

RIDGWAY BOROUGH MEETING
Second Ward Firehall
321 W Main St, Ridgway, PA 15853
September 19, 2022

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 6:00 p.m. on Monday September 19, 2022 at the Second Ward Firehall.

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

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes held on August 15, 2022. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Recognition of Visitors

The visitors present were in attendance with the agenda topics.

Correspondence

North Central Pennsylvania RPDC

Josh and Jenna Girts along with Mike Johnson attended the meeting to discuss their concerns for the temporary access to Ridgmont from Cottage Lane during a short construction timeframe.

They expressed their concerns that this never was a thruway and they don't want it to become an access to Ridgmont not even temporarily. They stated they have kids and dogs they don't want to risk safety with extra traffic using their dead-end street at this time. Council referred this topic to the Street Lights, Parking and Traffic Committee to discuss further.

Ridgway Animal Haven

The Ridgway Animal Haven is requesting to be put into the Borough's budget for some financial assistance for their trap and release program.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to refer the Animal Haven request to the upcoming budgeting sessions. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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|---------------------|-----|
| Councilman Dussia | Aye |
| Councilman Caggese | Aye |
| Councilwoman Peters | Aye |
| Councilman Burkett | Aye |

Councilman Quattrone Aye
Councilman Lawrie Aye
Councilman Kemmer Aye

Elk County Wilds Tourism Association

Councilman Dussia made a motion to refer the Elk County Wilds Tourism Association to Planning, Grants and Recreation Committee for further discussion. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Community Petition

Councilman Dussia made a motion to refer the Community Petition to the Street Lights, Parking and Traffic Committee. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Finance Department

Councilman Dussia 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:

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

Mayor

Mayor Imhof reminded council of coffee with the mayor this Saturday at the Creative Cup and invited everyone to join him.

Police Department

Police Chief Shawn Geci provided council with his report if anyone has any questions. Geci also reported he is in the process of holding a Civil Service Exam to hire a new police officer. Geci announced that the new police uniforms have been completed and are now being worn by the officers.

Fire Department

Mayor Imhof reported there was a bad accident on Johnsonburg Road with several fire departments battling the vehicle fire. He assured all of the departments worked very well together despite the accident being a fatality.

Environmental Manager

Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone gave an update on the Scada project for the water plant.

Borough Manager

Personnel Announcements

The last day of employment for Justin Kline was July 28, 2022.

The last day of employment for Collin Meeker was September 8, 2022.

Employment Opportunities

The Ridgway Borough is accepting applications for a full-time position within the Public Works Department. The application packets are due to the Borough Manager by September 30, 2022. More details can be found on the Borough website.

Re-Codification of Ordinances Update

Handley reported this project has been sitting idle for about seven years. He stated that the Borough budgeted \$7,500.00 in 2022 for the final phase of the project. He explained the ultimate goal of this project is to get the Borough Code online for the public. He reiterated that each chapter is being currently reviewed and being updated accordingly. He assured that some of the chapters will be reviewed at the committee level.

Green-Light Go Grant Administrative Update

Handley explained that in order to begin the administration of this grant, council acknowledged and approved the \$40,000.00 transfer from our Trucked Waste Surplus to the traffic signals. Handley stated that council was aware that \$32,000.00 will be reimbursed back to the Trucked Waste Surplus from grant funds.

Section 902 Grant Municipal Recycling Grant Update

Handley reported the final contract agreement has been signed to receive \$212,000.00 in grant funding for the new leaf truck. The total costs for the leaf truck have been projected upwards to be \$300,000.00 now. Handley stated he looks to order the new truck in October 2022. He explained the trucks chassis is expected to be available within 12 months and the leaf vac

assembly and dual steering should be available within 18 months. Handley hopes the full assembly will be done by Fall of 2023 but it is very unlikely.

Borough Vehicle/Equipment Updates

Handley reported the street sweeper repairs have been completed and is out cleaning the streets. He explained the aging leaf collection truck will be used this season and possibly next season too. He assured that the procedure will stay the same with collecting leaves for a couple weeks. He stated the schedule will be posted when it is in place. Handley encourages everyone to still bag their leaves if they are able to.

