

RIDGWAY BOROUGH MEETING
Ridgway Municipal Building
108 Main St, Ridgway, PA 15853
May 15, 2023

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 6:00 p.m. on Monday May 15, 2023 at the Ridgway Municipal Building.

PRESENT: Council members Frank Quattrone, Abbi Peters, Steve Lawrie, 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 and Council Member Ralph Dussia

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes as submitted held on April 17, 2023. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Recognition of Visitors

Borough Manager Mike Handley reported there is a new hotel that has opened in town called the Elker Inn & Suites which is located on 324 Allenhurst Ave. The owners of the new Elker Inn & Suites wanted to come and give a presentation on their new place but were unable to make it. Handley gave a brief overview of the new hotel and stated it is a pleasure to have this addition in town.

Amanda Balon attended the meeting to discuss the new Farmer's Market ideas for this year. She explained they have been attending meetings with ECOTTA and the Chamber to plan this year's market in a new location. Balon stated they have worked with the borough and requested to host it at the Mills Campground this year and would open it up to vendors and live music with ECOTTA overseeing the market. Balon reported they would like to start selling early July through September. Council members referred this topic to the Planning, Grants and Recreation Committee Meeting.

Correspondence

Handley reported CAPSEA has requested to remove a dedicated borough street and let them have it in order to build their new addition onto it. Council members referred this to the Streetlights, Parking, and Traffic Committee to discuss further details.

Finance Department

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

Mayor

Mayor Imhof reported coffee with the mayor will be held this Saturday at the Creative Cup from 9am-11am and invited everyone to join him. Imhof stated this week is National Police Week and congratulated Chief Geci and all of his officers on a job well done.

Police Department

Police Chief Shawn Geci stated his department will be participating in the Click It or Ticket Program and will be more aggressive with seatbelt safety. He also stated the new police truck is in and will be sent to the outfitters for all of the equipment to be installed.

Environmental Manager

Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone reported the SCADA project is complete and the water plant had a full inspection done this week.

Borough Manager

Handley was pleased to report the Parks Revitalization Program and Ridgway Borough will be receiving additional \$75,000 in funding from The Stackpole Hall Foundation for the O.B. Grant Park Revitalization project. He thanked the council members for this worthwhile project raised for their new park equipment. He commended them for a job well done with their fundraising efforts. Handley stated they are very thankful for the Parks Revitalization Program as well as the Grant Consultant.

Handley stated there has been a change with the health insurance premium reimbursement. He explained the borough didn't get an invoice asking for money, this year the borough will actually be receiving money. He explained after the 6-month runout period of the blended pool group insurance, it was determined that claims for the 2021 plan year ran lower than expected. Therefore, Highmark is returning \$26,542.60 in premium to the borough's Highmark account.

Handley reported it has been highly recommended that the borough converts the streetlights to LED by the utility company. Therefore, there is a plan to change out the majority of the streetlights across the Borough over the next year. He stated it is estimated that the borough will have an annual savings of \$32,000.00 plus. After much discussion about the LED brightness,

council members decided to move this to the Streetlights, Parking, and Traffic Committee to discuss further detail.

Handley reported the line painting will be done within the borough by the end of the month.

Handley stated the Army Corp of Engineers Community Planner is coming up to get a better understanding of what the town is experiencing with flooding. He plans on looking at some specific locations and walking parts of the Clarion River & Elk Creek or see whatever needs to be done. Handley reported they recommend inviting officials from the Borough, Township, PEMA, and County. He stated they are looking at some time over the next four weeks to schedule. He requested if anyone is interested, please let him know. He reported that a max project cost of \$10 million could be applied for, with a match requirement of \$3.5 million. A waiver of \$600K is available for the borough.

Handley discussed the trucked waste millage with the council members explaining that the borough should start investing some of the money so that it will be there when it is really needed and not used for the wrong purposes.

Committee Reports

Old Business

Handley reported there has been many issues happening at the Recycling Center and has proposed to the council members to move the Recycling Center to the Compost Area. He reported the compost staff members and Sewage Treatment Plant employees will unlock it and lock it back up as well as keeping an eye on it during work hours.

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

Handley reported the Resolution 3-23 (DCED – GTR Splashpad Grant) needs to be voted on. Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the Resolution 3-23. 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

Handley reported the Lazy River owners have signed the agreement for the Ridgway Mills Campground and it will be official as of May 19 for the Lazy River to manage the campground. They had some requests for the council members such as a play area for kids, an office building and new siding and roof on the office building. Handley also reported after all the hard work and labor to make the campground look nice, they have decided to increase the stay fee from \$25 to \$35 per night. Handley stated there is potable water onsite as well as a dump and rinse station. Handley also requested input on different marketing options for the campground. Handley reported trees will be planted with the budgeted \$5,000.00 and reported there is about \$50K of unallocated ARPA funds to spend by the end of 2024.

New Business

Handley requested council's approval for a \$250 stipend when a person is being hired and already has a CDL license or if they pass it without any costs from the borough. He reported a recent employee passed their CDL license and North Central decided to cover his costs because he did so well. Handley would like to give these employees a bonus for their hard work and efforts.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the \$250 stipend for anyone accepting a position at the Borough with a CDL license or passing the CDL license with no cost from the borough. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

After no further discussion, Council adjourned 7:15 p.m.