

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MAY 11, 2022
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Mr. Chesney
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on
Wednesday May 11, 2022

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Mayor Slaby, Stephen Bielskie, Mike Bradley, Robert Chesney, Joseph Dowkus, Stephen Motyka and Marlin Hodge and Bernard Novakoski

ABSENT: none

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Solicitor Edward Greco, Treasurer Paul A. Niglio, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff, Code Official Heather Owens and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

OTHERS PRESENT: John S. Maciwsieski, Edwin P. Howerter, Joe Politza, and Erika Noll.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON ANYTHING THAT IS ON THE AGENDA:

No one spoke

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

Mr. Bielskie requested to meet in executive session at the end o the meeting for litigation discussion.

MAYORS REPORT- (Robert Slaby)

Mayor Slaby stated as Mayor he is recommending for Council to adopt the Police Camera Policy.

MOTION- Mr. Bradley made the motion to adopt the police camera policy and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley stated he had some DOT questions and stated he appreciates Officer Mazzeo, he did not know the answer at the time, and he pursued it and appreciates that and thanked him.

Mr. Dowkus asked Officer Mazzeo if Liquid Technology was able to get everything up and running. Officer Mazzeo replied, “everything is up and running, the log is set up.”

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval of the April 13, 2022, meeting minutes is needed.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve the meeting minutes from April 13, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Rhonda Wilk stated the special event permit application has been submitted to PennDOT for the Car Cruise to be held on Sunday June 19th with a rain date of July 3rd.

The Community Yard Sale in past years was held the weekend of the car cruise. Rhonda stated if council would like to consider the community yard sale during the weekend of the car cruise the date would be Saturday June 18th and the Rain date would be Saturday July 2, 2022. Rhonda stated the yard sale was held from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in past years.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bradley to schedule the Community Yard Sale to be held the weekend of the Car Cruise, June 18th with a Rain date of July 2nd from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Correspondence was received from USDA – requesting 2021 Annual Report ASAP, Copy President/Treasurer

Correspondence was received from David W. Bolton, Abbottstown Borough, Adams County -Including a Cannabis Resolution Templet, Copied Mayor/Council

Mr. Motyka questioned Solicitor Greco on if he received a copy of that correspondence and have had a chance to review that. Solicitor Greco replied, “yes.”

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to adopt a resolution in support and to encourage the Pennsylvania House Representatives and

Senate to support passage of legislation in support of Legalization of cannabis and Expungement for Previous Offense.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (no), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
6 YEAS – 1 NAYS

Correspondence was received form Northumberland County Conservation relating to the Aqua PA Kulpmont Phase II watermain Replacement NPDES Permit Application, Copy Mayor and Council

Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs – Proposed Constitution Amendment was Copy Mayor and Council.

Northumberland County – Department of Economic Development and Planning send correspondence enacting the “Northumberland County Stormwater Management Ordinance.” Copied to Mayor/Council and Solicitor

Mr. Chesney stated when he spoke to Justin Skavery, he stated we could adopt our own or we could refer to the County Ordinance. Solicitor Greco replied that is correct.

A letter was received from the Borough of Marion Heights expressing interest and requesting Kulpmont Borough to consider collecting curbside recyclables in Marion Heights and to utilize the recycle center, Copied to Mayor and Council

Mr. Motyka stated there would be a lot of costs with that and stated if Council would want to review and see about the possibility of being able to use for the next grant round. Mr. Motyka stated that is a lot to consider and we would need to run numbers.

Mr. Bradley questioned when we would have time to do it. Mr. Dowkus stated we would need to hire more people. Mr. Bradley stated if it would bring money into the town then we could do that. Bruce Graff stated he is not going up there in the wintertime and stated it is bad enough here in the wintertime and with the hills there..... Mayor Slaby he received many calls from Coal Township when he was president of council on the wrong items being placed in bins.

Bruce Graff stated he knows for a fact when they had a dumpster and Coal Township would pick it up, they would put old oil containers in them and it would dump on the floor when they dumped them and that is why they took the plastic dumpster off them in Marion Heights, they were not doing it right.

