

**RIDGWAY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Ridgway Municipal Building**  
**108 Main Street, Ridgway, PA 15853**  
**July 21, 2025**

The Ridgway Borough Council meeting was called to order by Steve Caggese at 6:00 p.m. at the Ridgway Municipal Building.

PRESENT: Council members Steve Caggese, Steve Lawrie, Brent Kemmer, and Ron Burkett.

Also in attendance were Borough Manager Mike Handley, Mayor Ray Imhof, Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone, Police Chief Ken Hinton, and Recording Secretary Jake Mercer.

ABSENT: Council Members Chris Matheson, Zack Pontious, and Abbi Peters.

Councilman Brent Kemmer made a motion to approve the regular council meeting minutes as scheduled on June 16, 2025. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Burkett: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

**Public Comment**

N/A

**Finance Department**

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to pay the bills. Councilman Kemmer seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Burkett: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

**Mayor**

Will give a report in conjunction with the Ridgway Fire Department report.

**Police Department**

Chief of Police Ken Hinton said that his department participated in the Attorney General's drug task force saturation patrols on Thursday, July 10. The patrol resulted in 12 traffic stops, drugs were taken off the streets, and arrest warrants were executed. The Ridgway Borough Police Department also collaborated with the St. Marys Police Department on this patrol.

Hinton shared with council that one part-time officer has returned from his military deployment to Africa and will be back on schedule working in August. He also shared with council the passing of a former part-time officer, Mark Abraham. "He was a lifetime member of law enforcement and will be truly missed," Hinton said.

Hinton completed all officer evaluations within the department, and he also shared that there are eight applications for the civil service list for the position of a full-time police officer. He is looking to hold testing in August relating to the position.

### **Fire Department**

Mayor Ray Imhof gave his report in place of Fire Chief Jeff Yeager, who was absent from the meeting. In the month of June, the Ridgway Fire Department responded to a record number of 40 total calls. Imhof said that there was a "really good response" by department members and was thankful that nothing major occurred for any of those 40 calls.

Councilman Kemmer commented after the report and expressed appreciation for the Ridgway Fire Department for all that they do for the community. He also emphasized the importance of supporting the upcoming Ridgway Firemen's Carnival.

### **Environmental Manager**

Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone reported that both plants are running well. He also shared that they put in all their paperwork for the NPDS permit for the water plant.

Quattrone said all the testing is done on the wastewater side of things and the installation of clarifier two is complete. Quattrone also said they are waiting for a representative from Evoqua to fly in and give a final inspection of the clarifier.

### **DCED Coordinator/Code Enforcement**

Report is in packet.

### **Correspondence/Petitions**

Borough Manager Mike Handley shared with Council that there were a number of letters of correspondence received this month.

The first item that was discussed was to install accessible ADA parking at the Ridgway Public Library. Currently, there is an ADA parking space at the library in front of the building, but the curb in front of the parking space has become an issue for patrons to get up over the curb. Director of the Ridgway Public Library Jessica Wonderly was in attendance on Monday night, and she shared that this parking space would be beneficial for the large group of senior citizens that frequently visit the library. This parking spot would be cut into the library lawn on Baker Alley. The Borough has some obligation to assist the library in the property maintenance and upkeep as part of their ongoing tax collection and distribution.

Handley said that it is important to add this parking at the library due to the increased activity there with programs, events, and improvements to the building all done through community action such as grant writing, donations, and additional contributions. Handley also noted that he is not sure of a timeline on when this project would get started.

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to approve a \$5,100 project for ADA parking at the Ridgway Public Library. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Cagesso: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Burkett: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Handley gave an update Rite Aid is set to start liquidation on Thursday, July 24 and the pharmacy will close on Thursday, July 31. The last day of business for the front of the store will be on Sunday, August 24. Handley has been in contact with the broker of the building that Rite Aid currently occupies. The owner is interested in attracting another retail pharmacy that could use the back portion of the building and would leave the retail portion of it available. The owner has a desire to get community input on what they would like to be put in that building.

Handley stated the property is not owned by Rite Aid, as it is leased by a group. He said that the broker is going to do some "head hunting" to try to get an attractive business to fill the space. He added that it was reported to him that CVS Pharmacy is not interested in putting a business into the building, but they may be interested in having the back portion of the building operate as a pharmacy.

Mayor Imhof suggested that maybe the Dollar General would be interested in taking over the building. Handley invites the community to contact him or the Ridgway Borough office for any community input as to what they would like to see occupy the building.

There were two more letters of correspondence received. They were both pertaining to street closure requests from the Ridgway-Elk County Chamber of Commerce and the Ridgway Area School District. The Ridgway-Elk County Chamber of Commerce request is for the Flavors of Fall Festival and The Ridgway Area School District's request is for the "snake crawl" that goes during the fall. Both were approved by the Borough.

Lastly, Handley informed Council of a correspondence letter he received from the Elk County Farm Bureau. It was to inform Council of the Bureau's 31st Legislative Farm Tour will be held on August 18 starting at 10 a.m. at the Shiitake Joe's Inc. Mushroom Farm located at 20 Gillis Avenue in Ridgway.

### **Borough Manager**

Handley said they are moving forward with securing the two pull-behind recycling containers, as he hopes to have them in by the end of this month. He said the current containers will be kept as overflow containers as we integrate the two new pull-behind containers. Once the Borough staff gets acclimated to using these containers, they will haul them over to St. Marys for emptying.

Handley kindly reminded residents of the dangers about lighting fireworks and other launching devices in close residential areas. Improper use could lead to property damage along with presenting a fire hazard in different neighborhoods. It was reported that one was found still smoldering on a roof top after launch recently, but fortunately it was retrieved quickly.

**Committee Reports**

N/A.

**Old Business**

Councilman Burkett made a motion to approve a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant in the amount of \$88,540.00 for rubber matting to be installed at O.B. Grant Park. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggesso: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Burkett: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Burkett made a motion to make a purchase commitment for a new street sweeper amounting to around \$430,000. The new sweeper is expected to come in by August 2026. Councilman Lawrie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggesso: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Burkett: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

**New Business**

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to purchase the Ferragine Lot for \$30,000 plus closing costs.

Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggesso: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Burkett: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to approve an engagement agreement between the Borough/County with RBA Professional Data Systems. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggesso: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Burkett: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to approve Sara Anderson as an alternate member for the zoning hearing board. Councilman Kemmer seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggesso: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Burkett: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

**Public Comment**

N/A

**Council Discussion**

Councilman Steve Lawrie shared concerns about what he is seeing done to tree lawns around the community. A tree lawn is a strip of grassy land between the sidewalk and a street curb, or the edge of pavement. Lawrie said that this space needs to either be an open space or a place to plant trees. He said that property owners are not permitted to plant bushes there or place rocks in it per ordinance, citing safety concerns. Handley said it is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the tree lawn. He added that it may be in the best interest of the Borough to share information to residents about what is not permitted in tree lawns.

After there was no further discussion held, President Steve Caggesso adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m. before going into executive session.