

RIDGWAY BOROUGH MEETING
Second Ward Firehall, 321 W Main St, Ridgway, PA 15853
January 17, 2022

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 17, 2022 at the Second Ward Firehall.

PRESENT: Council members Abbi Peters, Steve Lawrie, Frank Quattrone, Steve Caggese, Brent Kemmer, Ralph Dussia and Ron Burkett. Also, in attendance were Borough Manager Michael Handley, Mayor Ray Imhof, Financial Manager Mary Lynn Feidler, Police Chief Ralph Tettis, Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone, Solicitor David Pontzer, Recording Secretary Diana Newell and One Member of the Press.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the minutes to the 2022 Budget Public Hearing meeting minutes held on December 20, 2021. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Aye

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes held on December 20, 2021. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the Reorganization Meeting minutes held on January 3, 2022. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye

Recognition of Visitors

There were no visitors.

Correspondence

Borough Manager Mike Handley reported that the Tri-County Rails to Trails Association is looking to do improvements with a large financial investment. They are requesting a donation for \$3,000 from the rescue funds from the borough to help offset some of the costs.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to refer this to the finance committee to discuss further.

Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye

Handley reported there is a borough resident, John Brown, who is requesting a stop sign be put in on Coral Alley and Van Buren Avenue. Brown stated in his letter that traffic has been going too fast and there needs to be a stop sign to prevent something bad happening in the future.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to refer this to the parking and traffic committee to discuss further. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye

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

Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Aye

Mayor

Mayor Imhof commended the borough staff for the efficient snow removal in the last two days.

Police Department

Police Chief Ralph Tettis stated that he submitted his end of the year report if anyone has any questions.

Fire Department

Ray Imhof reported the end of the year report for the fire department included 180 alarms and 3,700 hours of service on duty for 2021. He was happy to report that there were no major injuries or deaths throughout the year.

Environmental Manager

Quattrone reported he is finishing the end of 2021 report.

Borough Manager

Councilman Kemmer questioned Handley the snow removal process throughout the downtown streets. Handley reported the snow removal on the streets is done by the borough crew and will be discussed this week when this will take place. Handley also reported the protocol for the snow plows to come out after hours. He explained that the police department will assess the road conditions and if they are bad then they will call Handley and Handley will call the plow trucks out to remove the snow from the streets. Councilman Lawrie questioned Handley which staff members get called out to plow snow. Handley explained that the snow plow drivers will rotate throughout the staff available but he stated like every other business, they are lacking staff and people being able to work due to covid. Handley assured council members that staff members get breaks during snow storms and usually the staff get rotated into snow plow duty.

Handley reported the DCNR C2P2 grant that the borough applied for has been awarded. He explained the grant of \$2,500 will be contributed to the Rails to Trails feasibility study and connection.

Handley explained the Ridgway Mills campsite rentals are now open for booking and the campground will open April 1st with 12 sites. Handley stated there's a possibility of adding 8-10 more sites this year.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve adding the additional 8-10 sites to the campground for this year. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye

Handley reported that he bought the electrical wire for the Ridgway Mills campground and the electrical engineer for the borough will be installing this as well as putting in some outlets. Handley reported he received an engineers quote of \$7,000-\$10,000 for adding electric, sewer and water to each campsite. He stated the engineer recommends meeting to discuss various things such as concepts, drawings, planning, etc. Handley suggests taking this to the planning, grants and recreation committee to discuss further. Handley recommends having a special council meeting to discuss this and the spending of the ARPA money that will be coming this year.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to hold a special council meeting to discuss the Ridgway Mills campground and the ARPA money. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye

Handley reported the flood mitigation grant will open this year very soon and the borough will apply for it again this year. He stated although the borough was not awarded this grant last year, he hopes it will be awarded this year.

Liz and Robin Boni from the Chainsaw Rendezvous attended the meeting to request a few things for their event that will be held April 27-30. Liz requested that the campsite fees be waived for the chainsaw carvers. She stated there's at least 10 carvers wanting to book sites and probably many more as they get closer to the date. She discussed the event by stated there will be many craft and food vendors as well as live music.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve waiving the campsite rental fees for the chainsaw rendezvous carvers. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye

Robin Boni discussed with council members how great the Ridgway Mills space will be for an event center. He stated they are very excited for the new location of the event this year. He is

requesting more police presence at the event and possibly being able to block off a portion of the entrance so people can't drive their cars down into the event, but they would rather people park elsewhere to give more space for the event. Council members discussed with Police Chief Ralph Tettis and Handley about this matter. They assured Boni that there would be barriers available for blocking off a section of the entrance. Tettis assure Boni that there is always police presence at this event but unfortunately the police department is also experiencing shortage of staff members so therefore they will do the best they can that weekend.

Handley reported the Earned Income Tax notices have been sent out to the Ridgway residents.

At 6:41 p.m. councilman Dussia made a motion to move into executive session and they will be returning.

At 7:15 p.m. council members came back from executive session.

Handley reported Ed Horner has retired as of January 7, 2022.

Committee Reports

Councilman Caggese reported the personnel committee has recommended hiring a professional grant writer with the salary of \$25,000. Caggese reported the position was budgeted for this year. Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the hiring of a professional grant writer. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye

Old Business

Tree City USA Update - Arbor Day Proclamation (April 29, 2022)

Handley reported the Ridgway Borough has become a member of the Tree City USA and council must made an official proclamation of Arbor Day. Handley stated they have decided to do April 29, 2022 for Arbor Day this year and will be the last Friday of April every other year after.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the proclamation of Arbor Day to be the last Friday of April every year. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye

Councilman Quattrone Aye
Councilman Kemmer Aye

New Business

Green Light-Go Project Grant-

Handley stated there has been a need for extra traffic control on North Broad St and Main St. Handley explained he submitted an application for grant funding to help implement it. He stated there already has been \$2,000 budgeted for this project but they would need an additional \$6,000. Chief Tettis questioned that if this was awarded then an extra \$6,000 would be needed. Handley confirmed with Tettis that the extra \$6,000 would be needed if the grant was awarded. After much discussion, council decided there needs to be more information on this before it is decided on.

Approval of Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Ambulance Corporation Board - Frank Quattrone Expire January 2024

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve Frank Quattrone with an expiration of January 2024. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilwoman Peters Aye
Councilman Caggese Aye
Councilman Dussia Aye
Councilman Burkett Aye
Councilman Quattrone Aye
Councilman Lawrie Aye
Councilman Kemmer Aye

Borough Planning Commission - Matt Frank and Zack Pontious to fill vacancies for 4-year terms. Expires March 2026. Padraic McGrath to fill vacancy for the remainder of the 2-year term. Expires March 2024.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve Matt Frank and Zack Pontious for a four-year term and Padraic McGrath to fill vacancy for the remainder of the 2-year term. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese Aye
Councilwoman Peters Aye
Councilman Dussia Aye
Councilman Burkett Aye
Councilman Quattrone Aye
Councilman Lawrie Aye
Councilman Kemmer Aye

Shade Tree Commission - Mike Hovatter to extend term for another 5 years. Expires January 2027.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve Mike Hovatter to another 5-year term. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye

Zoning Hearing Board - Martin Fannin to fill vacancy for the remainder of the 1-year term. Expires February 2023. Ron Chappel to extend term for another 3 years. Expires February 2025. Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve Martin Fannin and Ron Chappel to sit on the Zoning Hearing Board. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye

Council Discussion

There was no council discussion.

After no further discussion, council adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. into executive session for personnel and legal matters. They will not return.