

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

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 6:00 p.m. on Monday December 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, Fire Chief Scott Pontious, Mayor Ray Imhof, Solicitor David Pontzer, Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone, One Member of the Press and Recording Secretary Diana Newell.

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

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

Recognition of Visitors

John Fletcher attended the meeting to discuss the hometown hero banners that will be displayed throughout Ridgway. Fletcher provided council with a brief explanation of the banners. He stated they will be displayed from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. He provided council with the banner application and requested their permission for displaying these within the borough. He assured he wouldn't damage anything while displaying these and is having proper brackets made by McDermott Welding.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the permission for displaying the hometown hero banners throughout the borough of Ridgway. 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

Andy Buehler attended the meeting to discuss his concern with a recent situation he was in with the police department regarding illegal driving with his log truck on Center St. He explained he

travels to the Court House about one time per month with his log truck. He explained he was stopped by a borough police officer and warned he wasn't allowed to be driving on Center St with his log truck. Buehler explained to council he never knew this in the 40 plus years he has been doing this. He expressed his concern with the poor signage around the Court House indicating his log truck isn't allowed on that road. After much discussion with council members, this matter was referred to the parking and traffic committee to discuss further.

Finance Department

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

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

Mayor

Mayor Imhof wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a job well done this year.

Police Department

Police Chief Shawn Geci reported Paul Butler has been hired as a full-time officer as of December 6, 2022. Geci stated he and Officer Heberling participated with Shop with a Cop event in St. Mary's. Geci also reported he hired part time officer to attend Mercyhurst starting January 9, 2022 for the Police Academy and is expected to complete in June. Geci stated he and Officer Bolden applied for a grant for body worn cameras and they have been awarded the grant.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Scott Pontious reported there are two new chiefs for the fire department.

Environmental Manager

Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone reported they received the Scada permit in the mail with special conditions. Quattrone stated he will be in contact with the company to find out what the special conditions are.

Borough Manager

Handley reported they have held the first meeting for the Clarion-Littler Toby Trail Extension Feasibility Study.

Handley reported a DCED HOME investment partnership program opportunity. He explained the plan for a group to build two homes in St. Mary's and Ridgway for seniors. He stated they

will be working with a grant program on this and it will be referred to committee for further discussion after a short presentation at the next Council meeting.

Committee Reports

Councilwoman Peters gave a brief overview of the Finance Committee Meeting which was held on December 12, 2022. Peters explained they will be submitting the flood mitigation application for the third time.

Peters explained the discussion that was had with the Ambulance Corporation. Bob Marnatti was present at the meeting. There was much discussion between Marnatti and council members on the struggles the corporation is currently having financially. Marnatti explained the importance of having an Ambulance Corporation and the many struggles they face.

Old Business

The council members voted on the Ordinance #684 – stop intersections amendment advertisement.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve Ordinance #684. 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 Kemmer	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye

New Business

a. Adopt 2023 Budget

i. Enterprise Funds

1. Refuse

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the Refuse budget. 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 Kemmer	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye

2. Water

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the Water budget. Councilman Kemmer seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

3. Sewer

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the Sewer budget. Councilman Kemmer seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

ii. Timber Fund

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the Timber Fund. Councilman Dussia seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

iii. Motor License Fund

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the Motor License Fund. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

iv. Ridgway Mills Fund

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the Ridgway Mills Fund.
Councilman Dussia seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

v. Borough Tax Funded Budgets

1. Equipment Depreciation Fund

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the Equipment Depreciation Fund. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

2. Recreation Fund

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the Recreation Fund.
Councilman Dussia seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

3. General Fund

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the General Fund.
Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye

Councilman Kemmer	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Opposed
Councilman Burkett	Opposed
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye

b. Adopt Tax Ordinance #683 (Real Estate/Per Capita)

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the tax rate and adopt Ordinance #683 (Real Estate/Per Capita). Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Council Discussion

Handley reported to council that he and the Imhof have been working on the flood mitigation program grant as well as improvements within the Borough.

After no further discussion, Councilwoman Peters made a motion to adjourn the meeting into executive session at 6:50 p.m. They will not be coming back. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and the vote was carried out unanimously.