

**RIDGWAY BOROUGH MEETING**  
**Ridgway Loyal Order of Moose**  
**237 N. Broad St., Ridgway, PA 15853**  
**May 16, 2022**

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 16, 2022 at the Ridgway Loyal Order of Moose.

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

ABSENT: Councilman Ralph Dussia and Solicitor David Pontzer

Councilman Burkett made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes held on April 18, 2022. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

**Bid Awards**

**Chemical Bids:**

Borough Manager Michael Handley reported they have advertised and reviewed the sealed bids that they have received for the chemical bidding. He stated the bid tab sheet was sent out for everyone to review prior to this meeting. Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone recommended council members to award the lowest bids complying to the bid specifications for all commodity chemicals except Chlorine 150 lb. cylinders for water and 2000 lb. cylinders for wastewater. The Environmental Manager recommends rebidding for sealed bids for Chlorine 150 lb. cylinders for water and 2000 lb. cylinders for wastewater.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to award the lowest bidder in each category except the chlorine which will be sent for a re-bid. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

**Recognition of Visitors**

Kyle Baker from Troop 93 reported his Eagle Scout project has been completed and that all 20 benches will be placed within the parks and campground within the borough.

**Correspondence**

Liz and Zoe Boni attended the meeting to thank the borough council members for allowing them to use the Ridgway Mills Campground for the Chainsaw Rendezvous this year. They were very pleased with how it turned out and hope to continue having it at the same location in the future.

**Elk County Commissioners**

Councilman Caggese made a motion to refer the Elk County Commissioners topic to the Fire, Police, Property and Equipment Committee. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

**Abbottstown Borough**

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to table this topic to a later date. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

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

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

**Mayor**

Mayor Imhof reported there will be no coffee with the Mayor in May due to the holiday. He stated the next one will be on June 18 and he welcomed the council members to attend.

**Police Department**

Police Chief Shawn Geci reported he added a new line to the police department report to include the drug activity within the borough. Geci stated it is Police Memorial Week and he had the honor to attend the Police Memorial in Johnsonburg. Geci reported the new police patch and uniforms have been finalized. He passed a sample of the patch around for everyone to see.

**Fire Department**

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

**Environmental Manager**

Quattrone reported everything is currently running smoothly at both plants.

**Borough Manager**

Handley reported Tama Foster has been hired full-time as of May 16, 2022 for the new Finance Director.

Handley reported the first part of the DCNR C2P2 grant has been received for the Clarion Little-Toby Rail Trail extension project from Ridgway to Johnsonburg in the amount of \$9,600.

Handley reported on the DEP Section 902 Recycling Grant Award. He stated this grant was open last fall and he applied for it. Handley reported he received notice that the grant has been awarded for \$212,000 to use for the new leaf collection truck. He explained this will now save \$212,000 from being taken out of the trucked waste fund. He stated the new truck will be purchased after the next meeting once the funds have been received.

Handley stated the borough street sweepers engine has had a major engine malfunction within the last few weeks and street sweeping was put on hold for a while until they were able to explore all options of how to get the streets cleaned. Handley explained the township was generous enough to lend their street sweeper to the borough for them to use to clean the streets. He stated the engine in the street sweeper will still need fixed, but this will be used for the time being. He explained the estimated cost for repair will be \$8,000-\$12,000.

**Committee Reports**

At 6:19 pm the council members went into executive session for personnel and legal matter and will be returning.

At 6:36 pm council members came back from executive session and reported the following personal committee recommendations:

1. The summer student mow crew wage adjustment to \$10 per hour with a 25 cent raise for each returning employees. The compost employee increase from \$10.67 to \$11.50. Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the summer student mow crew adjustment of \$10 per hour with a 25 cent raise per hour for each employee returning as

well as the compost employee increase from \$10.67 to \$11.50. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

2. Implement Employee Handbook to establish policy and procedures to borough employees.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the employee handbook to establish policy and procedures to borough employees. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

### **Planning, Grants, and Recreation Committee**

There was a committee meeting held on May 4<sup>th</sup> which Liz & Zoe Boni attended. They discussed the Ridgway Mills Campground and the future flood mitigation plans. They reported GT Thompson gave really good feedback from the event and venue of the Chainsaw Rendezvous.

Also discussed during this meeting was the YMCA request from Michelle Bogacki and Mary Lynn Bellotti. They requested a letter of support for the splash pad project as well as a monetary donation of \$12,500 for the Phase 2 part of the project.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to give the YMCA the letter of support as well as the monetary donation of \$12,500 for the splash pad project. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Another topic at the meeting was the ARPA funds of \$196,000 that will be received in July and how they can leverage the funding. There has been a request for water sources at the parks this year for the Summer Parks Program. The O.B. Grant Park was put into the water and sewage budget for ADA access and drinking fountain station for \$2,000.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the ADA drinking and water station at O.B. Grant Park. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

**Old Business**

**DCED Flood Mitigation Program Grant Resolution**

The borough is requesting funding for a Flood Mitigation Study for the Clarion River and Elk Creek in the Ridgway Borough. The estimate from Tetra Tech is \$110,504. Additionally, the FMP grant allows the capture of 2% administrative fees. This puts the total project cost at \$112,804. The grant request is \$95,883. The 15% match commitment is \$16,921. We budgeted \$22,500 keeping us below budget if we are awarded the funding.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to support the resolution for the DCED flood mitigation program grant. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

**Ridgway Ambulance Corporation 2022 Service Agreement**

Handley reported the borough currently pays \$2,000 annually for the ambulance service with 3 visits for free. It is time to renew this, and the ambulance still is requesting the \$2,000 for 3 visits for free. Handley reported this is not budgeted. After much discussion, council members stated the ambulance should give the borough 5 visits for free with the \$2,000 annual fee.

Councilman Burkett made a motion to initiate the 5 free visits with the \$2,000 annual fee for the Ambulance Corporation. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

**New Business**

Handley reported the owner of the property of 31 North Broad Street has made a special request to council to grant a variance to the restriction established in Ordinance No. 557 Amusement Devices to prohibit “games of skill” being located within 300 ft. from a public playground. The upstairs apartments were determined to be an approved continued use and the hair salon as a personal service shop, which is a permitted use within the Commercial District. The “games of skill venue” as an indoor recreation facility is questionable but can be approved as a recreation by definition is an “activity done for enjoyment when one is not working”. But there may be an issue with the Skill Machines being located within 300 feet of the public playground. The broadest definition for a public playground may include a public basketball court, community pool, etc. Therefore, the basketball courts and community pool may be considered as such.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion not to approve the games of skill for 31 North Broad Street. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Handley reported there is a request of appraisals and sales of borough owned properties. He listed properties: 6 E. Cardott St., 314 North Broad St., 572 North Broad St., 575 North Broad St., 563 Rock St., 143 Sherman Ave., and 112 Valley St. Handley reported all properties were borough owned and vacant empty lots. He requested to have them all appraised and sell them. Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the appraisals and selling of the borough owned properties. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Handley also reported there is a minor subdivision request from the borough planning commission. He explained Clarion River Holdings, LLC is requesting to subdivide a small portion of the motion control building. The parcel 12-12-246-5318 with no condition. Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the subdivision of the motion control building. 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 Quattrone      Aye  
Councilman Kemmer        Aye

**Council Discussion**

Councilman Caggese pointed out the fact that Handley saved the borough \$212,000 with the grant he applied for. He and the other council members commended Handley for a job well done.

After no further discussion, Councilman Burkett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m.