

MUNICIPALITY OF KINGSTON TOWN COUNCIL

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 7, 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, December 7, 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

Mrs. Nancy Cooper                     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:**

None

**ADMINISTRATORS VERBAL UPDATE:**

Mr. Keating went over the grant narratives with council. There were no questions from council concerning this subject.

Council approved a loan from Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank last month for the purchase of a fire truck. Subsequent to that passage of that Resolution, it was learned that because of the amount of the loan that we would need to go through all of the debt act process, just as it was done with the bond borrowing. to lock in the 2.99% rate. Also, we would have had to pay our legal (bond) counsel \$17,500.00 to secure that loan. Seems a little ridiculous for the town to do that route. We have secured a loan through Costars at a fixed rate of 3.15% which completely fits within the parameters of our budget. It is a much better financial choice for Kingston as opposed to paying \$17,500.00 for bank fees. There were no questions from council.

At the moment, Kingston is paying \$10,700.00 per month (\$100.00 per ton) with GFL (used to be Northeast Cartage) for recycling which was emailed to council this afternoon. Wilkes Barre and surrounding cities are considering raising their recycling fees. Mr. Keating is proposing, effective first of January, to council that glass be removed from recycling. This is a temporary change. It would be a massive savings to this town. There is a lot of weight to glass and by removing this item would minimally increase garbage stickers and decrease the recycling tipping fee by approximately 50% or \$50.00 per ton. Mr. Keating suspects that there will be some residents who will be upset because it is an inconvenience or they are passionate about recycling but don't understand that there is no cost benefit analysis whatsoever. Mr. Keating thinks that we are doing the community a good thing by being proactive and diverting that into the waste stream until the commodity markets change again and it becomes cost effective. Is there anybody that would object to that? There were no objections.

Mrs. Neville told Mr. Keating that the residents are creatures of habit and what will happen if glass is found in recycling. Mr. Keating responded by saying some residents will be upset, but we will educate the residents by Facebook, web page, newspaper, etc.

Mr. Keating told council that glass can no longer be accepted. It's too costly. Mr. Keating believes it will cost 6 figures, at least, in 2021 if something is not done. Kingston's recycling fee will not sustain those fees if glass is still included in recycling. There is no market outlet for glass. Recyclers are scrapping for garbage.

Mrs. Neville asked if it is the weight of the glass and Mr. Keating said it was and there is no market for glass and should be treated as garbage. Mr. Keating has discussed this with DEP and there will be no penalties to Kingston. At this point, it's a monetary decision. Hopefully, in the Spring things will calm down.

Mrs. Cooper commented that she would rather sort recycling than pay more money. There is definitely people that would place their glass in their garbage as opposed to another fee. Times are tight right now for people.

Mrs. Neville thought that we could send each resident a sticker saying "no glass". As a community, we need to make an effort. Mrs. Neville also pointed out that residents' garbage will increase with this change.

Mr. Jacobs agrees that educating residents is important.

Mr. Keating said that Code Red will be used, newspaper, Facebook and web site to educate residents.

Mr. Thompson asked Mr. Keating for his best guess, if we do not eliminate glass, how much we would have to raise our recycling fee. Mr. Keating responded by saying up to \$60.00, maybe more.

Mr. Schumacher felt this was a no brainer and we should do this to save the residents money.

Mr. Keating asked if there were any objections and there were none. Mr. Keating feels this is a good solution to this problem.

As of November 30, 2020, our revenue exceeds expenses by \$912,658.97. In 2019, at this time, our revenue exceeds expenses by \$323,568.96. That is a fund balance of \$550,000.00. 91.53% of all appropriates and our spending is at 87.88%. or 3.65% less where it should be and our revenues are at 97.64%. Property taxes are up by \$20,000.00, Earned Income Tax is up by \$126,000, Deed transfers are up \$45,000.00 and Building permits are up \$87,000.00 since 2019. Mr. Keating stated that this is the best year financially since he has been the manager. If any council has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Keating.

**AGENDA ITEM:**

It was moved by Mr. Jacobs and seconded by Mrs. Rowlands that **Resolution 2020-32**; Approving a Land Development Plan for Property Owned by LaBella Associates at Main Street and Page Avenue in the Municipality of Kingston

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

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

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Schumacher that **Resolution 2020-33**; Rescinding a Borrowing Resolution from Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank previously enacted as Resolution 2020-31

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

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

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mrs. Rowlands and seconded by Mrs. Cooper that **Resolution 2020-34**; Approving the Borrowing of \$200,000.00 from Volunteer’s Financing Services, Inc.

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

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

Motion passes.

## **REPORTS:**

The Fire Department responded to 411 calls. Thursday is the delivery date for the new fire truck.

The Police Department responded to 678 calls were in 28 calls in Pringle.

There are 441 memberships at the Rec Center.

DPW collected 204 tons of garbage, 136 tons of single stream recycling and 200 yards of yard waste. Daily street sweeping has concluded.

Code Enforcement issued 3 violation letters, 2 non-traffic citations and performed 25 pre-sale inspections.

Finance reports are attached for your perusal.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Keating had no new business.

Mayor Roberts had no new business.

Attorney Mattern thanked Mr. Jacobs for suggesting we have these meetings telephonically.

Mr. Schumacher had no new business.

Mr. Jacobs had no new business.

Mrs. Rowlands thanked all departments for limiting their spending.

Mrs. Cooper said that the Kingston Police Department was in the paper two times last week. Good job!

Mrs. Neville had no new business.

Mr. Thompson thanked council for signing the card for Greg. The Fire Department is sponsoring Feed-A-Family. If you can donate, please do so. Lastly, the Police Department has extended their No Shave until the end of the year.

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

FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL:

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Robert Thompson, Jr. - President

ATTEST:

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Julie Norton, Secretary  
December 7, 2020