

**RIDGWAY BOROUGH MEETING**  
**Ridgway Municipal Building**  
**108 Main St, Ridgway, PA 15853**  
**September 18, 2023**

The regular meeting of Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 2023 at the Ridgway Municipal Building.

PRESENT: Council members Frank Quattrone, Abbi Peters, Steve Lawrie, Brent Kemmer, Ralph Dussia and Ron Burkett. Also, in attendance were Borough Manager Michael Handley, Police Chief Shawn Geci, Mayor Ray Imhof, Fire Chief Scott Pontious, Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone, One Member of the Press and Recording Secretary Lorraine Wendel. Council Member Steve Caggese attended by phone.

ABSENT: Solicitor David Pontzer

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the Council Meeting minutes as submitted held on August 21, 2023. Council member Kemmer seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

**Bid Awards**

Handley presented the bidder's list for the Council-Chamber Renovation Project. He stated the lowest bidder was HESI Construction coming in at \$58,500. The project includes expanding into the next garage bay. Chairs were donated by the County of Elk. Start date is anticipated to be after September 28, 2023. Future meetings will likely need to be rescheduled and/or relocated until the project is complete.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the lowest bidder. Councilman Steve Caggese seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

**Recognition of Visitors**

**Beth Horning** attended the meeting to provide an update on the Park's Revitalization project, speaking first on the North Broad Street Park. With the help of volunteers, all of the old equipment was taken out and replaced with a new rock wall, teeter-totter and merry-go-round. She stated there's still a pavilion and

little library coming, as well as fencing, a new sidewalk, and more wood chips. The kids are not allowed to play on it yet. There will be a grand opening once the park is completed. The money for the revitalization was raised through fundraisers and grants. Horning stated they have great community support. Horning also gave an update on the Summer Parks Program, which she runs. The next project will be West End Park. They need a total of \$250,000 to finish that park. They anticipate re-doing the basketball court, adding a bathroom and new fencing. They already have the money for some of the main play equipment, which will be ordered soon. Horning went on to say that the ADA swings are really far away from the other swings, which shouldn't be. They are going to incorporate them all together. Additional swings will be added as well. Horning and the group are requesting Council to consider budgeting extra 2024 funds in the amount of \$250,000 to purchase equipment for building O.B. Grant Park (West End Park).

**Grace Messineo** attended the meeting to express concern about the status of the old hospital building and stated, that as residents of the neighborhood, they ask that their views be sought and taken into account. She stated there is concern that the building will become an eyesore, threat to public health and a detriment to property values. Messineo offered suggestions for use of the land after demolition, such as a park, senior housing or low-income housing or townhomes. Messineo stated she would like a public discussion on the matter and that she and her neighbors would gladly commit their time should a committee be formed. Messineo stated there are state dollars available for demolition and redevelopment of large commercial sites. Messineo expressed the need to get the ball rolling as this could take a long time.

### **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **Finance Department**

Councilman Burkett made a motion to approve paying the bills. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

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

### **Office of the Mayor**

Mayor Imhof stated there would be another Coffee with the Mayor and invited all to attend.

### **Police Department**

Police Chief Shawn Geci stated a civil service test was administered on September 9th. There were 7 applicants, with 4 making it through the process. Oral interviews will be scheduled soon. Geci reported that Full-Time Officer, Paul Butler, submitted his resignation, with his last day of employment being September 26<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Peters asked how often they evaluate parking tickets, to which Geci stated this was just re-evaluated three years ago with the cost going from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

### **Fire Department**

There was nothing to report.

### **Environmental Manager**

Josh Quattrone, Environment Manager, stated that the water side of the scale replacement project at the water plant has been completed. The construction permit was filed with the DEP last week and they are just waiting for approval on wastewater. Quattrone also noted that he received the drawings for the Clarifier Project and that's going to move forward for approval. Quattrone stated the timeline for repair depends on when they get the approval and that he will talk with Handley to figure out how they want to go about that.

### **Borough Manager**

#### **O.B. Grant Park Update**

Michael Handley, Borough Manager, provided an O.B. Grant Park update stating that recently there was a DCNR inspection through The Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. The basketball court at O.B. Grant Park was identified as being in inferior condition and needs corrected. Handley stated that they've decided to use the monies provided by the American Rescue Plan to put together a project to replace the basketball court. The court will be reduced to ½ court and will include a 4-square court.