Municipal Building Renovations

Handley reported the Borough conference room project planning is underway. He assured the engineered stamp drawings should be ready by mid-October for Council review.

Tricounty Rails to Trails Fundraiser

Handley reported the tricounty rails to trails will be having a fundraiser at the Ridgway Loyal Order of Moose on October 8, 2022. He stated it will be an Oktoberfest theme with kraut, sausage, pretzels, and beer specials starting at 5:00 pm and JB Unplugged starting at 6:30 pm.

Committee Reports

Personnel

Ordinance/Property Maintenance Officer

Councilwoman Peters read the committee meeting minutes. Handley reported that in 2022, the borough cut 15-20 hours per week of animal control hours, hoping to make room for the recommended full-time ordinance/property maintenance enforcement position. He explained currently, Council has approved a part-time 24 hours per week property maintenance at \$15.00 per hour. Handley reported the community wants and needs this position. Councilman Dussia recommended to refer this to a committee to discuss it further.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the hire of a full time Code Enforcement Officer for 40 hours per week at \$15.00 per hour. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Chief of Police

Councilwoman Peters read the committee meeting minutes which stated the committee has approved Police Chief Shawn Geci's satisfactory completion for 2022.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the raise of \$2,500.00 for Police Chief Shawn Geci. 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 Kemmer | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |

Community Economic Development Coordinator

Councilwoman Peters read the committee meeting minutes which recommends to apply for the DCED Phase II funding grant to provide an opportunity to hire a community and economic development coordinator.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to apply for the DCED Phase II funding grant to hire a community and economic development coordinator. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Planning, Grants and Recreation

Community Pool Splash Pad

Many visitors were in attendance from the YMCA to discuss the new Community Pool Splash Pad. The committee discussed the cost of \$250,000.00 for the splash pad. The committee is requesting to apply for the DCNR C2P2 grant to fund the splash pad project.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to apply for the DCNR C2P2 grant for the funding.

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

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

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the Resolution No. 4-2022 for the project.

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

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|---------------------|-----|
| Councilwoman Peters | Aye |
|---------------------|-----|

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Dussia | Aye |
| Councilman Burkett | Aye |
| Councilman Kemmer | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |
| Councilman Caggese | Aye |

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve opening a bank account through the Borough in order to put donations and money in for the Splash Pad. Councilman Dussia seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Parks Revitalization

There were several Parks Revitalization Committee Members in attendance at the meeting discuss updates. The committee stated there has been fundraising started for the North Broad Street Park already and some donations have also been collected.

Councilwoman Peter made a motion to approve opening a Borough bank account for the Parks Revitalization Program to use for collection of fundraising and donation money. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

The committee also recommended using \$150,000.00 in ARPA funding allocations for the RPRC parks improvement projects prioritizing a new restroom/storage facility at O.B. Grant Park.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the ARPA funds of \$150,000.00 going towards the RPRC parks improvements. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Councilman Dussia Aye
Councilman Caggese Aye

The committee stated they are ready to start the Neilson Park and would like approval of funds. Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the new pavilion, picnic table, and cement slab at the Neilson Park with RPRC funding. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

The committee stated they have met with the Shade Tree Commission for unnecessary trees at the O.B. Grant Park. The Shade Tree Commission has approved the removal of several trees and the committee has secured an insured tree removal company at no cost.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the tree removal at O.B. Grant Park. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Old Business

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve Resolution No. 4-2022. 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 Kemmer Aye
Councilman Quattrone Aye
Councilman Lawrie Aye

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve Resolution No. 5-2022. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Dussia Aye
Councilman Burkett Aye

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

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve Resolution No. 6-2022. 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 Kemmer | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |

New Business

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the Police Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation. 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 Kemmer | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the Non-Uniformed Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation. 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 Kemmer | Aye |
| Councilman Quattrone | Aye |
| Councilman Lawrie | Aye |

Councilman Peters made a motion to approve Resolution No. 7-2022. 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 Kemmer Aye
Councilman Quattrone Aye
Councilman Lawrie Aye

Councilman Dussia made a motion to advertise Ordinance No. 682. 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 Kemmer Aye
Councilman Quattrone Aye
Councilman Lawrie Aye

After no further discussion, council adjourned the meeting at 6:53 pm with no executive session.