reduced capacity. We will not have a snack bar. We don't have a safe means of, you know, making kids wear masks in that little room, or keeping them distanced properly. And all of the CDC's guidelines and different things that I read anyway don't recommend concession stands or any type of food serving where people are actually touching your food.

Rob: And that's a very large portion of your staff, snack bar. That'll definitely keep – and also again, with all of the years of running the pool we used to operate that pool on eight guards. Eight/nine guards, on a good year, maybe eleven/twelve. So, you're not going to need any – even close to the number of guards that you would normally on regular summer. So, that you're going to be cutting back salaries considerably. So, I'm hoping that this works, and I'm hoping, you know, we're able to do this for our residents of Kingston because they need a little relief. Thank you.

Paul: Thank you. Anybody else about the pool?

Margaret: It's Margaret. I think it's great. I support going forward and doing what we can to get it open.

Paul: Thank you, Margaret.

Margaret: Thank you.

Paul: Mr. Thompson, with that being said, I don't have anything else for this work session.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. Thanks Paul. Move on to number 6, discuss Ordinance 2020-2, Proposing the Amendment of Section 403 of the Present Home Rule Chart of the Municipality of Kingston. I'm not going to read it all, you guys have it. Do we have any further questions on this?

Okay, we're going to put that on the agenda for the next meeting, it is on the agenda, I should say.

Number 7 discuss Ordinance 2020-3, Proposing the Amending of Section 615 of Present Home Rule Chart of the Municipality of Kingston. Any questions on that? Okay.

Number 8 discuss Resolution 2020-15, Amending Resolution 2020-14 to extend the due date of the payment in the face of 2020 Municipal Property Tax August 18th. Everybody okay with that? Any questions? Okay.

Number 9 discuss Resolution 2020-16, Approving a Subdivision owned by David Kovalchik at Schuyler Avenue in Kingston. Eric went over that in detail. Anybody have any questions on that? Okay.

Number 10 discuss Resolution 2020-17, Approving an Agreement with [inaudible] Sanitary Authority for a Rain Garden in the Municipality of Kingston. Paul discussed this. Any further questions on that? Okay.

Number 11 discuss Resolution 2020-20-18, Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding between the Municipality of Kingston and the Westside Career and Technology Center. Paul went over that. Any other questions on that? Okay.

Move on to Number 12 new business. Paul, anything else you want to add?

Paul: Nothing for this meeting, Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson: Mayor Roberts?

Mayor Roberts: Nothing.

Mr. Thompson: Nothing? Attorney?

Mr. Mattern: Hi everybody.

All: Hello.

Mr. Mattern: I sound like a broken record on this, but I keep talking about the Frank Cony case. And if you remember the decision from the Commonwealth in which we prevailed. Came out in early March. And then, began a 30-day period of time to that the Frank Cony had the privilege of asking for allocator or would you hear this case from the Supreme Court. And then we had the pandemic strike. And everything got put on hold. Finally, the Supreme Court issued an order and said, okay, if there's going to be any requests, any appeals, it's got to happen by end of business on May 11th. So, I watched the docket, left my office end of business May 11th, and nothing was filed. Came back in the next morning and at 11:35 p.m., twenty-five minutes before the end of the filing day, which is through the internet, Frank Cony filed a petition for allocator. And, yeah, I was surprised they did that. I was even more surprised they waited until virtually the last minute after months, but they did.

That commenced an opportunity for us to file an answer if we wished. I decided that I would just to show interest and to restate some points that I wanted to make. So, that has been done. So, now, it's with the Supreme Court, they've got to decide whether they are going to grant a petition for allocator, the petition is to as whether they will hear the case, and they have no particular time period to do that. So, that's where we are, sorry to report but we can't seem to bring this to a finish, because we have a very persistent litigant. But that's where we are, so.

Aside, from what you see on your agenda, stuff that I've been involved with, with Paul, that's the essence of the report so nothing further.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. Thanks Mr. Mattern. Okay. Moving on. I'm going to go with the names across the top of the page. Mr. Jacobs?

Mr. Jacobs: Nothing at this time.

Mr. Thompson: Okay, thanks. Mrs. Cooper?

Mrs. Cooper: I have nothing for this meeting, thank you.

Mr. Thompson: Mrs. Rowlands.

Mrs. Rowlands: Nothing for this meeting, thank you.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Schumacher?

Mr. Schumacher: Nothing, thank you.

Mr. Thompson: Ms. Neville?

Ms. Neville: Good, thank you.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Dicton.

