

MUNICIPALITY OF KINGSTON TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 2, 2019

MINUTES

The Town Council of the Municipality of Kingston was held in Council Chambers, 500 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston, Pennsylvania, on Monday, December 2, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Council were present.

Mr. John Schumacher - excused

Mr. Anthony Diction - excused

Mrs. Roberta Rowlands

Mrs. Nancy Cooper

Mrs. Margaret Neville

Mr. Rob Jacobs, Vice-President

Mr. Robert Thompson, Jr., President

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

At 7:05 p.m., Mayor Roberts read and presented a Proclamation to the Columbian Volunteer Fire Company.

CITIZENS' REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

Clark Stewart - 12 Meyers Court - Mr. Stewart apologized to Mr. Thompson for talking over him at the last monthly meeting. Mr. Thompson accepted his apology. Regarding the Minutes, Mr. Stewart said that if there is a little glitch, he would not mention it; however, the way this is laid out it does go against what Mr. Stewart wanted to say about a subject. This is contradictive. He values council's opinion. Mr. Stewart raised the problem over there (Meyers Court) and the town's laws from the bottom to the top, like administrators and other people. That end of town, where Mr. Stewart lives, he refers to as "area 51" of Kingston because no one knows what is going on over there. After Target Table was taken down, Mr. Stewart complained that the businesses were loud and the doors were open. When Mr. Stewart asked why this was happening, Mr. Keating basically interrupted the public participation which is between council and residents. Mr. Stewart said that Paul Keating bellowed out that this subject has been gone over

before; however, his comment wasn't directed at me, it was directed to council. Mr. Keating is telling council what to think. That was partly the reason why Mr. Stewart was annoyed because that part of the meeting was adjourned without me being heard. Mr. Thompson clarified Mr. Stewart's statement that Mr. Keating does not tell council how to think. At a previous meeting, it was suggested, by Mr. Diction, that Mr. Stewart call the police and he was....right and Mrs. Neville was the person who said that the area was a manufacturing zone. If you read the intent of the code it is super clear. The farther you get away from the intent of the code, it is torched logic. Mrs. Neville is not understanding Mr. Stewart's point because he has not called the police, which was suggested to him; however, Mr. Stewart said that calling the police is not an available solution for him. Mrs. Neville asked Mr. Stewart if his complaint is regarding noise, and Mr. Stewart responded yes. Mr. Jacobs asked Mr. Stewart if he resides at 12 Meyers Court and Mr. Stewart said "on and off", although he hasn't lived there for about two years because of Target Table. He needs to make a decision about this property, but believes that the demolition of Target Table is progress but many more things need to be done. Mr. Thompson suggested that Mr. Stewart come to a Work Session because he can speak longer to council.

ADMINISTRATOR'S VERBAL UPDATE:

Mr. Keating did not comment on Agenda #8 or 9 as it was discussed at length at the Work Session. Subsequent to the Work Session, our Building Inspector passed away unexpectedly and a decision needed to be made quickly. We do not have time to go through an interview process and we need building inspection services immediately. We are asking council to BHW as Kingston's building inspection service. The original proposal had a 60/40 split and we were able to negotiate a 50/50 split. Reviewing our fee schedule, BHW suggested that Wilkes-Barre Township's schedule has the most middle of the road fees. The Wilkes-Barre Township's fee schedule is a little lower than ours regarding residential, but the commercial fees are a little higher. We can get out of this contract with a 30-day notice. We are not bound by this for a long period of time.

Resolution 2019-30 regarding the LSA grant for renovations for this Municipal Building. The dollar amount is not yet available. This is a requirement for the grant we are applying for. We will fill in the dollar amount just as soon as it is available.

The Mayor, Chief Guido and Mr. Keating recently met with the Forty Fort Borough concerning our ongoing Fire/EMT services and we are hopeful that we will get a call that the Agreement will be good for a year. Forty Fort is having internal personnel issues.

The Contract was signed with the Multimodal Grant in the amount of \$800,000.00.

The recycling fee has gone up \$5 per ton. It is now \$63.00 and the numbers are not getting better for us. Please look at the worksheet entitled Solid Waste and Recycling Billing Analysis the net numbers from a \$25.00 per household would be approximately \$118,960.95 and that includes collection fees and there is also a 10% discount for senior citizens. At \$40.00 per household, the amount collected for recycling would be estimated at \$190,337.00. This is for council's consideration.