Mayor Slaby stated he would respond not at this time. Council agreed, not at this time.

Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) – Quaker Run and Buck Run Stream Assessment & Restoration Plan – May 18, 2022, 6:30 p.m. at the Brady Social Hall- Copy Mayor/Council

Kulpmont Sportsmen's Association – Youth Activities list provided and Upcoming Fish Derby request to consider donation, Copy Mayor Council

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to donate \$100.00 to the Kulpmont Sportsmen's Association for the 2022 Fish Derby.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Correspondence was received from Mr. Nick Bozza concerning pigeon infestation on the 1100 block of Scott Street.

Mr. Bradley stated the properties with the pigeon infestation, the owner should be responsible for that and asked if that is correct. Mayor Slaby agreed with Mr. Bradley. Mr. Bradley questioned Heather Owens if they could be cited for that. Heather stated she did not see what was sent but she pulled all the emails that were received concerning this situation and stated there were five properties.

Heather Owens stated one owner had previously had a contractor come out in February and stated they are probably still gathering funds she would guess. Heather stated the one fixed the window and the other one had said the issue was resolved. She stated the one property owner the address was not good, and she had not heard from him. She continued to say there were no complaints since June and stated she was unaware there was still an issue.

Mr. Bradley questioned if they could be cited and stated he does not feel we should be paying for this. Mayor Slaby stated if the owners are known the borough should go after them. Heather Owens stated the only property that she knows of with an open window has been fixed and stated she was told flashing was hung and has been fixed. A discussion took place concerning pigeons and issues throughout town. Mr. Bielskie stated we need to notify the property owners they are unsanitary, and it is unsafe. Mayor Slaby stated he sympathizes with the people.

Mr. Motyka questioned how long we give the new owner of the mill to make repairs. Mr. Bielskie stated there was never ever a date and time. He stated they rebuilt the back roof where the roof was hanging and stated he has not been in since. Mr. Bielskie said they wanted to rent the lower part out and stated he is not going to let them in there until the electric service is restored. Mayor Slaby stated he hears what he is saying but bricks are continuously falling and asked if it will take a head on collision until something is done.

Mr. Bradley stated he does not think there is a grace period and if you buy a property, you are responsible. Mr. Bielskie replied, "just because you say that does not mean it works."

Mr. Bielskie stated he feels we should send a letter. Recommend Solicitor Greco to send a letter on timeline on what the plan is for repairs and the building is unsafe. Solicitor Greco to draft a letter including concerns of loose bricks, debris and opened and smashed windows and also the grass to be maintained and cut.

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated you all received a copy of the financial statement and bills to be paid. Approval is needed to pay the bills and noted there is a correction on the list of bills, the list reflects PPL a credit and that is not the case, there is a bill in the amount of \$168.00.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to approve and pay the bills.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Niglio stated concerning the letter from the USDA we received, we have been getting that same letter for the last four years since we hired a CPA, it takes a year to get our audit done. Mr. Niglio stated we send them everything we can. Mr. Bielskie commented it should get easier every year. Mr. Niglio replied to the audit, but not the timeline and stated he can't control that.

SOLICITORS REPORT- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he has reviewed the cannabis legislation and has been doing title work looking at 6th & Ash Street for easement restrictions and looking through PennDOT records adding it is not an easy task. Solicitor Greco has been reviewing Cable Franchise Ordinances and stated with our upcoming cable franchise agreement he suggest we notify them of our intent and not to automatically renew. A discussion took place among Council and the Solicitor, and it was decided the Solicitor is to notify the Cable Company of our intent not to renew. Solicitor Greco stated he has also reviewed camera policy and reviewed the draft provided by Officer in Charge, Stephen Mazzeo.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – (Stephen Mazzeo, Officer in Charge)

Officer Mazzeo stated the report is attached

Mr. Bradley thanked Officer Mazzeo for looking into a PennDOT question for him.

Mr. Dowkus stated the camera for the Police Department will be a great asset for all parties involved.

