

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

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 6:00 p.m. on Monday November 21, 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, Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone, One Member of the Press and Recording Secretary Diana Newell.

ABSENT: Solicitor David Pontzer

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes held on October 17, 2022. 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

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the Special Council Meeting (Budget Session 1) minutes held on October 26, 2022. 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 Dussia	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the Special Council Meeting (Budget Session 2) minutes held on November 2, 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

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the Special Council Meeting (Budget Session 3) minutes held on November 9, 2022. 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 Quattrone Aye
Councilman Caggese Aye
Councilman Kemmer Aye

Recognition of Visitors

John Brown attended the meeting to discuss his concern with the need for a stop sign to be put up on the corner of Van Buren Avenue and Corral Alley. He expressed his concern for the many people who speed through the intersection in an area where there are many families with children and pets.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve a stop sign to be put in. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Linda Dyne attended the meeting to follow up with last month's meeting for the concern of her neighbors unlawfully putting in a parking area. After much discussion, Borough Manager Mike Handley assured her there has been a criminal complaint filed and this will be followed up with in court.

Correspondence

Handley reported he received a request from the 2023 Mountain Fest Committee for two dumpsters at no cost for the event. He assured council this was done for them last year as well. Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the two dumpsters to be given to the 2023 Mountain Fest at no cost for the event. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Dussia Aye
Councilman Caggese Aye

Councilwoman Peters	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	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 stated that Coffee with the Mayor will be held this coming Saturday and invited everyone to join. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Police Department

Police Chief Shawn Geci requested councils' approval for the hiring of a new full time officer Paul Butler. He assured hiring him would fill the current vacant full time opening.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve hiring full time police officer Paul Butler.

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

Chief Geci gave a brief presentation on the need for more part time officers. He explained there is one candidate that he is requesting council to approve to send him to the police academy and hire him after graduation with signing a contract. He explained there's no one else in line for a police job for the Ridgway Borough and this is his only option at this point.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve sending the candidate to the police academy under contract. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye

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

Fire Department

Mayor Imhof stated there is nothing to report at this time.

Environmental Manager

Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone gave an update on the Scada project for the water plant. Quattrone stated the construction permit has not been completed yet.

Borough Manager

Handley reported Gino Copello started the Public Works position as of 11/7/2022.

Handley reported the Clarion-Little Toby Trail Extension project meeting will be held on December 7th, 2022.

Handley reported an update on the Ridgway Mills Property that the purchase of the dump station and rack cards are being completed. Handley stated Mountain Fest Committee has requested to use the campground off season for their event.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the use of the campground during the Mountain Fest off season. 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

Committee Reports

Councilwoman Peters gave a brief overview of the latest finance committee meeting held on October 19, 2022. She explained the request for the new full time police officer was discussed as well as a new sludge truck will be needed for the 2024 budget. The committee touched on DCED planning program as well as the Ridgway Mills updates.

Councilman Caggese gave a brief overview of the latest personnel committee meeting held on November 3, 2022. He explained the committee recommending to keep the grant program with a month to month agreement.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to keeping the grant program on contract. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Old Business

Handley reported there was \$2,000 budgeted for the Lyle G. Hall Community Pool this year and the money was not spend. He recommended council to purchase the new lawn chairs and ladder they have been asking for with the money since it has already been budgeted.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the purchase of \$2,000 for lawn chairs and ladder for the community pool. 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 Kemmer	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye

New Business

Zoning Solicitor Appointment

Handley requested to appoint John Thomas as the new Zoning Solicitor.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve John Thomas as the new Zoning Solicitor.

Councilman Burkett 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

Resolution 10-2022 (Act 57 of 2022)

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the Resolution 10-2022 (Act 57 of 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 Kemmer Aye
Councilman Quattrone Aye
Councilman Lawrie Aye

Tentatively Adopt 2023 Budget

Refuse:

Councilman Dussia made a motion to tentatively adopt the refuse budget as submitted.
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

Water:

Councilman Dussia made a motion to tentatively adopt the water budget as submitted.
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

Sewer:

Councilman Dussia made a motion to tentatively adopt the sewer budget as submitted.
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

Timber Fund:

Councilman Caggese made a motion to tentatively adopt the timber fund budget as submitted.
Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Motor License Fund:

Councilman Dussia made a motion to tentatively adopt the motor license fund budget as submitted. 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

Ridgway Mills Fund:

Councilman Dussia made a motion to tentatively adopt the Ridgway Mills fund budget as submitted. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Borough Tax Funded Budgets:

Equipment Depreciation Fund

Councilman Dussia made a motion to tentatively adopt the Equipment Depreciation fund budget as submitted. Councilman Kemmer seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Recreation Fund

Councilman Dussia made a motion to tentatively adopt the Recreation Fund budget as submitted. 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 Caggese	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye

General Fund

Handley reported the Ambulance Corporation recently requested an on-going annual commitment of \$25,000 from the borough budget. He explained the Ambulance Corporation is requesting help from the borough again this budget year due to financially hurting. After much discussion, Councilwoman Peters recommended a .5 MIL tax increase to fit the Ambulance in the budget for their request.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to make a .5 MIL tax increase for the Ambulance Corporation request. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

For the general fund, after much discussion and many different options, Councilwoman Peters recommended a 1 MIL tax increase with the approval of the new police vehicle.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to tentatively raise the taxes 1 MIL to fund the general fund budget for the Ridgway Borough with the approval of the purchase of a new police vehicle. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Handley reported the tentative budget will be advertised for 15 days with a hearing to be held a half hour before the next council meeting for any further discussions.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve advertising the tentative budget for 15 days before the next council meeting. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Fire Protection Agreement

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the Fire Protection Agreement. 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 Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye

Annual COLA

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to approve the same cost of living wage and salary adjustment for non-bargaining and part-time employees as provided to the bargaining employees. Councilman Kemmer seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Council Discussion

Handley requested approval from council to order the water truck and plow truck which were approved in budget. He expressed the importance of ordering them before the deadline so they will be in next year. He stated no funds would be exchanged at the time of ordering. Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the ordering of the water truck and plow truck. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

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

Handley reported the Parks Revitalization Project has requested the borough to make a purchase of \$27,000 worth of park material for the new Neilson Park. He explained some of that will be reimbursed and the other amount will be taken from the ARPA funds which were set aside for the park revitalization.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the purchase of \$27,000 of park material.

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

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

After no further discussion, council adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.