

MUNICIPALITY OF KINGSTON TOWN COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 17, 2020

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Town Council of the Municipality of Kingston was held in Council Chambers, 500 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston, Pennsylvania, on Monday, August 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Council were present.

Mr. Robert Thompson, Jr.-President

Mr. Rob Jacobs

Mr. Anthony Dicton-Vice President

Mrs. Nancy Cooper

Mrs. Roberta Rowlands

Mr. Jack Schumacher

Mrs. Margaret Neville

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

Mr. Thompson stated, for the record, Mr. Keating explained the agenda items during the work session that preceded this meeting.

**CITIZENS' REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:**

Sam Troy of 67 Butler Street, is concerned about the traffic in and around Dairy Queen. Mr. Troy feels that some type of sign at the ingress and egress should be posted to pedestrians. People are pouring in there with their cars. Mr. Keating said that the Police Chief and the owner of Dairy Queen met regarding developing a traffic plan and Dairy Queen hiring their own traffic enforcement. It is dangerous on Wyoming Avenue for pedestrians and vehicles. If things don't change, Kingston will see to it that Dairy Queen implements a traffic plan.

The crosswalk at Butler and Reynolds was repainted. Police enforcement should be there for traffic infractions. Mr. Troy believes there should be more enforcement in this area with people driving too fast and not stopping properly. Mr. Keating said that the police department has an unmarked car and they are

watching stop signs and for moving violations. If you look at the monthly police reports it is reflecting an increase of tickets for traffic stops. This car is used heavily for traffic violations. The police reports on a monthly basis has increased regarding traffic stops.

Mr. Troy feels as though the corner of Pierce and Wyoming is very dangerous to pedestrians and would like council to try and come up with a remedy. People can still turn right from Wyoming Avenue to Pierce Street. I think there should be a “no turn on red”. If the light sequence is changed, this might alleviate this problem somewhat.

At the corner of Gates and Pierce the crosswalks are faded and need to be painted. Mr. Keating stated that we can do that and it is usually done this time of year doing touch-up work from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. around town.

At Ridge Avenue and Pierce Street there seems to be lots of speeding. A crosswalk would be nice with signs. Mr. Keating is happy to look at this area, but it strikes Mr. Keating as a dangerous spot for a crosswalk. There is no traffic device at that area. Mr. Keating would rather see people cross at Pierce and Rutter instead of by Ridge Avenue because the traffic from the bank, the Post Office and Wyoming Avenue often is congested.

Lastly, Mr. Troy said that there are kids driving around with these battery-operated scooters. They are flying through stop signs. Rules are not being observed. The Mayor said that the kids need to adhere to the Motor Vehicle Code.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE VERBAL UPDATE:**

Mr. Keating does not have anything for this meeting. We are working on the bond credit rating. DPW finished N. Landon Avenue, and E. Hoyt Street between Wright Avenue and N. Atherton. We are planning to mill Wright Avenue on August 24 or 26, 2020 and will set a date for September for a grand opening dedication for Church Street Park. We are very close to being wrapped up at Church St. Park.

#### **AGENDA ITEM:**

It was moved by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Schumacher that **Ordinance 2020-6**; Approving an Agreement and Participation of the Police Department with the Luzerne County Driving Under the Influence Task Force

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mr. Schumacher - Yes

Mrs. Rowlands - Yes

Mr. Jacobs - Yes

Mr. Dicton - Yes

Mrs. Cooper - Yes

Mrs. Neville - Yes

Mr. Thompson - Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mrs. Rowlands and seconded by Mr. Dicton that **Ordinance 2020-7**; Approving the Agreement and Participation of the Police Department of the Municipality of Kingston with the Luzerne County Drug Task Force (LCDTF), Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney General and Luzerne County District Attorney's Office

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of council was recorded as follows:

Mr. Schumacher - Yes

Mrs. Rowlands - Yes

Mr. Jacobs - Yes

Mr. Dicton - Yes

Mrs. Cooper - Yes

Mrs. Neville - Yes

Mr. Thompson – Yes

Motion passes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Keating said that we submitted our Fares Application through the Luzerne County Office of Community Development. It is hopeful that we will have up to \$200,000.00 to spend. We are trying to qualify for a new fire truck. It has to be COVID related. We are trying to add custom compartments, incorporating sanitizing equipment, respirators, breathing treatments so that a fire truck could respond during this type of emergency. We have not heard anything as of this date. Mr. Mattern is not here this evening, Kingston does a great job compared to other municipalities, however; Kingston has to implement changes and not just this idea from Mr. Keating or myself or council. Kingston still could become a better community. We have posted signs, maybe some reflective paint when doing the cross walks because they are not visible at night and possibly green lights as Mr. Keating suggested. Mrs. Neville agrees that it is a two-way street, but we have to educate our community more r. It's just not pedestrians and it is just not drivers. Rutter Avenue, Pierce Street, Market Street and Wyoming Avenue are very busy and we need to make effective changes. We are listening to our residents. There are many busy streets and we need to make changes and believes we could get a little better.

but wanted to tell us that Verizon, through Attorney Williams at Hourigan, Kluger and Quinn wants to do the same thing as AT&T did with the cell towers. If things are worked out, we may have something at our next meeting.

Mayor Roberts had no comment.

Mr. Schumacher had no comment.

Mrs. Rowlands had no comment.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Mr. Troy for his participation. Your input is appreciated.

Mr. Diction thanked DPW for the hole that was fixed and the bees nest issue. There is constant attention to detail with all of the different issues in town. We always try to do the right thing without going over any budget. Kudos to everyone involved.

Mrs. Cooper had no comment.

Mrs. Neville agrees with Mr. Dicton on many of his comments except that we fall short at times. Kingston does a great job compared to other municipalities, however; Kingston has to implement change and not just an idea from Mr. Keating or myself or council. Kingston still could become a better community. We have posted signs, maybe some reflective paint when doing the cross walks because they are not visible at night. Possibly green lights as Mr. Keating suggested and he is probably correct. Mrs. Neville agrees that it is a two-way street, but we have to educate our community. It's just not pedestrians and it is just not drivers. Rutter Avenue, Pierce Street, Market Street and Wyoming Avenue are very busy with pedestrians and vehicles and we need to evolve and make effective changes. We are listening to our residents. There are many busy streets and we need to make changes and believes we could get a little better.

Mr. Thompson said that he received correspondence from Little League and it read that since Kingston made a donation to Little League and since there was not Little League this year, 2020, we can have our donation returned. Council felt that it should just be donated.

There being no new business and no further business, it was moved by Mrs. Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL:

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Robert Thompson, Jr., President

ATTEST:

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Julie Norton, Secretary  
August 17, 2020