Mr. Dicton: Nothing, I'm good, thank you.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. The only thing I want to say is kudos to Paul and the mayor regarding the finances for what was discussed tonight. Because when we had that meeting with Anthony, myself, the mayor, and Paul back in March, I believe it was, it was like – it wasn't quite doom and gloom; but it was gloom.

Paul: We talked about being somewhat normal by June.

Mr. Thompson: Yeah.

Paul: But then by the end of September not being so good. The amount of money that we've saved by not spending and being fortunate enough that our revenues for the first quarter were very strong; hopefully that carries us. And remember we still have the \$61,000 savings on the pension fund, the pension note that we will see in December of this year to even help more into this. So, we're all right. Hope everything goes well, but thanks guys I appreciate it.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. With that I'd like to make a motion for adjournment of the work session please.

Nancy: So, I'll move.

Mr. Dicton: I'll take a second.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. All right we're going to move onto the regular special meeting. We already had that roll call. Julie?

Julie: Mr. Schumacher?

Mr. Schumacher: Present.

Julie: Mr. Jacobs?

Mr. Jacobs: Here.

Julie: Mrs. Rowlands?

Mrs. Rowlands: Here.

Julie: Mr. Dicton?

Mr. Dicton: Here.

Julie: Mr. Thompson?

Mr. Thompson: Here.

Julie: Mrs. Cooper?

Mrs. Cooper: Here.

Julie: Mrs. Neville?

Mrs. Neville: Here.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. We have seven members present. Business to address council we have none. Number 5 approve the minutes of the April 27, 2020 meeting. Members of council you've had an opportunity to review the minutes, what's your pleasure?

Male: I'll make a motion.

Female: I'll second.

Mr. Thompson: Who second that, please?

Margaret: Margaret.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Margaret. Any questions. All those in favor signify by saying, "I."

All: I.

Mr. Thompson: All right. Number 6 Administrative's Verbal Update. Paul?

Paul: Mr. Thompson, I'm just going to bring two things up. I am going to just read the letter in for Citizens Request to Address Council that we received and discussed at the work session. This was dropped off today by Sam Troy, 98 Joseph Lane.

"We the undersigned do hereby petition the Borough of Kingston to install stops signs on Rutter Avenue at the intersection of Butler Street as soon as possible. In light of a horrific three-car accident that occurred just a few days ago, and other near accident one week ago. This need seems greater than ever."

Another potentially hazardous situation stems from many drivers speeding on Rutter Ave and ignoring pedestrians and crosswalks. Thus, it would certainly be advisable to install state law stop for pedestrians and crosswalk signs where there are no four-way stop signs at intervals along the entire length of Rutter Ave. This would help advert future car-pedestrian accidents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Julie, please record this into the official meeting minutes.

And the other thing, I just want to officially have read into our minutes is that we've engaged Kinsey Supply to pave Market and Schuyler on the UGI contract in the amount of \$39,525.00.

I have nothing further at this time, Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. Thanks, Paul. Number 7, vote on Ordinance 2020-2, Julie?

Julie: Ordinance 2020-2, an ordinance for the town council of the Municipality of Kingston proposing the amendment of Section 403 of the Present Home Rule Chart of the Municipality of Kingston first submission to and consideration by the electorate of the Municipality of Kingston. At the general election to be held on November 3, 2020, pursuant to Section 902 of the Home Rule Charter and 53 PA CS Section 2941 et seq.

Mr. Thompson: Members of Council for reason of the ordinance what's your pleasure?

Nancy: I'll move, Nancy.

Mr. Jacobs: Second.

Mr. Thompson: Second by Rob on the question? Julie, please pull the council.

Julie: Mr. Schumacher?

Mr. Schumacher: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Jacobs?

Mr. Jacobs: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Rowlands?

Mrs. Rowlands: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Dicton?

Mr. Dicton: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Cooper?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Neville?

Mrs. Neville: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Thompson?

Mr. Thompson: Yes. Vote being 7-for, 0-against. Ordinance 2020-2 passes. Number 8, Vote on Ordinance 2020-3, Julie?

Julie: Ordinance 2020-3, an Ordinance of the Town Council in the Municipality of Kingston proposing the Amendment of Section 615 of the Present Home Rule Charter of the Municipality of Kingston for a submission to and consideration by the electorate of the Municipality of Kingston. At the general election to be held November 3, 2020, pursuant to Section 902 of the Home Rule Charter and 53 PH CS Section 2941 et seq.

Mr. Thompson: Members of Council you've heard the reading of the ordinance, what's your pleasure?

Roberta: So moved.

Mr. Thompson: Was that Roberta?

Roberta: Yep.

Anthony: I'll second, Anthony.

Mr. Thompson: Second by Anthony Diction on the question. Julie please pull the council.

