

RIDGWAY BOROUGH MEETING
Ridgway Municipal Building
108 Main St, Ridgway, PA 15853
January 16, 2023

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 6:00 p.m. on Monday January 16, 2023 at the Ridgway Municipal Building.

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, Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone, One Member of the Press and Recording Secretary Diana Newell.

ABSENT: Solicitor David Pontzer

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the 2023 Budget Public Hearing minutes held on December 19, 2022. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes held on December 19, 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

Recognition of Visitors

Aaron Bleggi from Whitetail Real Estate Development attended the meeting to present his business. He explained that he currently owns many houses and rents them out within the St. Mary's area. He stated he recently started buying houses that are publicly funded and making them into senior housing. Bleggi expressed his interest to council that he would like to buy up a few houses in Ridgway and renovate them to become senior housing under his program. He is seeking approval and support from the Ridgway Borough Council for the first layer of his process for developing the senior houses within Ridgway. After much discussion, council

members referred this to the Planning and Grants Committee to discuss further and assured Bleggi they would be in touch when this meeting is scheduled.

Gary Gerber also attended the meeting as the representative for the Recreation Association for the Skate Park within the Borough. Gerber explained that he and a few others on the board are aging out of the group and would like some assistance. Gerber stated he would like to dedicate the Ridgway Skate Park as a Borough Park for assistance in the upkeep. Council referred this to the Planning and Grant Committee for further discussion.

Finance Department

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

Mayor

Mayor Imhof stated the Coffee with the Mayor will begin again in February and welcomed everyone to attend.

Police Department

Police Chief Shawn Geci stated he provided council with his monthly report and would answer any questions.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Scott Pontious stated he provided council with his monthly report and would answer any questions.

Environmental Manager

Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone reported the amendment draft to the SCADA permit has been submitted and they will be looking for the completed permit soon.

Borough Manager

Handley reported there has been a consignment agreement with the Chamber of Commerce for the stickers to be sold for the Mills Campground. He also stated the rack cards being distributed.

Handley stated Berkheimer sent out earned income tax papers out to everyone and they should be completed when filing 2022 taxes.

Handley reported there hasn't been a Street Light, Parking and Traffic Committee meeting scheduled yet due to the holidays but there will be one scheduled soon.

Handley reported the new Dollar Tree/Family Dollar will be complete soon.

Old Business

Mayor Imhof stated the Arbor Day Proclamation and reported it will be celebrated the last Friday of April every year. He encouraged everyone to plant trees in honor of Arbor Day. He stated this year it will be on April 28th, 2023.

Handley stated Ordinance #684 - stop intersection amendment needs to be voted on.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to adopt Ordinance #684. 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

Handley reported the Ridgway Ambulance is looking for a voter referendum to raise taxes another MILL and ½ to make it a 2 MILL total increase to help assist them financially. He stated the council members can vote on whether they want to add this to the ballot in 2023 and let the public vote whether they approve the increase or not.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the Ambulance to add the proposed tax increase voter referendum to the ballot. 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

a. Approval of Appointments to Boards and Commissions

- i. Councilman Caggese made a motion to re-appoint Tom Kontes for a new term for the Police Civil Service Commission ending March 2029. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

ii. Councilman Lawrie made a motion to re-appoint Jessica Pontious to the Ridgway Public Library Board ending March 2026. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

iii. Councilwoman Peters made a motion to re-appoint Steve Lawrie to the Shade Tree Commission ending January 2028. Councilman Kemmer seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

iv. Councilman Caggese made a motion to re-appoint Martin Fannin ending March 2026. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

- v. Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the appointment of Borough Manager Michael Handley to fill the vacancy on the Ridgway Municipal Authority Board as Treasurer and Secretary ending January 2027. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Handley reported the Ridgway Municipal Authority Board would like to amend an update to staggering terms to each board member and council needs to vote for each seat.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve Chair Victor Aiello with a term of January 2028. 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

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve Josh Quattrone with a term of January 2027. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve Keith Mader with a term of January 2026. Councilman Kemmer seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Councilman Dussia Aye

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve Karen Lundin with a term of January 2026.

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

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

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve Frank Rutigliano with a term of January 2025.

Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve Don Airgood with a term of January 2024.

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
Councilman Dussia Aye

After no further discussion, Councilman Dussia made a motion to adjourn the meeting with no executive session at 6:35 p.m. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and the vote was carried unanimously.