

RIDGWAY BOROUGH MEETING
Ridgway Municipal Building
108 Main St, Ridgway, PA 15853
March 20, 2023

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 6:00 p.m. on Monday March 20, 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 February 20, 2023. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Recognition of Visitors

Julie Fox - The Ridgway Parks Revitalization Team Member Julie Fox was present at the meeting to give an update on the new park upgrades as well as the various fundraising events they have been hosting in order to raise money for the upgrades.

John Fletcher – John attended the meeting to present Council with an example of the new Veteran Memorial Banners that will be displayed in May on Main Street.

Linda Dyne – Linda attended the meeting to express her concern with a Police Department matter. Council referred her concern to the Personnel Committee to discuss further.

Correspondence

Handley stated that a Farmer’s Market representative contacted the Borough office to report that they are looking for change and intend to establish a steering committee. Handley informed Council that the Borough has no authority over this local venue, but a committee representative has requested a Council Member to sit on their board to assist. If anyone is interested, please contact Amanda Balon for further details.

Handley received two sealed bids for the public sale of Borough owned real property. Handley opened the sealed bids and presented them to Council Members. He presented the first bid was for 572 North Broad Street with a minimum bid of \$2,000.00. The bid for the property was \$2,157.40 by Wayne and Amy Coder. The second bid was for 143 Sherman Avenue with a minimum bid of \$3,800.00. The bid for the property was \$10,000.00 by Whitetail Real Estate Development.

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the bid of \$2,157.40 for the 572 North Broad Street property. 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

Councilman Dussia made a motion to approve the bid of \$10,000.00 for the 143 Sherman Avenue property. 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

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 Caggese	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye

Mayor

Mayor Imhof thanked everyone for a job well done within the last month.

Police Department

Police Chief Shawn Geci stated he provided Council with his monthly report and would answer any questions. He reported there has been another applicant that the police department would like to hire and send to the police academy under the same conditions and terms as the last time. Geci requested permission from Council to do this once again in order to hire a new officer. Councilman Dussia made a motion to refer this to the committee to discuss further before making a decision. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

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. He hopes the project will be done in May.

Borough Manager

Borough Liability Insurance

Handley reported he completed a review on the Borough Liability Insurance. He stated the bridge between the Firemen's Lot and the Community Pool has come to his attention on whether the Borough owns it or the Fire Department owns it. After much discussion, council members decided to look into this more and discuss it.

Ridgway Ambulance Corporation

Handley reported the Ambulance Corporation proposed a referendum on the ballot in November which will state: Do you favor a levy of an ambulance tax of an additional 2 MILS to support ambulance service within the Ridgway Borough, Elk County? Handley reported he will continue to work with Kim Frey to get this put on the ballot for November.

Handley also reported the Ambulance Corporation proposed a service agreement and stated council will need to take action on this. He explained the borough has been typically paying \$2,000 to the Ambulance Corporation annually which gives the Police Department about six incidences to use before they start charging. After much discussion, council members referred this matter to committee to discuss further before making a decision.

Handley reported the Ridgway Chainsaw Rendezvous agreed to do signage for the Ridgway Mills Campground during the week of the event for advertising purposes in exchange for use of the grounds.

Committee Reports

Councilwoman Peters summarized the minutes to the Finance Committee Meeting held on March 8, 2023. She stated there is one recommendation of council which is to partner with the Johnsonburg Borough in hiring one Code Enforcement Officer and one Community Economic Coordinator to work in both Ridgway and Johnsonburg. Councilwoman Peters went over all of the positives that this would bring to both communities as well as this being highly recommended by DCED.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the partnership with Johnsonburg Borough and hire both positions. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Old Business

New Business

Council Discussion

After no further discussion, Councilman Dussia made a motion to adjourn the meeting with an executive session for personnel and legal matters at 6:49 p.m. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and the vote was carried unanimously.