Julie: Mr. Schumacher?

Mr. Schumacher: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Jacobs?

Mr. Jacobs: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Rowlands?

Mrs. Rowlands: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Dicton?

Mr. Dicton: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Cooper?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Neville?

Mrs. Neville: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Thompson?

Mr. Thompson: Yes. And the vote being 7-for, 0-against, Ordinance 2020-3 passes. Number 9 vote on Resolution 2020-15. Julie?

Julie: Resolution 2020-15 a Resolution of the Town Council of the Municipality of Kingston amending Resolutions 2020-14 to extend the due date for payment of [inaudible] of 2020 Municipal Property Tax to August 18, 2020.

Mr. Thompson: Members of Council you've heard the reading of the Resolution, what's your pleasure?

Female: So moved.

Margaret: I'll second that.

Mr. Thompson: Who's that, Margaret?

Margaret: Yeah, to –

Mr. Thompson: Second by Margaret Neville on the question. Julie please poll the council.

Julie: Mr. Schumacher?

Mr. Schumacher: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Jacobs?

Mr. Jacobs: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Rowlands?

Mrs. Rowlands: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Dicton?

Mr. Dicton: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Cooper?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Neville?

Mrs. Neville: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Thompson?

Mr. Thompson: Yes. Vote being 7-for, 0-against, Resolution 2020-15 passes. Number 10 vote on Resolution 2020-16. Julie?

Julie: Resolution 2020-16, a Resolution of the Town Council of the Municipality of Kingston approving a subdivision of property owned by David N. Kovalchik at Schuyler Avenue in the Municipality of Kingston.

Mr. Thompson: Members of Council you've heard a reading of the Resolution, what's your pleasure?

Nancy: I'll move, it's Nancy.

Mr. Thompson: Motion by Mrs. Cooper.

Roberta: Second, Roberta.

Mr. Thompson: Second by Mrs. Rowlands on the question. Julie please poll the council.

Julie: Mr. Schumacher?

Mr. Schumacher: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Jacobs?

Mr. Jacobs: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Rowlands?

Mrs. Rowlands: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Dicton?

Mr. Dicton: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Cooper?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Neville?

Mrs. Neville: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Thompson?

Mr. Thompson: Yes. Vote being 7-for, 0-against, Resolution 2020-16 passes. Number 11 vote on Resolution 2020-17. Julie?

Julie: Resolution 2020-17, a Resolution of the Town Council of the Municipality of Kingston approving an Agreement with the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority for a Rain Garden in the Municipality of Kingston.

Mr. Thompson: Members of Council you've heard the reading of the Resolution, what's your pleasure?

Nancy: So moved. I'll make the motion, it's Nancy.

Mr. Thompson: Motion by Mrs. Cooper, do I have a second.

Roberta: I'll second.

Mrs. Cooper: I think, Roberta seconds that.

Mr. Thompson: Motion by Mrs. Cooper, Second by Mrs. Rowlands on the question. Julie, please poll the council.

Julie: Mr. Schumacher?

Mr. Schumacher: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Jacobs?

Mr. Jacobs: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Rowlands?

Mrs. Rowlands: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Dicton?

Mr. Dicton: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Cooper?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Neville?

Mrs. Neville: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Thompson?

Mr. Thompson: Yes. Vote being 7-for, 0-against, Resolution 2020-17 passes. Number 12 vote on Resolution 2020-18, Julie.

Julie: Resolution 2020-18, a Resolution of the Town Council of the Municipality of Kingston authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Municipality of Kingston and the Westside Career and Technology Center.

Mr. Thompson: Members of Council you've heard the reading of the Resolution, what's your pleasure?

Jack: So moved.

Anthony: Second.

Mr. Thompson: Motion by Jack, second by Anthony on the question. Julie please poll the council.

Julie: Mr. Schumacher?

Mr. Schumacher: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Jacobs?

Mr. Jacobs: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Rowlands?

Mrs. Rowlands: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Dicton?

Mr. Dicton: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Cooper?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes.

Julie: Mrs. Neville?

Mrs. Neville: Yes.

Julie: Mr. Thompson?

Mr. Thompson: Yes. Vote being 7-for, 0-against, Resolution 2020-18 passes. Number 13, reports, Paul.

Paul: Thank you Mr. Thompson. There are several. The Kingston Police Department reports 408 calls for the month of April 2020 in Kingston. Seventeen in Pringle Borrow. These calls are down significantly. Due to the sheltering at home requirements.

Kingston Fire Department reports 295 calls for the month ending April 2020. January and February were both 402. So, down over 100 calls per month in the Fire Department.

