

MUNICIPALITY OF KINGSTON TOWN COUNCIL

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 1, 2021

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, March 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Council were present.

Mr. Robert Thompson, Jr. – President

Mr. Rob Jacobs-Vice-President Mr. Jack Schumacher Mrs. Roberta Rowlands

Mr. Anthony Diction Mrs. Nancy Cooper Mrs. Margaret Neville-excused

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

CITIZENS REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

None

ADMINISTRATORS VERBAL UPDATE:

With respect to Resolution 2021-8, Kingston cannot proceed with the pedestrian canopy without this Agreement with Norfolk Southern. The pledge on our part is around \$24,000.00. Kingston's insurance policy is \$3,500.00 per year for liability. Mr. Keating said that this is the most involved project he has worked on and this Agreement with the railroad is holding everything up.

Regarding Resolution 2021-9, the subdivision of property owned by ETK Realty, this was contingent approval with the Planning Commission. Mr. Glenn Johnson, who is the surveyor on this project explained that there are two lots, two separate deeds that would be combined. Mr. Keating told council that Attorney Mattern and the Zoning Committee have no problems with this subdivision.

Resolution 2020-10 is an Agreement with Jack Varaly who will redo our Zoning Ordinances and map. Mr. Keating would like the community and council be involved in this undertaking.

A huge thank you goes out to all firefighters and those involved in the fire on Eley Street. There were two fatalities and three homes involved, two of which had to be demolished because of excessive fire damage. There were water issues which have been addressed with PA American Water and will be remedied immediately.

Papers were served (Act 111) with a listing of issues. We are awaiting an informal meeting to discuss these issues. DPW's contract negotiations with AFSCME will begin April 1, 2021.

Kingston has received good news through the Luzerne County Community Development in that we have been awarded \$207,234.00 to pave Main and Page Avenue. Kingston applied for this money in 2020, but we did not make the cut.

A four-year plot plan includes the paving of Pringle Street in the amount of \$100,00.00 which may not be this year but that is what that money has been earmarked for, most likely, 2022. This street is a mess and needs paving.

Kingston has received an Agricultural Grant for digital communication equipment so that the police and fire department are compatible with 911.

LSA grants will not be reviewed until May 2021. Our 2019 904 Performance Grant was in the amount of \$20,469.12.

This is the first month that DPW has not collected glass in recycling and the difference in tonnage is dramatic. Residents are using the dumpster at the maintenance building on a regular basis. The tipping fees in January 2021 were \$13,973.00 and for the month of February 2021, the tipping fees were \$3,851.00. Kingston would be in trouble if we still collected glass.

Mr. Keating said that he would like to start advertising for Kamp Kingston and Lifeguards who will need to be recertified. \$100,000.00 was put into the Rec Center in the year 2020. Mr. Keating believes Kingston should advertise soon so that we are competitive with the JCC and YMCA.

AGENDA ITEM:

It was moved by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Jacobs that **Ordinance 2021-1; Establishing Standards for Small Wireless Facilities in the Rights-Of-Way in the Municipality of Kingston**

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mr. Schumacher -Yes Mr. Dicton – Yes Mrs. Rowlands – Yes

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

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mr. Jacobs and seconded by Mrs. Cooper that **Resolution 2021-8**; Approving an Agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mr. Schumacher -Yes Mr. Dicton – Yes Mrs. Rowlands – Yes

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

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mr. Dicton and seconded by Mrs. Rowlands that **Resolution 2021-9**; Approving a Subdivision of Property Owned by ETK Realty Jr., LP at Pierce Street in the Municipality of Kingston

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mr. Schumacher -Yes Mr. Dicton – Yes Mrs. Rowlands – Yes

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

Motion passes.

It was moved by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Dicton that **Resolution 2021-10**; Approving an Agreement with Varaly Associates, LLC

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mr. Schumacher -Yes Mr. Dicton – Yes Mrs. Rowlands – Yes

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

Motion passes.

REPORTS:

Mr. Keating received correspondence from Berkheimer which stated that our EIT total collections in 2020 changed by 2.27% compared to 2019.

Our General Fund has a balance of \$1,516,747.40. Mr. Keating was pleased that all that was done in 2020 has worked out for Kingston's General Fund. There was very little spending.

Kingston recently received their liquid fuels check in the amount of \$350,747.40. The projection was \$329,649.00, so it was a nice surprise to receive \$20,000.00 more than what was budgeted.

The Fire Department responded to 373 calls.

The Police Department responded to 525 calls and 21 were in Pringle.

There are 531 memberships at the Rec Center.

DPW collected 205.92 tons of garbage and 84 tons of single stream recycling. They are also filling the potholes, which there are many.

Code Enforcement issued 5 violation letters, 7 non-traffic citations and performed 16 pre-sale inspections.

Finance reports are attached for your perusal.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Keating had no comment.

Mayor Roberts had no comment.

Mr. Schumacher had no comment.

Mrs. Rowlands had no comment.

Mr. Dicton commended Mr. Keating on the great work he does for Kingston. Mr. Dicton feels that DPW takes good care of this town. Lastly, Mr. Dicton was happy to see that the new fire truck was ordained.

Mr. Jacobs asked what questions would be on the ballot for May. Mr. Keating suggested that council wait until the General Election and, at that point, council should decide what questions should be on the ballot. Mr. Jacobs also mention that the tot park on First Avenue is in need of a lot of work...it's a mess. Mr. Keating said that DPW will have the parks in shape by Memorial Day.

Mrs. Cooper commended Mr. Keating regarding the dumpster for glass at the Maintenance Building for residents to use. Mrs. Cooper inquired about Greg Kriner. Mr. Keating said that he still cannot talk, but doing ok. He has a long road ahead of him. Mrs. Cooper said that she will keep him in her prayers and thoughts. Mrs. Cooper welcomed back Chief Kotchik.

Mr. Thompson had no comment. Mr. Thompson also wished Mr. Kriner "well wishes".

There being no further business, it was moved by Mrs. Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL:

Robert Thompson, Jr. - President

ATTEST:

Julie Norton, Secretary
March 1, 2021