

RIDGWAY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Ridgway Moose Lodge

237 N. Broad Street, Ridgway, PA 15853

March 16, 2026

The Ridgway Borough Council meeting was called to order by Steve Caggese at 6:00pm at the Ridgway Moose Lodge.

PRESENT: Council members - Steve Caggese, Abbi Peters, Lauren Stark, Steve Lawrie, Brent Kemmer, Zack Pontious

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

ABSENT: Chris Matheson

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to approve the regular council meeting minutes as scheduled on February 16, 2026. Councilwoman Stark seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

Public Comment

Agenda Only – None.

Finance Department

Councilwoman Peters 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 Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

Mayor

Mayor Imhof mentioned the success of the last three dates of “Coffee with the Mayor” at the Creative Cup. April’s date is to be determined.

Mayor Imhof explains the Emergency Management Agency (EMA), which reports on weather-related incidents, water lines, and advisories for our area. The EMA is currently upgrading its alerting system RAVE (previously SWIFT911) and encouraged residents to register on the Ridgway Borough website for the alerts.

Police Department

Chief Hinton received a high quote for Lexipol for police and fitness training as well as policy writing. He said they are working on sending another quote. Chief also discussed a lockdown drill at the elementary school and the JNET Chief's conference.

Chief Hinton had a meeting with Bob Becker from Law Publications who solicited funds from local businesses for drug and safety awareness for our school age children and senior citizens. These funds will be used to provide safety kits for children and senior citizens. He also mentions ongoing training for officers, including defensive tactics and prom promise presentations as well as ongoing with issues related to abandoned vehicles.

Chief Hinton spoke about the ongoing issue of false alarms at one of the two properties previously discussed. He will be meeting again with the property management and looking into citations.

Fire Department

Report in packet. Chief Yeager reported 6 calls already in March for false alarms.

Environmental Manager

Josh Quattrone said both plants are running at 100%. He mentioned two operators will be taking their water and sewer exams.

Correspondence/Petitions

Handley discussed the letters of correspondence received this month which include many requests. The first is a Global March for Jesus which was referred to the Chief of Police and the Mayor for review. The Elk County Ecumenical group request the use of the Ridgway Mills Warehouse. A letter from Michael DePanfilis requesting a review of the concerns with the downtown business district and a request from Kelsey Keirnan for the police department to acquire training and raise awareness for the National Autism Awareness Association's state initiative.

Borough Manager

Handley highlights the annual spring clean-up scheduled for April 20-24, 2026, from 7:00am-7:00pm. This is for Ridgway Borough and Spring Creek Township residents which is located at the borough annex off State Street. Spring Creek has committed to contributing to the cost of waste disposal for the event. Tires and electronics are not being accepted. Handley and council discussed options for recycling tires. Handley did mention the Elk County Recycling Center has a voucher form to collect tires for Borough of Ridgway residents at no cost. The Borough may be able to provide tire recycling service next year but will need to impose a fee for collection and transport.

Committee Reports

N/A.

Old Business

Handley discussed the need to update the PSAB Voting Delegates. Handley would be the primary voter, with Ray Imhof being the alternate.

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to approve Michael Handley as the PSAB Voting Delegate and Ray Imhof as the alternate. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

Handley provided an update on the Municipal Office Rehab project. He stated a rebid of roughly \$49,000 for a change order for an ADA compliant restroom upgrade.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the ADA compliant restroom upgrade not to exceed \$49,000 for construction and electrical. Councilman Kemmer seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

New Business

Ridgway Mills

- i. Warehouse Improvement Reimbursement - Terry Hertzog of Elk County Blizzard Fest Inc requests reimbursement for temporary lighting and electric installed for Blizzard Fest, noting a shortfall in attendance. The request was referred to the Planning, Grants and Recreation committee for further discussion and review.
- ii. Property Use – Grounds and Structures - Terry Hertzog of Elk County Blizzard Fest Inc emphasized the need for a long-term agreement to ensure the facility's availability and safety. The request was referred to the Planning, Grants and Recreation committee for further discussion and review.

Green Light Go Project

Handley requested to add the Green Light Go Project to the agenda. He mentions an opportunity for grant funding to upgrade and improve our traffic lights on Main Street. Handley discussed the Green Light Go grant would be applied towards new controllers, cabinet hardware, signal heads and other outdated components.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve voting the Green Light GO Project into the agenda.

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

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Lawrie: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

Handley is seeking \$100,120 from the Green Light Go grant application for Main Street traffic signal upgrades and a council resolution committing the 20% match of \$25,030, then execute the contract if the grant is awarded. The total project has an estimated cost of \$125,150.

Mayor Imhof mentioned PennDOT establishes the way the intersections work in municipalities. He also spoke about the importance of upgrading these systems when they become outdated. The system needs updated.

Councilman Lawrie made a motion to approve the resolution of the 20% match of \$25,030 from the Auxiliary fund to Green Light GO Project. 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

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

Public Comment

Kelsey Kiernan raises concerns about autism awareness and the importance of training for first responders to handle non-verbal autistic individuals.

Michael DePanfilis discusses issues with parking on Main Street, including long-term parking by property owners and the need for better enforcement.

Linda Dyne shares personal experiences with police interactions and the need for better training to handle autistic individuals.

Susie Wonderly expresses concerns about occult practices surrounding palm reading and tarot cards at the Farmers Market.

Bob Marnatti shares frustrations with billing issues from Berkheimer and the need for better communication and resolution.

Steven Smith provides an update on the solar array project.

Council Discussion

None

After there was no further discussion, President Steve Caggese adjourned the meeting at 7:26pm before going into executive session for legal discussion.