#### **DCED Grant for 2 Full-Time Positions**

Regarding the DCED Grant Award, Handley announced that the Borough of Ridgway was awarded a grant of \$180,000, which will be used to fund two full-time positions that will be shared between the Borough of Ridgway and the Borough of Johnsonburg. The first position would be the Community and Economic Development Coordinator position, and the second position would be for the Ordinance and Property Maintenance Officer. The positions need to be filled within 3 months. We will collaborate with Johnsonburg to conduct interviews for the Property Maintenance position. The State will assist with the Community and Economic Development Coordinator by putting RFPs together and with advertising.

#### **Leaf Collection Truck**

Handley stated that Council had approved the purchase of a leaf collection truck. The Borough was awarded a grant of \$212,000 to put towards the purchase of the truck, which was well over \$300,000. The truck will not be available this leaf collection season, although it is currently being assembled with anticipation that it will be received by the end of November/beginning of December. Handley wants to encourage residents to bag their leaves this year, with bags that will be supplied by the Borough. The old collector is still in use, but limited as parts are hard to find.

#### **Compost Recycling Center**

Michael Handley stated that a few years back, Council approved putting recycling bins into the lot at the Ridgway Mills area. Originally, there were no rules or signs posted so everyone was using them, making it difficult now to control usage. The current location at the Compost Facility off Portland Mills Road is busy, which calls for traffic control. There is still a combination of Township people and residents using it. Staff are doing their best to ID people who live in the borough without discouraging people from using the facility. Handley explained there are now signs stating one must be a Ridgway Borough resident to use the facility and that ID is required, although not everyone will be required to show ID each time, particularly if they are recognized. Any non-Borough resident trying to use the facility will not be turned away the first time but will be directed to use another facility or to encourage their Township Supervisors

to contribute to the Borough program. Handley stated the Borough is trying their best to make this work, but that the Borough may need to revisit this if it cannot be brought under control. Handley explained that the Borough's costs have decreased significantly since the bins were moved. Handley reported that the Borough is working with the Elk County Solid Waste Authority as they had some grant monies left and will educate the community on what does or doesn't go in the bins. Peters asked if the Borough had reached out to the Township to encourage conversations about the program. Handley stated that there have been conversations, but there was no interest from the Township at this time. Handley reported that there are lots of people interested in getting the Township involved. There was mention of paying a stipend by Township residents or using cards to swipe to open the gate. Handley stated that these things cost money and should be planned for before any services are provided.

**Trick-or-Treating**

Handley announced that business trick-or-treating will be on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Borough trick-or-treating will be Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM by porch light invitation only.

**Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

Councilman Lawrie stated that 101 N. Mill Street (Elk County Housing authority) should attempt to get a full-time security guard and that we should write a letter suggesting that. Chief Geci reported his department gets at least a dozen calls a month to that address – that is not counting the calls the ambulance and fire department also make to that property.

**Police Civil Service Commission**

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the appointment of Jeff Krieg to the Police Civil Service Commission. Councilman Kemmer seconded the motion. Krieg would complete the existing term. It was approved by the following vote:

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

**Police Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation (2024)**

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the 2024 Police Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation. Councilman Caggese seconded the motion. It was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Quattrone	Aye
Councilman Caggese	Aye
Councilwoman Peters	Aye

Councilman Burkett	Aye
Councilman Dussia	Aye
Councilman Lawrie	Aye
Councilman Kemmer	Aye

**Non-Uniformed Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation (2024)**

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the Non-Uniformed 2024 Police Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion. It was approved by the following vote:

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

**Resolution 7-2023 CDBG Funding Project**

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve Resolution 7-2023 CDBG Funding Project to use CDBG funds for the ADA Handicap accessible curb ramps. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion. It was approved by the following vote:

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

**Council Discussion**

Councilman Kemmer reported on the recent broken transite pipes near Stonehedge Meadows. He explained the pipe is from the 1950s and there have been 6 or 8 repairs within a 200 ft. section in a very short amount of time. Handley and Quattrone, have been working on a projected plan for approximately one year. The Borough Engineer and outside sources may need to be brought into the project to determine a cost. Quattrone stated there are over 20 miles of water pipes that need to be replaced. Long-term planning is set to begin in 2024. Quattrone also stated there are no-known lead lines here. Councilwoman Peters suggested coordinating the line replacement project with sidewalk replacements.

Councilman Kemmer also asked if the new trucks had been received. Handley stated the water truck and plow truck that were purchased should be available by the end of October. Handley also stated that a plow truck and two police vehicles would be put up for sale under MunicibiD.

After no further discussion, Councilman Dussia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.