

RIDGWAY BOROUGH MEETING
ZOOM MEETING
April 20, 2020

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020 on an online zoom meeting.

PRESENT: Council members Abbi Peters, Frank Quattrone, Keith Mader, Steve Caggese, Ralph Dussia, Sam MacDonald, and Ron Burkett. Also, in attendance were Borough Manager Paul McCurdy, Code Officer Mike Handley, Solicitor David Pontzer, Police Chief Ralph Tettis, Mayor Guillermo Udarbe, Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone, Emergency Management Coordinator Ray Imhof, two members of the press, and recording secretary Diana Newell.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for March 16, 2020. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Mader	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman MacDonald	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye

Councilman Quattrone made a motion to approve the emergency meeting minutes for March 24, 2020. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Mader	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman MacDonald	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Abstain- Wasn't present at the meeting.

Recognition of Visitors

There were no visitors.

Bid Award:

Twin 12" Water Line Replacement Phase II

Borough Manager Paul McCurdy discussed the twin 12" water line replacement phase II with council members. Councilman Dussia questioned McCurdy on the route that this replacement will take place. Dussia questioned McCurdy why they chose to go down Oak Street and whether this will save the Borough money or not. McCurdy reported to Dussia that this will save the Borough money. Dussia questioned McCurdy how much money this will save the Borough

and why they haven't looked into other routes for this project. McCurdy stated that they did look at other routes but there weren't any other savings going other routes. After much discussion, Councilman Dussia recommended that they should table this topic for one more month so that they could get more information on this and find out about how much money they would save if they went other routes throughout the town rather than through Oak Street. Councilman Caggese stated that this topic has already been voted on and that they are in the next step of the process which are the biddings. Councilman MacDonald discussed with Solicitor David Pontzer what should be done at this point. Pontzer explained that they can either vote to withdraw the bid and start over or they can award the bid to the appropriate bidder.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to table this topic for one month and gather more information for the next meeting. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Mader	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Opposed
Councilman Caggese	Opposed
Councilman Quattrone	Opposed
Councilman MacDonald	Opposed

Councilman Caggese made a motion to award the twin 12" water line replacement phase II to the lowest bidder, Bison Construction. Councilman Quattrone seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman MacDonald	Aye
Councilman Mader	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Opposed
Councilman Dussia	Opposed

Surety for Penn Dot

McCurdy stated that they will need \$410,000 surety for Penn Dot. He stated that there are two ways to do this with one being a letter of credit from the bank with secure deposit or to buy a security bond and buy insurance. McCurdy reported that the cheaper way is to get a letter of credit from the bank with a secure deposit for the \$410,000.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the cheaper way which is getting a letter of credit from the bank with a secure deposit for the \$410,000. Councilman Quattrone seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Opposed

Councilman Mader	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman MacDonald	Aye

600 Sheridan, Sealed Bid

McCurdy stated that there were two bids submitted for the 600 Sheridan lot. The first bid is from Ralph Bennini for \$5,052.00 with a 10% security deposit. The second bid is from Mary Bugden for \$5,013.00 with a 10% security deposit.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to award the 600 Sheridan property to the highest bidder, Ralph Bennini for \$5,052.00. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman MacDonald	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Mader	Aye

Correspondence

Code Office

Code Officer Mike Handley reported that the demolition 105 South Street is almost completed. He stated that it was a huge project that the owner saved the Borough a lot of money by completing the project himself.

Councilman Dussia questioned when Spring clean-up week will be. McCurdy stated that he is waiting until the social distancing is lifted to schedule this.

Mayor

Mayor Udarbe thanked everyone for the support from everyone for the fight against Covid-19.

Police

Councilman Quattrone made a motion to approve the reports A-E and pay the bills. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Mader	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman MacDonald	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye

Councilman Caggese Aye

Environmental Manager

Borough Manager

Covid-19 Task Force

Emergency Management Coordinator Ray Imhof discussed what the task force has been doing in the last couple of weeks. He stated that they have been meeting every day for the last three weeks and discussing any changes as well as keeping up to date with other various things regarding the pandemic. He explained that they had a teleconference with Penn Highlands Dubois and the State to discuss basic management regarding Covid-19. Imhof reported that the Governor extended the “Stay At Home” order for one more week until May 8th. He also stated that the town has been doing a wonderful job with doing their part of making the community safe.

Main Street Program

Borough Manager Paul McCurdy reported that the Main Street Program has offered a job for the manager position. He is waiting for this to be finalized hopefully within the next week.

Pavilion at Pool

McCurdy stated that the pavilion at the pool will be up for bid soon. McCurdy stated that Mayor Udarbe found a potential pavilion for this job and this will all be moving forward in the upcoming weeks.

Pool 2020 Season

McCurdy reported that he is waiting two more weeks until he decides whether it is safe for the community pool to be open for the 2020 season or not. McCurdy stated that there is a substantial amount of money needed for the pool to be able to open and he will wait for the Governor’s order in two more weeks to determine the decision. After some discussion, Councilman MacDonald gave the authority for McCurdy to make the decision when it is needed.

McCurdy reported that the council members checks will be coming in the mail for this month and that they need to complete and turn in their financial interest statements.

Committee Reports

None

Old Business

Elk County Solid Waste Authority Recycling Service Agreement

McCurdy stated that he submitted the revised service agreement to the Elk County Solid Waste Authority but he has not heard anything back from them yet.

New Business

Kenneth Heberling became a full-time police officer effective April 1, 2020.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to acknowledge that Kenneth Heberling became a full-time police officer effective April 1, 2020. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman MacDonald	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Mader	Aye

Councilman Quattrone made an acknowledgement that he did not mean to oppose the vote for hiring another full-time police officer at last month's meeting. He explained that he was opposed with where the new full-time officer's wages were coming from.

Councilman Dussia expressed his concern with the Q Care building in Ridgway closing since the pandemic. He requested that the Borough write a letter to Penn Highlands explaining how the services are needed in Ridgway and that the Borough isn't happy with their choice of closing. After much discussion, McCurdy stated that he will write a letter to Penn Highlands on the Borough's behalf encouraging them to restore Q Care and all of the services that were offered once the pandemic is over with.

After no further discussion, Councilman Dussia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. with no executive session. Councilman Quattrone seconded the motion and it was carried out unanimously.