

RIDGWAY BOROUGH MEETING
Ridgway Municipal Building
108 Main St, Ridgway, PA 15853
August 21, 2023

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 6:00 p.m. on Monday August 21, 2023 at the Ridgway Municipal Building.

PRESENT: Council members Frank Quattrone, Abbi Peters, Steve Lawrie, Steve Caggese, Brent Kemmer, Ralph Dussia and Ron Burkett. Also, in attendance were Borough Manager Michael Handley, Police Chief Shawn Geci, Mayor Ray Imhof, Solicitor David Pontzer, Fire Chief Scott Pontious, One Member of the Press and Recording Secretary Diana Newell.

ABSENT: Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone

Councilman Dussia and Councilman Burkett pointed out two changes from the meeting minutes in July. Recording Secretary Diana Newell stated she would amend the minutes as requested by council members.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the amended Council Meeting minutes as submitted held on July 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
Councilman Dussia	Aye

Recognition of Visitors

Harry Himes attended the meeting to discuss his concern on the new Senior Center topic. Himes explained there has been a Senior Center building in Ridgway for many years and he doesn't understand why they want to change locations and open a new center up. He stated that the Office of Human Services has never been behind them on anything and now all of sudden they are supporting the new center. He expressed his interest in keeping the same Senior Center building. Handley and council members agreed to refer this to the committee and invite all parties to the meeting so they can figure it all out together.

Rick Marzella attended the meeting to discuss the grant with Penn Vest.

Julee Marzella attended the meeting to discuss the next step for the master site for the Ridgway Mills Campground. Handley reported they have moved to the second phase for this.

Bid Awards

Handley reported they have opened the bids for the O.B. Grant Park restroom project. He went over the bids with council members and with discussion determined all of the bids were too high. Handley will reject all of the bids and wait until February to re-bid this project.

Correspondence

Handley reported there has been a request for a state sponsored senior center at the West End Firehall by the Senior Center Steering Committee. He explained they wanted to start out by having three days a week and the fire department fully supports this request. Handley reported they have had many signatures on their petition in favor of this request as well. After much discussion, council members referred this to the Planning, Grants and Recreation Committee for further discussion.

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 Caggese	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye

Mayor

Mayor Imhof stated Coffee with the Mayor will be held on Saturday, September 16 and invited all to attend.

Police Department

Police Chief Shawn Geci reported his officers have concluded the Aggressive Driving Campaign sponsored by PennDOT. Geci stated the body worn cameras are now in. He explained all of his officers are trained with them and they are wearing them. Geci reported these were all bought through grant money that was awarded to the department with a total of \$23,507.00. Geci also reported the new police truck is now complete and will be used very soon.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Scott Pontious reported the report has been submitted if anyone has any questions.

Environmental Manager

Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone was absent.

Borough Manager
Community Pride

Handley reported there are many great things that have been happening in Ridgway.

ECCOTA/Farmer's Market Venue-

Handley reported the new Farmer's Market is located at the Mills Campground and has been great success so far this Summer. He explained there has been a significant increase in participation as well as people coming to it. Handley thanked ECCOTA for a job well done and stated it is every Tuesday from 3:30pm – 6:30pm.

Ridgway Free Public Library

Handley reported the Ridgway Public Library had some major property maintenance done on it and turned out great. He explained the new director is great with the many new programs for kids of all ages. Handley encouraged everyone to stop at the library to see what is new.

Elk County Vietnam Veterans Bridge Memorial

Handley reported the dedication memorial bridge for the Vietnam Veterans was great with many who attended.

Rail Trail Story Walk/Trail Extension Projects

Handley reported the Rails to Trails will soon have a story walk added to it for all to enjoy while on the trail.

Ridgway Mills Campground

Handley reported there has been a beautiful carving sign for the Ridgway Mills donated to the borough by the chainsaw carvers locally. Council members discussed what can be done for the theft of service at the campground with the water source and how to manage it. It was suggested to put a lock on it and can only be used when patrons of the campground need it. Council members discussed how difficult that would be and unrealistic since there isn't a person at the campground managing it at all times. After much discussion many council members thought since it was getting close to the end of the season, it should be left go and a better option could be thought of for next year's camping season as the water source will be locked up for the winter.

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to let this issue go until next season for an appropriate way to handle the water source. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

Army Corp of Engineers Community Planning Update

Mayor Imhof reported he and Handley attended the meeting with the Community Planners of the Army Corp of Engineers. He explained they were very pleased with the way the rivers banks have been cleared and that this assistance would be a big help for the Ridgway Borough. Imhof reported the first pot of money has been received and after the meeting there will be a second pot of money sent for different ways to lower the chance of rising rivers and possible flooding in the future. They will continue to work with the Community Planners on this matter.

Committee Reports

Memorandum of Agreement Amendment (Police Department)

Councilman Caggese read the minutes to the committee meeting.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement Amendment for the Police Department. 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 Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye

Resolution 6-2023 - Policy for Use of Social Media Platforms in the Borough's Name

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the Resolution 6-2023 - Policy for Use of Social Media Platform in the Borough's Name. 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	Nay
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Nay

Old Business

Cooperative Agreement Update

Handley reported every year the county gives 18% for the CDBG program grant for ADA curb ramps. It has been discovered the 18% isn't needed so they would like to reallocate the project cost and give 10% for administration and 8% for the actual ramp project.

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the amendment to the CDBG program grant.

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

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

Resolution 5-2023 - DCNR C2P2 Grant

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the Resolution 5-2023 - DCNR C2P2 Grant and close out the trail extension project. 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 Dussia	Aye
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye

Ordinance 685-2023 (Vacating a Portion of Elm Street)

Councilman Caggese made a motion to approve the Ordinance 685-2023 vacating a portion of Elm Street. 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 Dussia	Nay
Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Burkett	Aye

New Business

Council Discussion

After no further discussion, Councilman Caggese made a motion to adjourn the meeting into executive session for personnel and legal matters at 6:55 p.m. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. They will not be coming back.