

**RIDGWAY BOROUGH MEETING  
ZOOM MEETING  
May 18, 2020**

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 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, Mayor Guillermo Udarbe, Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone, Emergency Management Coordinator Ray Imhof, one member of the press, and recording secretary Diana Newell.

**ABSENT:** Police Chief Ralph Tettis

Councilman Quattrone made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for April 20, 2020. Councilman Dussia seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

**Recognition of Visitors**

**Larry Huber-** Larry attended the zoom meeting to discuss his request for outside seating to be permitted at the Brew Bank Restaurant in the borough. He explained the setup to be four tables with four chairs at each table. He stated that they will be on the Main Street side of the building and not the North Broad Street side. He also explained that there will be appropriate distance between the tables for social distance requirements as well as enough space between the tables and the street for pedestrians to be able to walk by. Code Enforcement Officer Mike Handley explained that there isn't an ordinance against this, in fact he encourages this for local businesses especially during this pandemic. Handley stated that the borough can adopt a policy to allow serving of alcoholic beverages outside at the tables as well. Handley stressed that Larry would have to go through PLCB for this to happen first.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve Larry Huber at the Brew Bank Restaurant to serve alcoholic beverages outside the establishment as long as PLCB approves. Councilman Quattrone seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Mader	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye

Councilman MacDonald     Aye  
Councilwoman Peters       Aye

David Pontzer, the Solicitor, stated that this can also be approved to other businesses throughout the town with a case by case situation.

**Bid Award:**

**Chemicals for Water and Sewage Treatment**

Borough Manager Paul McCurdy opened all of the bids that were submitted for the chemicals for the water and sewage treatment. After going through all of the bids, Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone requested council to give him the approval to asses the bids first to see which are the best and lowest bids for the chemicals before awarding them.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to award the lowest bidder provisionally upon review of the specs of the environmental manager. Councilman Mader seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

**Correspondence**

Borough Manager Paul McCurdy stated that from last months meeting, Penn Highlands has responded back from the letter that was sent. Penn Highlands stated in their letter that most of the services from Ridgway Q Care will resume but not all of the services at this time.

**Code Office**

Code Officer Mike Handley reported that the new owner of the Bogert has announced what he is envisioning for the building. He stated he plans to put in a bar/restaurant, three apartments and rooftop entertainment. The new owner is requesting input from the town of what they want him to do with the building as far as renovations.

Handley also stated that he would like to host a tour for the Buehler Lumber building to show council members what the building looks like and to see what has been acquired.

**Mayor**

Mayor Udarbe announced that Ken Heberling has started as a full-time police officer at the Ridgway Borough Police Department. Udarbe gave some background on Heberling and stated that he has been working part time for Ridgway for ten years.

Udarbe stated that the county has now been moved from red phase to yellow phase and stated how fortunate we are that the number of cases has remained steady in Elk County.

**Police**

Police Chief Ralph Tettis was absent from the meeting.

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

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

**Environmental Manager**

Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone stated that he was able to make a deal with the Northeast Borough. He explained that he counteroffered an offer that was given and he was able to get his offer. The belt filter press will be delivered to Ridgway by the Northeast Borough towards the end of the year.

**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 three days per week to go over any new information that they are receiving about covid-19. Imhof stated that so far our county has been very fortunate during this pandemic. Imhof stated that once the county is changed to the green phase there will still be restrictions and guidelines that will have to be followed.

**Main Street Program**

Borough Manager Paul McCurdy reported that the Main Street Program has been changed to a full-time position due to the Chamber of Commerce being able to increase their annual contribution towards the position. McCurdy stated that the full-time position has been filled and the manager has started working.

**Spruce Street Project**

McCurdy stated that they are going to start laying the curbs for the Spruce Street project. He explained that they have a machine that will do all of this and will be interesting to see.

### **Resurfacing 2020**

McCurdy stated that the resurfacing project has started and the streets will be milled. He explained that there will be many streets resurfaced this year.

### **Phase II Twin 12" Water Line Replacement**

McCurdy stated there will be a discussion on an issue for this replacement during executive session after the meeting. McCurdy explained that there is a breakdown of where the funding is coming from for this project in the council packet.

McCurdy reminded the council members to complete and turn in their Financial Interest Statements.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Planning Grants and Recreation**

The committee as requested for the community pool to be open at the earliest applicable date possible. Councilman MacDonald reported that other municipalities are doing different things and explained that the CDC guidelines are a little confusing but they will follow the guidelines as they understand them.

#### **Water, Sewer, Refuse, and Streets**

McCurdy stated that the Spring Clean Up is scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> from 7am-7pm. He stated that the Borough will need to pay \$5,000 this year which they don't normally have to since they usually do it in conjunction with the Great American Clean Up. McCurdy expressed how important this clean up is for the community.

McCurdy stated that the committee requested to not allocate money beyond the amount budgeted for the 2020 budget for transporting recycled containers from Ridgway. Tom Buck from the recycling board was present at the meeting to answer any questions. Buck reported that the township did budget enough money for their portion for the entire year of 2020. Buck explained that every time a container is pulled, the cost is split between the township and the borough. Councilman Caggese questioned Buck if they have looked into a new driving company for a decrease in cost. Buck reported that they were the only company that bid on this. He explained that it's a nice service to have for the community and not to make them drive to St. Mary's to dispose of their recyclables. McCurdy stated that the projected annual cost of the recycling program for the Ridgway Borough would be \$10,000.00. Councilwoman Peters expressed her concern with how she doesn't want to see this program disappear. After much discussion, Councilwoman Peters made a motion to fund the program entirely but there was a lack of a second motion which made the motion die. The Ridgway recycling center will close down.

#### **Finance**

McCurdy reported that the 2020 property taxes are \$13,000 higher than they were in 2019. He stated that this will not indicate that there will be more property tax revenue at the end of the year. He stated that income tax is down by \$7,000 from this year to last year.

He reported that the utility bills are so far being paid on time as usual. The committee recommends to pass a resolution in accordance with the PA ACT 15 extending the discount and face periods for Ridgway Borough property tax.

Councilman Quattrone made a motion to pass the ACT 15 resolution. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

Kenneth Sheasley became a full-time employee effective May 4, 2020.

### **Council Discussion**

After no further discussion, Councilman Quattrone made a motion to adjourn the meeting into executive session at 8:15 p.m. They will not be coming back.