Code Enforcement issued 17 violation letters and conducted four residential inspections. Also issued one non-traffic citation.

There is zero activity to report from the Kingston Recreation Center.

The Department of Public Works collected 236.8 tons of garbage, 119.56 tons single stream recycling, and over 300 yards of yard waste. Their numbers are way up. Just a heads up if anybody gets any calls, we advertised yard waste collection last Thursday and Friday. They're still getting, it's that heavy. With everybody being home. So, you get any calls, we should be finished by tomorrow with yard waste. It is that heavy.

Also, all of our finance reports accompany this report. If there are any questions on those, please feel free to call me or meet with me at any time. That's all I have this evening, Mr. Thompson.

And I would like to thank, again, our staff for really pulling together during these tough times. It's been a big team effort to able to report the numbers that I was able to present to you this evening. You know, my thanks to all of the department heads that I work with daily here, and our administrative staff as well.

Mr. Thompson: Thanks. Anything else with new business, Roy?

Roy: I'm good.

Mr. Thompson: Good? Mayor?

Mayor: I think I'm good.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. Attorney matter?

Attorney: Yeah. Just looking at the agenda, I'm thinking if we are going to have a meeting on June the 2nd fine, but if we're not, maybe it would be appropriate to have a motion to not hold that meeting on June 2nd, and schedule it for say, June 16th if that's when we're going to do it, so that there's something of record. Just so there's continuity.

Paul: Yeah. There's no reason to meet next Monday. I think we should do one more of these on the 16th of June 15th, I'm sorry. And then, hopefully, by July, you know, we can get back on our normal schedule and we can meet in the council room if we're in that green phase by then.

Attorney: Paul could we have just a motion to not hold the regular meeting on June 2nd.

Paul: Mr. Mattern, you don't need a resolution, you just need a motion, correct.

Mr. Mattern: Yeah, a motion.

Mr. Jacobs: I'll make that motion, Bobby.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. Motion by Rob Jacobs, a second?

Nancy: I'll second, Nancy.

Mr. Thompson: I'll put five of you down for the second. All those in favor signify by saying, "I."

All: I.

Mr. Thompson: Okay, there will be no meeting June 1st.

Mr. Mattern: And then the second part of it would be to hold a meeting on whatever that Monday is.

Mr. Thompson: The 15th.

Mr. Mattern: 15th or 16th?

Mr. Thompson: 15th.

Margaret: Monday the 15th, I'll make a motion.

Mr. Mattern: That way we have some credence as to why we're holding it when we're holding it. I know that's fussy, but that's I think the law.

Mr. Thompson: So, Mr. Mattern, you want a motion to the meeting on – or the work session June 15th and the council meeting right after, correct?

Mr. Mattern: Exactly.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. We have Margaret made the motion; can I have a second please?

Nancy: I'll second it.

Mr. Thompson: Second by Nancy. All those in favor signify by saying, "I."

All: I

Mr. Thompson: Opposed? Okay, Julie. Anything else, Mr. Mattern?

Mr. Mattern: No. Did we approve the draft minutes that were –

Mr. Thompson: Yes.

Mr. Mattern: Did we do that at the beginning?

Mr. Thompson: Oh, yes, yes, we did that. To approve the minutes you're saying, right?

Mr. Mattern: To approve the minutes. Okay. Good.

Mr. Thompson: Yeah, we did that.

Mr. Mattern: Okay.

Mr. Thompson: All right, thanks. Okay. For more new business, Rob, anything else?

Rob: Yeah, just a couple of things real quick. You know, I have to thank Paul [inaudible]. You have kept us so well-informed during this, you know, terrible time that we're going through right now. Not only with everything that's going on in Kingston, but financially. We're so lucky to have you and I really thank you so much. Because it's nice to know that you always have the answers for us, and it's nice to be able to tell the residents what's going on, you know. We really have a good communication going on.

The other thing I want to talk about tonight is the Church Street Park. My wife and I took a walk over there and I have to say, it's absolutely beautiful. If anybody hasn't been over there yet, it's absolutely phenomenal. The soccer fields, it's just a shame that there's no kids running on them. But just the park equipment, and just the plans, and the way it's going to look is just going to be amazing. So, if you haven't been over, please take a look at it, because it is absolutely beautiful.

And last, I am concerned about the residents' concerns with the Butler Street and Rutter Avenue stop sign that they're proposing. And we really do have to look into much more seriously, and deeper discussion. I agree with Margaret on this. And, you know, I do look forward to talking about, you know, what we can do and the residents' concerns.

It's nice talking to everybody again this month, and I'll see you soon, hopefully. Thank you.

