

MINUTES – KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

June 18, 2024 – 6:00 PM

Koppel Fire Hall

PRESENT

Mayor – Athena Pangikas-Miller

President – Tom Sobona

Vice President – Jeff Dengler

Anna Marie Plavecsky

Brett Plavecsky

Susan Krawchyk

Rich Serge

Joe Budicak – Solicitor

Police Chief Warren and Sergeant Squicquero

GUESTS PRESENT

Dave Plavecsky, Skye Cider, Tim Brewer, Carol Shirilla, Chuck Bevington, Kristen Johnson-EADS

MOTIONS

- A motion was made to accept the May 21st Council Meeting minutes and the June 4th 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 payment of bills for the Fire Department. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made for EADS to award Wilson Excavating & Utility Company, LLC the contract for Phase 1 of the Arthur Street Storm Sewer Improvement Project. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to allow Police Dept purchases once the donation is received. All in favor and all approved.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

- Discussed the burning ordinance and residents who are burning items not listed in the ordinance.
- A letter was sent to the owner on Mount and First Streets to cut their grass, as this was a safety issue when pulling out onto Route 18.
- Discussed cutting down the tree that fell during the recent storm.

POLICE REPORT

- The Mayor and Chief Warren will begin applying for two grants for body cameras.
- District Attorney, Nate Bible will be meeting with Chief Warren and the Mayor on August 30th.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Discussed the use of the fire hall for a cooling center when the temperatures are very high.

SOLICITOR REPORT

- A court hearing will be held June 19th for the demolition of 5437 5th Avenue property. The reason for the hearing is to get the judge to approve payment for the demolition by the owner. If payment is not possible, there will be a lien against any other property that is owned. The Mayor and the Borough secretary will attend as witnesses.
- Solicitor Budicak gave some suggestions for a few minor changes to the new Noise and Nuisance House Ordinances that Sergeant Squicquero has been working on. The Solicitor will continue to work on updating the Burning Ordinance.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Nothing to report at this time

MAINTENANCE REPORT

- Most items have been taken care of except the dead hydrant on the corner of 3rd and Ida. Rick will talk to PA American Water for instruction on how to remove it.
- A request was submitted to Penn Power to fix several street lights that have been out. It shouldn't take too long to get them back on.

ENGINEERS REPORT

- Kristen Johnson from EADS attended the meeting to request a motion to award the contract for Phase 1 of the Arthur Street Storm Sewer Improvement Project.
- EADS recommends awarding the Base Contract No. 2024-ST-01 to the low bidder, Wilson Excavating Utility Construction, LLC in the amount of \$369,633.50. Wilson Excavating & Utility Company, LLC has performed satisfactory work similar to this contract.
- The Borough has \$90,000 of County CDBG funding and \$141,000.00 of County ARPA funding allocated to the Project, totaling a project budget of \$231,000.00.
- Additional conversations with Thomas Kaminsky – Beaver County Community Development Program Project Manager, found that there is additional County CDBG funding able to be provided. Koppel Borough is being awarded an additional \$112,157.00 for the Project. This totals a project budget of \$343,157.00, which is equivalent to the low bid.

GUESTS – No comments from the guests.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Councilman Dengler read from the **Pennsylvania Law and Disability Rights**: the law allows but does not require local authorities to provide reserved residential parking spaces for individuals who have persons with disabilities or severely disabled veterans who have plates or placards. It also allows for signs to be taken down that are already up. There was much discussion about what to do going forward.
- Discussed the potential purchase of generators for the Police and Fire Departments.
- Discussion continued about a community clean-up day. The committee members will meet with our maintenance supervisor to determine details going forward.
- Skye Cider has a copy of the summer newsletter. The Mayor would like a few volunteers from council to meet to go over the text of the newsletter. A quarterly newsletter is also being considered.
- Discussion of Police Department purchases. **Sincere thanks to Lindy Paving for their donation of \$7,000** to the police. The purchases discussed will come from the donated money.
- Deteriorating conditions on Mount, Mary and Ida streets were discussed. The problem is the large trucks are still tearing them up. Maintenance can fill in the holes temporarily until the work in town is done.
- Food distribution will continue and will be available from 5-6 pm before each council meeting. Help is needed to pick up the food. Discussed the possibility of getting a little Free Pantry. Details to follow.
- Discussion continued on getting a loan to begin the playground/park. Loans terms were discussed but details of what to purchase are still not clear. A decision to table the loan was made until definitive costs are determined.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm