

RIDGWAY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Ridgway Municipal Building
108 Main Street, Ridgway, PA 15853
September 15, 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, Ron Burkett, Abbi Peters, Zack Pontious, Chris Matheson

Also in attendance were Borough Manager Mike Handley, Mayor Ray Imhof, Environmental Manager Josh Quattrone, Fire Chief Jeff Yeager, Police Chief Ken Hinton, and Recording Secretary Cari Amacher.

Councilman Peters made a motion to approve the corrected council meeting minutes as scheduled on August 18, 2025. Councilman Burkett seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Matheson: Aye

Councilman Peters: Aye

Councilman Burkett: Aye

Public Comment

N/A

Finance Department

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

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Matheson: Aye

Councilman Peters: Aye

Councilman Burkett: Aye

Mayor

Mayor Imhof spoke about the 75th anniversary of the Nazarene church. He said Pastor Miller did a really nice service at the church. The Mayor said that Reverend Hurst from the Methodist Church did a 911 service. He personally thanked the police and fire departments for their involvement in that service.

Police Department

Chief Hinton reported the SRO is back at the schools.

The RPD read to the kids at the public library last month.

All officers from the Ridgway police department went to the range and all qualified with our firearms.

Five applicants passed the civil service test.

Chief Hinton attended a lockdown drill with the SRO at the elementary school.

Fire Department

Report is in packet.

Environmental Manager

Quattrone said the wastewater plant clarifier has been inspected and okayed by the manufacturer. He said it's currently back online, running at 100%. Both plants are operating well. Quattrone said he is currently working the budget for next year.

DCED Coordinator/Code Enforcement

Report is in packet.

Correspondence/Petitions

Handley informed Council of a letter of correspondence. There's a request by a property owner to vacate an unopened Paper Street. This request will be referred to the borough solicitor for review.

Borough Manager

The McWaPEC dinner Association meeting will be held on September 25 in Kane. Handley encouraged council members to attend as it is a good way to collaborate with the other 6 counties.

Handley gave an update on the paving project that should have been done by September 30 as stated in contract. That deadline is not going to be met. There's been a request to extend it to October 31 which was granted. PennDOT said it is ok to pave into October. Handley will give an update at the next meeting.

Handley displayed the rough draft of a mural that will be painted on the side of the Borough building. The painting will start September 22, weather permitting. He mentioned that any volunteers willing to participate can call the office.

Handley spoke about the grant applications for the official canoe launch site on the river. He said 3 or 4 applications were submitted. The cost is roughly \$40,000. The borough may have to match costs. He is hoping to use other grants to cover costs.

Councilman Peters asked about the timeline for the Community Economic Development Coordinator position. Handley explained the process for the application and is hoping to have interviews by the end of the month.

Councilman Lawrie inquired about prolonging the CEDC position with Johnsonburg to make it more attractive to applicants.

Handley explained the importance of this position as well as of the great things already accomplished in this position.

Committee Reports

Councilman Peters provided an update from the Personnel committee regarding the vacancy of a wastewater plant operator. She shared information regarding work schedule, job duties and cross training with this position that would facilitate the operation of the two plants.

Councilman Peters made a motion to begin cross training between the wastewater and water treatment plants as well as changing the employee standard work schedule to Monday-Friday. Councilman Matheson seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Matheson: Aye

Councilman Peters: Aye

Councilman Burkett: Aye

Old Business

N/A

New Business

Handley indicated a vacancy on the vacancy board. He made a recommendation to appoint Kevin Anstrom to fulfill the term that expires January 2026.

Councilman Kemmer made a motion to appoint Kevin Anstrom to fill the vacancy on the board.

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

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Matheson: Aye

Councilman Peters: Aye
Councilman Burkett: Aye

Councilman Pontious made a motion to approve the police pension/municipal obligation. Councilman Matheson seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye
Councilman Lawrie: Aye
Councilman Pontious: Aye
Councilman Kemmer: Aye
Councilman Matheson: Aye
Councilman Peters: Aye
Councilman Burkett: Aye

Councilman Peters made a motion to approve the non-uniform pension obligation. Councilman Pontious seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye
Councilman Lawrie: Aye
Councilman Pontious: Aye
Councilman Kemmer: Aye
Councilman Matheson: Aye
Councilman Peters: Aye
Councilman Burkett: Aye

Handley discussed the borough owned vehicles that will be put up for bid on Municibid. The three vehicles up for bid are: 1991 Sutphen 1500 GPM/750 GWT (Engine 43), 2012 Freightliner 114SD Dump Truck, and 2020 Ford Police Interceptor.

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to approve the sale and listings of the three borough owned vehicles. Councilman Matheson seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye
Councilman Lawrie: Aye
Councilman Pontious: Aye
Councilman Kemmer: Aye
Councilman Matheson: Aye
Councilman Peters: Aye
Councilman Burkett: Aye

Handley announced that business trick or treat will be on October 30, 2025. He said the community trick or treat is usually the week prior to Halloween. This year that date would be October 25, but it will be up to council to make the decision. This is by porch light invitation only from 5pm-7pm.

Councilman Matheson made a motion to approve community trick or treat on October 25 from 5pm-7pm. Councilman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye
Councilman Pontious: Aye
Councilman Kemmer: Aye
Councilman Matheson: Aye
Councilman Peters: Aye
Councilman Burkett: Aye

Handley said the planning has started for the Chainsaw Carving Rendezvous at the Ridgway Mills Campsite. The scheduled date for the event is April 22-25, 2026 with the same rules and procedures for the dumpsters. The Borough covers the transport of the dumpsters to the landfill, in turn the landfill waives for the tipping fees for the event. More information is to follow.

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to approve the dumpsters for the Chainsaw Carving Rendezvous. Councilman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye
Councilman Lawrie: Aye
Councilman Pontious: Aye
Councilman Kemmer: Aye
Councilman Matheson: Aye
Councilman Peters: Aye
Councilman Burkett: Aye

Public Comment

Borough resident David Rippy commented on the great work Mayor Imhof has been doing in revitalizing the police department.

Borough resident Kyle Smith provided public comment on the upcoming zoning hearing regarding the Ridgway Municipal Authority's solar array project.

Council Discussion

N/A

President Steve Caggese adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm, before going into executive session.