

RIDGWAY BOROUGH MEETING
Second Ward Firehall, 321 W Main St, Ridgway, PA 15853
March 21, 2022

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2022 at the Second Ward Firehall.

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

ABSENT: Councilman Ralph Dussia

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes held on February 21, 2022. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Caggese | Aye |
| Councilman Burkett | Aye |
| Councilman Kemmer | Aye |
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |
| Councilwoman Peters | Aye |

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the Special Meeting of Council minutes held on March 10, 2022. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Caggese | Aye |
| Councilman Burkett | Aye |
| Councilman Kemmer | Aye |
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |
| Councilwoman Peters | Aye |

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to approve the Street Lighting, Parking and Traffic committee meeting minutes held on March 15, 2022. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |
| Councilwoman Peters | Aye |
| Councilman Burkett | Aye |
| Councilman Kemmer | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |
| Councilman Caggese | Aye |

Recognition of Visitors

Liz Boni attended the meeting to discuss some details for the Chainsaw Rendezvous which will be held April 27-30. She requested to have access to the Ridgway Mills property the week prior to the event in order to set up the many vendors and carvers. Borough Manager Mike Handley stated there are some campsites that are already rented out for a few of the days prior to the event but he will talk with her further about what can be done prior to the event.

Jodi Guisto attended the meeting to discuss the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College that is offered in St. Mary's at the CEC building. She gave an overview of what the College has to offer and assured she could answer questions that anyone may have about the courses.

Correspondence

Elk County Riders-

Handley stated that the Elk County Riders is seeking a letter of support for their grant application seeking the Byrnedale ATV Bridge to connect the trail system.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the letter of support for the Elk County Riders.

Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Caggese | Aye |
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |
| Councilman Burkett | Aye |
| Councilman Kemmer | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |
| Councilwoman Peters | Aye |

Ridgway Ambulance Corporation-

Handley stated the Ridgway Ambulance Corporation is seeking a letter of support for House Bill 1445. He explained the bill will provide special funds for emergency medical response transfers, specifically for payment for a certain mile radius to a hospital.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the letter of support for House Bill 1445.

Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilwoman Peters | Aye |
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |
| Councilman Caggese | Aye |
| Councilman Burkett | Aye |
| Councilman Kemmer | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |

Family Dollar-

Handley reported the Aiello Café building is in the process of being sold to Family Dollar. He stated the Family Dollar is requesting the four parking spaces outside of the building to be permanently removed for a loading and unloading zone. Handley explained the Family Dollar did talk about possibly being able to make the space across from the Armory building to be public parking once they redo the lot which will also be within the sale of the Aiello Café

building. After much discussion, council members agreed that if they make the space across from the Armory building public parking then this would benefit the town.

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to approve the removal of the 4 parking spaces in front of the former Aiello Café building for a loading/unloading zone for Family Dollar contingent upon them renovating the space across from the Armory for public parking with concrete paved sidewalk and parking spaces to benefit the town. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |
| Councilman Caggese | Aye |
| Councilwoman Peters | Aye |
| Councilman Burkett | Aye |
| Councilman Kemmer | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Caggese | Aye |
| Councilwoman Peters | Aye |
| Councilman Burkett | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |
| Councilman Kemmer | Aye |

Mayor

Mayor Imhof welcomed the new Police Chief Shawn Geci to his first borough council meeting as the new Chief of Police. Geci was sworn in on March 4, 2022 as the new Police Chief for the Ridgway Borough.

Imhof thanked Geci for coming to Coffee with the Mayor in March and invited the borough council members to attend the next Coffee with the Mayor on April 23 from 9:00am-10:00am at the Creative Cup.

Police Department

Police Chief Shawn Geci provided council with the report and assured them he would answer any questions they may have.

Fire Department

Mayor Imhof provided council with the report and assured them he would answer any questions they may have.

Environmental Manager

Quattrone reported there has been a second motor that burnt up but since then both pumps have been rebuilt and everything is all good now.

Borough Manager

Personnel Update

Handley reported that Ralph Tettis retired from the Chief of Police position on March 4, 2022. Handley reported that Shawn Geci was sworn in as the new Chief of Police on March 4, 2022.

Code Enforcement Office Update

Handley reported that Bruce Gess was hired as the new part time Code Enforcement Officer and will continue with his part time Animal Control position. Handley stated he put a six-month probation period on the position.

Handley reported there is a need for an unbudgeted expense for the new sewer line from Penn Ave. to Montmorenci Rd. of \$102,535.00 which will come from the sewer capital replacement fund to the project.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the unbudgeted expense transfer of \$102,535.00 from the sewer capital replacement fund to the sewer line project. 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 |

Handley stated that the RTMA is requesting a penalty fee waiver of \$2,808.35. The bill was paid late and there was an automatic late payment fee added to their bill.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to waive the late fee penalty. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Caggese | Aye |
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |
| Councilwoman Peters | Aye |
| Councilman Burkett | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |
| Councilman Kemmer | Aye |

Handley reported that on May 16 the borough council meeting will be unable to be held at the firehall due to prior rental for the election that day. Handley assured everyone he will announce where the temporary location will be that day.

Handley reported the borough compost will open on April 2.

Handley reported the borough clean up will be held the week of April 18-22. He stated there has been a request for the Spring Creek township to use the borough space the same week for their clean up and they will contribute \$500 towards the expenses. After much discussion, council

members decided it would be sufficient for them to use the space if they paid for two of the roll off dumpsters that will be used.

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to approve the Spring Creek Township to use the Ridgway Borough clean up week and their space if they pay the amount of two roll off dumpsters to assist with expenses. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |
| Councilman Caggese | Aye |
| Councilwoman Peters | Aye |
| Councilman Burkett | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |
| Councilman Kemmer | Aye |

Old Business

Handley reported he attended a meeting with many other officials throughout town on the local downtown camera system. He stated there has been a request from the county and a resident to install the camera system. He reported the county will pay for 50% of the costs up to \$75,000 and a local resident will also participate in funding. It was reported that it costs approximately \$1/day per camera. Handley explained that there would be other costs with the camera system such as the brackets needed to put them up and a few other expenses that they would bring. After lengthy discussion between council members, they agreed it wasn't a necessity at this time for our town.

Councilman Lawrie made a comment that he doesn't think the \$30,000 allotted for the new council room and meeting room space at the borough office would be enough. He explained there is a lot to the process and the plans need to be drawn up and presented to properly estimate an amount of money for the project. Handley agreed and will move forward with the plans.

New Business

There was no new business.

Council Discussion

There was no council discussion.

Councilman Caggese adjourned the meeting in to Executive Session at 7:18 p.m. and they will be returning.

After returning from Executive Session at 7:35 p.m., council members had nothing to report on. After no further discussion, Councilman Lawrie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.