Mr. Thompson: Mrs. Cooper.

Mrs. Cooper: I would also like to commend Paul [inaudible] for the great work he does on the budget. And our department heads for being so fragile with the spending to enable us to try and keep our heads above water with the finances. And Paul [inaudible], is there any thought about the clutter clean up when it might start, or?

Paul: We're looking, we're looking at hopefully the third week in June. Hopefully, possibly the fourth week in June, and we could still, you know, fit this all in over the summer. BPW is really busy right now. We have limited staffing. We have two guys out on voluntary furlough coming back June 1st. They're going to help play catch-up with some of the work that still needs to be completed. But I

think it's realistic that we could do this the third week in June or fourth week. It's also going to depend on when we open this building, and how we sell the permits because they're generally moderate to high-volume. I anticipate this year based on those garbage and recycling numbers that you see and the yard waste numbers, that that's going to be a very, very popular program. So, there's some stock that still needs to go into how do we properly sell these tickets and keep everyone here safe as well as the people that are coming out to buy their permits.

Mrs. Cooper: Yeah. I know there's been a lot of interest in it because people are getting into their basements and attics and cleaning things out. Mr. Thompson, I also want to commend you for running these meetings under difficult conditions and trying to find out who's talking and doing motions and seconding. So, you're doing a good job.

And we're going yellow, thank God. Hopefully, green is coming soon. So, everyone stay safe and that's all I have, thank you.

Mr. Thompson: The hardest part is sitting with the Mayor, the Administrator, and Julie. Thanks, Nancy. Roberta?

Roberta: I would also like to thank all of department heads for everything they do and the administration. Especially Paul [inaudible]. Everything that you do benefits all of the residents of Kingston and we certainly do appreciate it. And it was nice hearing all of your voices, thank you.

Mr. Thompson: Thanks Roberta. Jack?

Jack: Thank goodness Paul is still on the ball. He has a crystal ball. And I would – Paul, I would like to ask, have we had any sign of how many people who were infected in Kingston?

Paul: No. It's done by zip code. And that's something that our fire chief, Jack, worked very, very hard on earlier in this pandemic back in the March and April phase. And we were not able to get it through the legislature where they would report the addresses and the names to the fire company, the emergency responders for COVID positive patient. I can tell you that a week ago we did have a hot spot in town, at Tiffany Court. They had 13 positive cases inside of Tiffany Court in town. But as far as the exact number in Kingston, I don't have that number for you.

Jack: All right, thank you. That's all.

Mr. Thompson: Thanks, Jack. Margaret?

Margaret: I'm good. I do want to say I commend all of you. I know this is not an easy time, you guys have done it very well. Paul, great job even with this budget. I think that speaks volumes. And everyone just continue to stay safe and well and hopefully we're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel here. That's all

Mr. Thompson: Thanks Margaret. Anthony?

Anthony: Hey, just an echo of everybody. Again, Paul and department heads are doing a fantastic job. And, you know, looking forward to getting this over with. I think – when we do hopefully open the pool, just something to consider about how we regulate what people can bring in. Because are obviously going to want to bring in stuff if the snack concessions closed. We'll have to come up with the size of the bin or how much or how little what people will bring.

Paul: Some of the guidelines I've read so far are – they recommend just sports drinks and water only. So, we have vending machine down there. It's possible that there will not be coolers allowed if we can adequately keep those machines stocked through our contract with Pepsi.

Anthony: That'd be good. That's all I have, thanks.

Paul: Thanks Anthony. And you know you're going to get some complaints over that, because they'll want to try to bring things in but as long as our citizens know ahead of time what's going on, you know, maybe we can overcome that problem. But we'll see.

Anthony: I agree.

Paul: But I just want to thank the administration and all of the department heads, the employees of the town, and you guys for joining us on these phone calls. I said it sometimes is a pain in the butt, hey, we got through it. We're going to see what's going to happen in June. And we think we're going to do the same thing in June the way we're doing it now.

Mr. Thompson: I think it's pretty much safe to say unless we get bumped into green much sooner than possible, we'll be doing this on the 15th and hopefully

that's our last teleconference and we can get back to our, you know, regular schedule of meetings under our normal protocols in July.

Okay. Again, there's no meeting Monday, June 1st. We will be meeting the 15th of June for the work session, and the meeting right after that. So, with that, stay safe, and I'd like to have someone make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Nancy: I'll do that, it's Nancy.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you. Goodnight guys.

Nancy: Okay, take care everybody.

All: Goodnight.

There being no further business, it was moved by Mrs. Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL:

Robert Thompson, Jr. - President

ATTEST:

Julie Norton, Secretary
May 26, 2020

