

MUNICIPALITY OF KINGSTON TOWN COUNCIL

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 6, 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, July 6, 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 Diction – Vice-President – Excused

Mrs. Nancy Cooper – Excused Mrs. Margaret Neville

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

CITIZENS REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

Jackie Mosher, 396 N. Maple Avenue talked to council regarding the double block next to her, specifically the pool. Mrs. Mosher said that it is a breeding ground for mosquitos. Weeds are overgrown and it's a hazard. Mrs. Mosher said that she has talked to Code Enforcement and was told that it was bank owned and there is not a lot that could be done. Mrs. Mosher called Luzerne County Conservation and they looked at the pool but it was too late to spray because mosquitos had already hatched. Mr. Keating told Mrs. Mosher that he would speak to Code Enforcement regarding this issue and would try to get it resolved.

Etel Ringler, 300 Lathrop Street spoke to counsel about Hens. She would like to raise hens on her property and would like council to consider a new Ordinance. Ms. Ringler spoke about the advantages of raising hens versus chickens. Mr. Keating feels that this community is too close and does not believe it will be well-received by the majority of residents. Mr. Keating wondered if hens or chickens bring any type of diseases during these times. This would require a Public Hearing because we would have to modify our zoning rules. Mr. Keating believes that

Kingston is not rural enough. Mr. Thompson said that this topic will be discussed at the Work Session and council will decide on this issue.

George Kochis, 555 N. Gates spoke to council about 549 N. Gates and the deplorable conditions of the house that is next to him. This is a new structure, however; the homeowner died and it is in a deplorable condition. There are woodchucks, gravel and junk all over and it looks terrible. Mr. Kochis suggested we use the recycling fee money to fix all of the potholes. Mr. Keating said that the money we receive for recycling will help offset the fee. There will be blacktopping when clutter clean-up is finished. Lastly, Mr. Kochis said that Kingston needs to keep law and order.

Tim Sult, 543 N. Gates is concerned about 549 N. Gates and would like something to be done with this structure. Mr. Sult echoes Mr. Kochis' concerns.

Clark Stewart, 12 Meyers Court told council that DPW delivered recycling bins to all of his neighboring streets and skipped Meyers Court. Mr. Keating told Mr. Stewart that the bins were distributed over four years ago. Mr. Keating has not received any complaints from residents of Meyers Court. Mr. Stewart wants to know where people can walk on his street and area. Mr. Keating responded by saying that Meyers Court is a small street and would not be able to put in sidewalks. Mr. Stewart would like to see the street closed to vehicles.

There are also at least six junked cars, weeds and litter at Kingston Business Park. Why is this allowed? Why is Kingston Business Park immuned to property maintenance laws?

Mr. Stewart asked if council would close Meyers Court to traffic and the Mayor responded "no". Mr. Stewart requested that the record reflect that this street is a dangerous situation and since there are brown people in that area council doesn't care. The facts indicate that. Do yourself a favor and walk down other lanes, such as Taylor Lane, said the Mayor. With all due respect, the Mayor said you are bringing up an accusation because there are brown people that live there. Taylor Lane is in my neighborhood and there are brown people that live there. Mr. Stewart asked if there are sidewalks on Taylor Lane. The Mayor responded that it's an alleyway, there are no sidewalks in alleys.

ADMINISTRATORS VERBAL UPDATE:

The Kovalchik subdivision that was recently approved there was a 10 x 10 discrepancy that was recently found. Resolution 2020-21 is making the property correct. Ordinance 2020- 5 is being introduced this evening relating to the refunding of our 2020 General obligation bonds.

In 2015, a General Obligation Note was issued in the amount of \$4,625,000.00. Some of that money was refinanced money that we are carrying forward from when we built the fire house and other money was issued and we used it for the Kingston Pool and paving. This Ordinance will get the ball rolling when this Bond becomes callable in September, Kingston can't do anything with this bond issue until we hit the call period and we can close three months prior, which will be in September. This will be a refunding of what's out there plus new money will be available when we close. We will have to decide which direction we are going. It's a good time to borrow money. Mr. Keating also thought that Kingston should not stretch the term out on the note, borrow some additional money and the rates will go up but whoever is in charge in five years will set them up with some flexibility. We have access to do this every five-years. This is a win win for the town and there is no risk that is being taken. It's a matter of how much capital we can squeeze at closing by keeping the debt service relatively the same and affordable. Discussion regarding this subject will be at the Work Session in July.

The finance reports are in your packets. The first two quarters have been good for the Municipality. Revenue exceeds expenses in the amount of \$852,000.00. as of June 30. A lot of this has to do with tightening our belts with not spending, but our bigger taxes have come in very well and pleased with where we are at. The next three months when the second quarter numbers start to come in hopefully everything we have done thus far will carry us through troubled times and expect our numbers will be down considerably for the next three months.

Thanks to everyone regarding the Kingston pool. Everything is working out and there have been no complaints. Our August meeting may be at Church Street Park which is being worked on daily. It is progressing very nicely.

The Rec Center is open and there are limited capacities. The new fitness room looks great.

QUARTERLY DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC INPUT FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT:

None

AGENDA ITEM:

It was moved by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Schumacher that **Resolution 2020-20**; Approving Technical Changes to a Subdivision of Property Owned by David A. Kovalchik at Schuyler 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

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

Motion passes.

REPORTS:

The Fire Department responded to 387 calls.

The Police Department responded to 840 calls and 24 were in Pringle.

There are 301 memberships at the Rec Center.

DPW collected 265 tons of garbage and 133 tons of single stream recycling. DPW is also working very hard at Church Street park and there is still black topping.

Code Enforcement issued 6 violation letters, 2 non-traffic citations and performed 26 pre-sale inspections.

Finance reports are attached for your perusal.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Keating said there will be a Special Meeting after the Work Session on July 20.

Mayor Roberts had no comment.

Attorney Mattern said that there is no word from the Supreme Court regarding Franconi.

Mr. Schumacher said that it is nice to have residents here. Raising chickens or hens is not a good idea.

Mrs. Rowlands had no comment.

Mr. Jacobs thanked DPW and Mr. Keating for the great job they did at the pool and glad that the residents can enjoy the pool and park.

Mrs. Neville said that her neighbors are raving about the pool and glad there are no problems.

Mr. Thompson is proud of Kingston and thanked all departments.

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

FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL:

Robert Thompson, Jr. - President

ATTEST:

Julie Norton, Secretary
July 6, 2020