

RIDGWAY BOROUGH MEETING
Ridgway Municipal Building
108 Main St, Ridgway, PA 15853
April 17, 2023

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 6:00 p.m. on Monday April 17, 2023 at the Ridgway Municipal Building.

PRESENT: Council members Frank Quattrone, Abbi Peters, Ralph Dussia, Steve Lawrie, Steve Caggese, Brent Kemmer and Ron Burkett. Also, in attendance were Borough Manager Michael Handley, Police Chief Shawn Geci, Mayor Ray Imhof, Fire Chief Scott Pontious, 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 as submitted held on March 20, 2023. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Recognition of Visitors

There were no visitors.

Correspondence

Handley reported the National Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday May 4, 2023.

Handley stated at a recent Ridgway Fire Department Board of Directors meeting they voted to remove the bridge over Gallagher Run that connects to our Carnival Lot due to liability concerns. Since this meeting, it has been discovered that the bridge is Ridgway Borough Property and not property of the Ridgway Fire Department. Handley reported he has checked with the insurance company and would like to gain more knowledge on this matter before moving forward with a decision on whether to remove it or not.

Handley requested the approval from council members to write the check out for the new ventrac machine in order for the delivery process to happen. The approval of the purchase has been approved in the recent past but he explained the check needs to be written out before the delivery which will be soon.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the check to be written for the new Ventrac Machine in order for delivery to take place. 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 Kemmer	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye

Finance Department

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the funds A-E and pay the bills. 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

Mayor

Mayor Imhof reported he attended the ceremony for Orrin Pontious to become an Eagle Scout. He congratulated Orrin on a job well done. Imhof also reported the Coffee with the Mayor will be this Saturday from 9am – 11am and welcomed everyone to join him.

Police Department

Police Chief Shawn Geci stated Council has his report and he would answer any questions if needed. Geci reported he approved a request for a street shut down during the Vacation Bible School on July 24-28 from 6pm-8pm.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Scott Pontious stated Council has his report and he would answer any questions if needed.

Environmental Manager

Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone gave an update on the SCADA program.

Borough Manager

Borough Manager Mike Handley reported Ridgway Borough Spring Clean Up will be held on April 24-28 with the hours of 7am-7pm.

Handley reported Arbor Day is coming up soon and the borough has been granted to be in the membership again this year for two years in a row. He thanked the Shade Tree Commission and stated they will be celebrating by planting a tree.

Handley reported at the new Neilson Park they plan to do a “Little Free Library” where people can borrow books and return them when they are done.

Handley reported the Equivalent Dwelling Unit Re-Assessment will be taking place soon where they will be re-evaluating properties within the borough.

Council went into executive session for personnel and legal matters at 6:13pm, they will be returning.

Council returned from executive session at 6:28pm.

Committee Reports

After returning from executive session, Councilman Caggese read the minutes to the Personnel meeting that was held on April 6, 2023. The first request was for a pay increase for the Environmental Manager position.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the proposed wage increase for the Environmental Manager. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

The second request is to appoint Ridgway Animal Haven as the agency dedicated to enforcing the provisions of Part 4 Regulations for Cats.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to appoint Ridgway Animal Haven as the agency dedicated to enforcing the provisions of Part 4 Regulations for Cats. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

The third request is to approve hiring the candidate as a Part-Time Police Officer at the rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour to allow the enrollment into the Act 120 Municipal Police Academy. This approval is based on the following:

1. The duration of the training is 946 hours. At \$15.00 per hour that equates to \$14,190.00, of which 45% is reimbursable. Therefore, the Borough paying a total of \$7,805.00.
2. The GI Bill will cover all of the candidate's tuition.

Upon successful completion, the candidate will be required to work at least one eight (8) hour shift per week and shall maintain employment with the Ridgway Police for at least two years.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the hiring of the Part-Time Police Officer with all requirements. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Councilwoman Peters then read the Planning, Grants and Recreation committee meeting minutes which was held on April 11, 2023.

Peters stated there has been one request for approval for the Campsite Concessionaire at the Ridgway Mills. She explained that Lazy River was the only one interested in running the Mills Campground. She stated they have experience and are already a successful business in town as well as it would only be a year-to-year basis at this time.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve Lazy River to manage the 2023 camping season at the Ridgway Mills Campground. 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 Burkett	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Nay

Councilwoman Peters then discussed the next topic which was ARC Funding Opportunity for Master Site Plan for Mills Property. She gave a brief explanation on this and stated Deborah Pontzer of Grow Rural PA presented a funding opportunity available at the Borough in which she would write the grant for the Borough at no charge.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the application by Resolution 2-2023 to the ARC grant to establish a Master Site Plan for the Ridgway Mills and secure the \$35,000.00 match requirement. 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 Burkett	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Aye

Peters then discussed the third topic which was the Splash Pad Funding Opportunity. The committee discussed the downsizing of the splash pad project from \$410,000.00 to about \$200,000.00. After much discussion of the various grants and funding opportunities.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the application to the DCED GTRP grant for the Splash Pad Project and secure the \$26,250.00 match requirement. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Old Business

Handley reported the Ridgway Ambulance Corporation agreement is up and they are still requesting the Borough to renew it. After much discussion, council members agreed they have given the Ambulance money and are choosing not to renew it.

New Business

Handley reported the application for County Aid (Liquid Fuels Allocation Request - \$7,000) is due.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the application for the County Aid.

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

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

Councilman Dussia Aye

Handley reported the Resolution 1-23 (Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement) needs approved for North Broad and Main Street.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the Resolution 1-23. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

After no further discussion, Councilman Dussia made a motion to adjourn the meeting with an executive session for personnel and legal matters at 6:55 p.m. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and the vote was carried unanimously.