

RIDGWAY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Ridgway Municipal Building
108 Main Street, Ridgway, PA 15853
July 20, 2026

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

PRESENT: Steve Caggese, Abbi Peters, Brent Kemmer, Zack Pontious, Lauren Stark, Chris Matheson

ABSENT: Steve Lawrie

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

Councilman Kemmer made a motion to approve the regular council meeting minutes as scheduled on June 15, 2026. Councilwoman Stark seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Matheson: Aye

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

Public Comment

None

Bid Awards – Ridgway Riverfront Development (Boat Launch Project)

Handley reports receiving one bid from Steger Masonry in the amount of \$36,880.00 for the Boat Launch Project at Ridgway Mills.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve the bid from Steger Masonry. Councilman Matheson seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Matheson: Aye

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

Handley notes that the estimated cost was \$40,000, and the bid came below the estimated cost. The project has all necessary permits approved, and the deadline by the end of September, with the need to spend some of the funding by October 1, 2026.

Finance Department

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to pay the bills. Councilwoman Stark seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Matheson: Aye

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

Mayor

Mayor Imhof thanks the Ridgway PD, Fire Department, and EMS for their work last month and announces "Coffee with the Mayor" on Friday at Creative Cup from 9am-11am. Also attending are the three female officers from the Ridgway PD.

Police Department

Chief Hinton reports on the monthly activities of the Ridgway PD, including the swearing-in of Erica Swanson as a Ridgway PD full-time officer. He also attended the graduation ceremony for Darren Forster, who will be sworn in Friday at 1pm as a Ridgway PD part-time officer, America's 250 event at Sandy Beach, and the FORGE meeting.

Chief Hinton mentions the upcoming "Battle of the Barrel" fundraiser on August 1 with all proceeds going to "Shop with a Hero." This battle includes the Police and Fire departments, borough council members and employees. The National Night Out event is on August 4 at Fox's Pizza lot.

Fire Department

Report is in the packet. Chief Yeager reports on the fire department's activities, including responses to various alarms.

Handley discusses the issue of accidental fire alarms and the need to mitigate them. Borough officials will continue to work with the Housing Authority and other property owners to reduce the number of these types of call outs. He mentions the impact of accidental fire alarms on volunteerism and the importance of addressing the issue.

Environmental Manager

Josh Quattrone reports on the maintenance activities at the water and wastewater plants, including tank cleaning. Both plants are running at 100%.

Correspondence/Petitions

Handley spoke about the letters of correspondence. One from Julee Marzella regarding a blighted structure, an invitation from Ernest Mattiuz from the Elk County Farm Bureau to the 32nd Annual Farm Tour, Gayl Glover from Elk County Ecumenical requesting dumpster fees be waived for the Glory Bound Music Festival this weekend, and a letter from Carla Bober of Meander More, notifying the cancellation of the Christmas in July camping event.

Borough Manager

Handley informs the council about the replacement of old water meters and the need for residents to schedule appointments for new meter installation. He also mentions the hiring of Dennis Kellis as a part-time code enforcement officer to assist with property maintenance enforcement for Johnsonburg and Ridgway Boroughs. Handley discusses the potential impact of data centers on the municipality and the need for a constructive ordinance to protect the community.

Committee Reports

None

Old Business

Councilman Matheson made a motion to approve Ordinance 691-2026 (Nuisances – Accidental Fire Alarms). Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Matheson: Aye

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

Councilwoman Stark made a motion to approve Ordinance 692-2026 (Parks and Recreation- Bikes, E-bikes, etc.) Councilman Matheson seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Matheson: Aye

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

Councilman Kemmer made a motion to waive the dumpster fees for the Glory Bound Music Festival.

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

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Matheson: Aye

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

New Business

Handley discusses the repaving of the borough lot behind Paesano's Pizza at Race and Mill Street which is currently in poor condition. The project will fill potholes and add a two-inch asphalt overlay for under \$22,000, funded from the auxiliary fund, with line painting and signage to be handled separately. The lot will provide free, centralized overflow parking to support Main Street businesses.

Councilman Kemmer made a motion to repave the borough-owned parking lot at Race and Mill Streets, using the Auxiliary Fund at a cost not to exceed \$22,000. Councilwoman Peters seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Matheson: Aye

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

Handley received many requests to replace the deteriorating bocce ball court in partnership with the school district and Special Olympics, whose local athletes are state-renowned. A new court would cost up to \$8,000, with a donor paying half and the remaining \$4,000 coming from the Auxiliary Fund as an unbudgeted parks improvement. The preferred location is West End Park, with Olson Park as a backup site.

Councilwoman Peters made a motion to approve \$4,000 from the Auxiliary fund for the installation of a new Bocce Ball Court. Councilman Pontious seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Councilman Caggese: Aye

Councilman Pontious: Aye

Councilman Kemmer: Aye

Councilman Matheson: Aye

Councilwoman Peters: Aye

Councilwoman Stark: Aye

Public Comment

Julee Marzella raises concerns about a blighted property on West Cardott Street property and the need for demolition and compliance with Ordinance 637.

Louis Pitoni, owner of the West Cardot Street property, confirms his intention to demolish the property and thanks the council for their support.

Handley and the council discuss the need for a part-time code enforcement officer and the importance of addressing property maintenance issues.

After no further discussion, President Steve Caggese adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m. before going into executive session.