

MUNICIPALITY OF KINGSTON TOWN COUNCIL

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 6, 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 Tuesday, April 6, 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

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

CITIZENS REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

Clark Stewart, 12 Meyers Court believes that redoing Zoning in this Municipality is the smart thing to do. Mr. Stewart would specifically like to see his neck of the woods be concentrated on this time around, because that area was skipped the last time zoning was changed. Mr. Stewart feels that the zoning rules are not being adhered to and encourages the change. Mr. Keating said that yes, Kingston is redoing Zoning with a committee and a consultant. Mr. Stewart asked if there would be public meetings and Mr. Keating responded by saying there will be public meetings but not until Zoning has been completed.

Before Mr. Keating presented his verbal update, he discussed with council Resolution 2021-14, this is a conditional approval of the Preliminary Plan for PA King-AZAR instead of tying this project any more. Mike Brinkash, the Civil Engineer for PA King-AZAR said that this company proposes an 85,000 square foot addition and makes plastic display racks. The COVID virus did delay this project a little, but PA King-AZAR is back on track. The one condition that still needs to be met is paperwork through DEP. Mr. Keating said that this is the giant factory across from Keeley's.

ADMINISTRATORS VERBAL UPDATE:

Kingston has received a granted in this amount of \$26,500.00 which is the highest amount for digital communications with the Luzerne County 911 systems. Part of the equipment will be purchased from our Bond Capital Fund in the amount of \$63,000.00 to \$65,000,00. This is Resolution 2021-12.

Resolution 2021-13 extends the tax filing deadline for the mercantile tax until May 17, 2021. There is an email from Jim Hunt of Berkheimer regarding this matter.

Mr. Keating spoke to Andy Reilly recently and Kingston has received \$210,000.00 to pave Main and Page Avenue. We will get this out to bid this summer. The new Business Park at this address is expected to be up and running by July 2021.

Mr. Keating thanked Matt Cartright's office regarding the distribution of funds through the new American Recovery Act and had a conversation with John Blake regarding the reason we were reaching out and mentioned that we are due to receive there is \$1.27 million. The Department of Treasury has 60 days from the time they put these numbers out to certify them. There are different formulas that have been applied. Kingston is a non-CDBG community which means we do not have our own community block grant program because we are part of the county. In any event, if you are non-CDBG community you are eligible up to a maximum of 75% of the budget. \$1.2 million is not even close to our budget. It was pointed out that \$1.27 million is 12.95% of our budget and \$38 million is 72.87% of Wilkes Barre's budget. There are demographic factors involved which should not affect us. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Kingston should use this money wisely. At this time, there are no guidelines.

As of this date, there is no word on the LSA grant which will be a smaller amount compared to years past. The big question is the amount of the grant from LSA. The grants will be greatly reduced as compared to previous years.

Trenching will begin this week for the street lights on Third Avenue. A GTR grant may be worth looking into so that parking is added to this project at the Rec Center.

DPW is finishing all of the parks.

Ending the first quarter for 2021, our revenue exceeds our expenses in the amount of \$263,000.00. The budget looks good. Last year at this time, we were \$174,000 revenue over expenses. The monthly ending cash is \$1.5 million.

Scheduled mediation will begin next week with DPW.

We will advertise for the department head for the Rec Center.

AGENDA ITEM:

It was moved by Mrs. Rowlands and seconded by Mrs. Cooper that **Ordinance 2021-2**; Revising Chapter 65 of the Municipal Ordinances Regulating Open Burning and Prescribing Penalties for Violations Thereof

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. Schumacher and seconded by Mrs. Cooper that **Resolution 2021-11**; Approving a License Agreement for Small Wireless Installations on Public Structures with Northeast Pennsylvania SMSA Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless

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. Neville that **Resolution 2021-12**; Approving an Agreement with the USDA for Grant to be Used for New Digital Communication Equipment

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. Neville and seconded by Mr. Jacobs that **Resolution 2021-13**; Extending the Tax Filing Deadline for the Mercantile Tax until May 17, 2021

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 Mrs. Rowlands that **Resolution 2021-14**; Granting Conditional Plan Approval for the Preliminary Plan of the PA KING-AZAR International Land Development 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 Mrs. Neville that **Resolution 2021-15**; Extending the Tax Filing Deadline for the Earned Income Tax

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 thanked the Fire Department and correspondence from Mayor Brown regarding the Bielecki fire.

Attorney Mattern had no comment.

Mr. Schumacher had no comment.

Mrs. Rowlands congratulated the Fire Department for the great job they do.

Mr. Dicton had no comment.

Mr. Jacobs had no comment.

Mrs. Cooper asked if the PA American Water Company checked the hydrant. Mr. Keating responded by saying that the hydrants were checked on Chester Street. The flo testing and connectors are working properly, but Eley Street has an insufficient flow. Mrs. Cooper wanted to know if Little League is happening this year. Mr. Keating responded by saying there should be Little League.

Mrs. Neville inquired about the lighting on Third Avenue and also, is there going to be sidewalks in that area. Mr. Keating said...there are no sidewalks but there is a trail all along the grass area and will go into the park underneath the train tressel. Mrs. Neville would like to see sidewalks in that area. Residents would be encouraged to walk there. Mrs. Neville asked if there is some funding to be used for the sidewalks. Mr. Keating responded by saying there are a few more projects that we need to finish such as the streetscaping of Union Street, and the Municipal Building.

Mr. Thompson had no comment.

There being no further business, it was moved by Mrs. Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL:

Robert Thompson, Jr. - President

ATTEST:

Julie Norton, Secretary
April 6, 2021