

MINUTES KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
February 20, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.
Koppel Fire Hall

PRESENT

Mayor – Athena Pangikas-Miller
President – Tom Sobona
Vice President - Jeff Dengler
Suzanne Broge
Susan Krawchuk
Anna Marie Plavecsky
Brett Plavecsky

Joe Budicak – Solicitor

Police Chief Warren and Sergeant Squicquero

GUESTS PRESENT

Dave Plavecsky, Tim Brewer, Martin Veitz, Loretta Ricci-Schaffer, A. Miller, Sammy Crangi, Carol Shirilla, Joanne Smith

MOTIONS

- A motion was made to accept the January 19th council meeting minutes and the February 6th working meeting minutes. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to approve the payment of bills from the General Fund. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to approve the bills for the Fire Department. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to give Sergeant Squicquero some office space in the Borough Building. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to award the bid to Fryer Excavating for the demolition of 5437 5th Avenue. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to change the name of Lemon Way to Jiggy Way. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to allow Rick Milligan to purchase maintenance items as needed up to \$1500 without council approval. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to replace the furnace in the police/maintenance building. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to approve Richardson Inspection Services to become our code officer. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to donate up to \$400 for the Easter Egg hunt. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to accept the resignation of Chuck Bevington from council. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to create a resolution to apply for a CDBG grant. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to go into an executive session after the meeting. All in favor and all approved.

We would like to sincerely thank the following people for their donations –Al's Corner, Brett Plavecsky and Chris Krupa

CODE ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

- A garage that is falling down on a 6th Ave property is in the process of being emptied so that it can be taken down. Sergeant Squicquero will work with the owner.
- Discussion continues on the condition of a 3rd Avenue property and next steps to be taken.
- Sergeant Squicquero requested space in the Borough building for his Code Enforcement/Emergency Management work.
- Fema training is necessary for a few council members (to be determined) in the event of a disastrous situation in town.

POLICE REPORT

- Reports were handed out to council.
- Chief Warren is still working on how the reports are printed out with the new system.
- Councilwoman Krawchuk asked about the turnaround time from citation to getting paid for that citation. If there are citations for the month, a check is sent to the Borough and gets deposited into the General Fund.
- Chief Warren is giving a heads up that the Dodger will need some repairs in the future.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- The Rescue 11 truck should be coming to the fire dept in the next few weeks.
- The fire dept wants to acknowledge that there was a trust issue in the past and they would like to build the trust back up between council and the fire department because we all need to work together.
- There was a question as to how the fire department bills were paid in the past...before 2021. Councilwoman Broge explained the process, as she was previously a member of the fire department. The Secretary confirmed that this is how the bills are now and have been paid since 2006.

SOLICITOR REPORT

- In reference to the 5th Avenue demolition, we are trying to impose the costs back to the owner. A lawsuit was filed against her and the sheriff served the paperwork 2 weeks ago. She has 20 days to respond.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- The mayor put out a request for volunteers to help with events and fund-raisers in town. She received a few volunteers and introduced one of them, Skye Cider, who has already helped so much and made up some beautiful flyers for the Easter Egg hunt.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

- The same problem on 2nd Avenue with the water flow continues. Richardson Inspection was asked about the situation but he wants a copy of our storm drain ordinance first.
- The furnace in the police department and maintenance office was replaced.
- There was a water leak in the concession stand. It had to be shut off at the curb stop. Sammy Crangi helped Rick with getting this done and offered to help going forward. A permanent solution was discussed. The concession stand is dried up now and just needs to be cleaned.

ENGINEERS REPORT

- No report this month. However, EADS will be at the next meeting because the stormwater installation along Arthur Street will be starting soon. This is all being paid for by the grant money we have received over the last 3 years.

GUESTS

One of the guests asked if there is a way to apply for an exception to the Zoning Laws. Solicitor Budicak explained...If it is for Conditional use, that is not automatic – you just can't use the property for whatever you want. You would have to file a Conditional use application to the Borough council and they would consider that request. A Variance is different and an application has to be sent to the Zoning Board and is a much more complicated process.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- In reference to the demolition of the building at 5437 5th Avenue, EADS, our engineers received bids and they were opened on February 13th at the Borough building. The bid was awarded to Fryer Excavating for \$70,000. We are hoping the county can help subsidize some of these costs and/or impose the costs back to the owner.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:06 PM after the Executive Session