Regarding the EIT side, we are at 2.175% now. If we were to jump to 2.2%, based on this current year ending at \$4,558,441.00 and we budgeted \$4,553,000.00 which is only a \$5,000.00 difference. We are at 97.5% and would need \$113,000.00 for December to meet our budget appropriates and feel comfortable that if the EIT were to go up to 2.2%, that would be \$69,731.00 which is not enough to cover the increase in the cost of recycling. That is for the working person only. The recycling fee would include every person in town. Please meet with Mr. Keating should there be any questions.

Our December bond was recently paid. Our revenue exceeds expenses by \$323,084.96. We need \$237,000.00 to meet our total appropriations for 2019 with \$113,000.00 of that being EIT. I do not see any reason at this point why we won't meet or exceed all of our projected revenues for 2019.

On the expense side, we are at 93.78% with paying the bond. We should be at 91.5%, so our financial picture, with a month to go looks good.

AGENDA ITEM:

It was moved by Mr. Jacobs and seconded by Mrs. Rowlands that **Resolution 2019-26**; Confirming the Mayor's Re-appointment of a Citizen, John Sopp, to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Rowlands – Yes Mrs. Cooper – Yes Mrs. Neville – Yes

Mr. Jacobs - Yes Mr. Thompson - Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Rowlands that **Resolution 2019-27**; Approving an Agreement to Participate In Service Line Warranties of America Programs

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Rowlands – Yes Mrs. Cooper – Yes Mrs. Neville – Yes

Mr. Jacobs - Yes Mr. Thompson - Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mr. Jacobs and seconded by Mrs. Neville that **Resolution 2019-28**; Approving a Contract with Construction Consultation Services, Inc.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Rowlands – Yes Mrs. Cooper – Yes Mrs. Neville – Yes

Mr. Jacobs - Yes Mr. Thompson - Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mrs. Neville and seconded by Mrs. Cooper that **Resolution 2019-29**; Establishing Fees for Licenses and Permits

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Rowlands – Yes Mrs. Cooper – Yes Mrs. Neville – Yes

Mr. Jacobs - Yes Mr. Thompson - Yes

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mrs. Jacobs and seconded by Mrs. Cooper that **Resolution 2019-30**; Authorizing the Administration to Apply for \$_____ of Funds through the LSA Program for the Kingston Municipal Building Renovation Project

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Rowlands – Yes Mrs. Cooper – Yes Mrs. Neville – Yes

Mr. Jacobs - Yes Mr. Thompson - Yes

Motion passes.

REPORTS:

Department of Public Works collected 176 tons of garbage and 350 yards of yard waste. This department repaired inlets, patched potholes and put up holiday decorations.

The Finance report is attached. Should anyone have any questions, please call.

Mr. Keating reports that there is a total of 611 total memberships at the Kingston Rec Center. There are 731 members.

The Police Department responded to 35 calls in Pringle and 749 calls in Kingston.

The Fire Department responded to 412 calls.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Keating had no new business other than working hard getting the budget together.

Mayor Roberts asked council to consider a recycling fee as the fees are not going down and will probably go up. Mr. Keating stated that the General Fund will eat everything up from that point. It is actually \$15.00 less a ton for garbage than it is recycling.

Mr. Mattern said that on Tuesday there is an oral argument regarding Franconi in front of Federal Court (Appellate Court). Mr. Thompson asked Mr. Mattern if our legal fees would be paid should we win and Mr. Mattern replied "no".

Mrs. Rowlands congratulated Mr. Sopp and thanked the Wyoming Valley West students attending.

Mr. Jacobs congratulated Mr. Sopp, the Columbian Fire Department and thanked the Wyoming Valley West students for attending this meeting.

Mrs. Cooper welcomed the students and congratulated the Columbian Fire Department and Mr. Sopp.

Mrs. Neville said that the recycling fee is something to be considered.

Mr. Thompson welcomed the students and congratulated Mr. Sopp.

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

FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL:

Robert Thompson, Jr., President

ATTEST:

Julie Norton, Secretary
December 2, 2019