Mr. Chesney questioned if possibly we could incorporate a mileage report with our trucks especially at this time. Mr. Chesney stated he would hope the personnel committee will

investigate that. Mayor Slaby questioned if it is a personnel issue. Mr. Chesney replied, “no, it is not an issue just a suggestion, Service and Facilities, whoever. Mr. Chesney stated before the day you would write down the mileage and at the end of the day you would write down the mileage, not after each stop. A discussion took place. Bruce stated there are four or five vehicles. Mayor Slaby stated from his standpoint if someone has a problem, with Officer Mazzeo or when we have more cops, and the car is driving around somewhere where it should not be he asked to let him know.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Kevin O’Hearn)

Report attached

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

Report attached

CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT – (Heather Owens)

Report attached

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Wm. Mike Bradley)

Mr. Bradley reminded residents the food distribution will be held this month on May 19th from 8:00 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Bradley stated a quote for tires for the lawn mower was received form Bastian Tire and Auto in the amount of \$456.00

MOTION- Mr. Bradley made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Dowkus to purchase tires from Bastian Tire at a cost of \$456.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley questioned if it would benefit us to have a liability sign posted at the playground, he said he has seen them at other playgrounds. Solicitor Greco stated it does not hurt. Mr. Bradley stated kids are dropped off and the parents are leaving, the children are left unattended. A short discussion took place.

MOTION- Mr. Bradley made a motion to purchase a sign for the playground.

SUBSIDIARY MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made a subsidiary motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to research a sign for the playground rules and obtain a price.

Bruce Graff asked for the information ready and give it to Rhonda and he will then get the measurements on how big the sign will need to be.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Bradley stated a vehicle drove through the playground on Sunday and ripped the field up and it will take 32-man hours to correct the damage that was done. Bruce Graff stated Heather was looking at the camera but was not able to download it. Heather Owens stated she is working on it and will get it adding there is at least one vehicle. Mr. Bradley stated whoever did it should be cited and made to be responsible.

Bruce Graff stated the gates were open because the 100 is up there doing work. Bruce said when he opens it there is no problem. Bruce Graff stated this is someone from the boosters, there is 6 or 8 inches of water up there laying from the rain and drove through it twice and then through the grass, this was a truck.

Bruce Graff stated he called the women that has been contacting him to hang banners on the fence. Bruce stated he told her that he is locking the gate and getting two signs “No Vehicles Allowed.” Bruce stated if this continues, he will change the locks, and nobody will get a key to it.

Mr. Bielskie questioned Officer Mazzeo on his monitor and if they would be able to view it and download from his office. Rhonda Wilk stated the computer used in the office took one and a half hours to download today and stated it is an old computer that we tried to utilize. Rhonda Wilk stated a new computer is needed, something inexpensive to be used just for that.

FINANCE/PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)

Mr. Motyka stated he had phone calls with Senator Casey’s office, Representative Masser’s office and Senator Gordner. Mr. Motyka stated they suggested for us to apply for the Growing Greener Grant in addition to the \$600,000.00 we are spending on storm water.

Mr. Motyka stated we can allocate the \$600,000.00 for stormwater projects and make it go further if we do get this Growing Greener Grant. Mr. Motyka stated Dr. Aaron Clauser Environmental Scientist gave him a price of \$4,000.00 to draft this application and submit it.

Mr. Motyka stated he met with engineers and the DEP office in Williamsport, and they will be coming to Kulpmont next week at 4 p.m.

Mr. Bielskie asked if we would be getting \$4,000.00 back. Mr. Motyka stated we are not guaranteed anything. Mr. Motyka stated we are looking at hundreds of thousands. Mr. Bradley stated when these grant applications are done professionally, the likelihood of receiving the grant are much higher.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion to spend \$4,000.00 to have an application drafted and submitted for the Growing Greener Grant Application and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Chesney stated on the same topic he feels we need to have a finance committee meeting at some point. Mr. Chesney commended Mr. Motyka on his efforts but stated he feels all of Council should understand and asked that we could have a finance committee meeting.

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Marlin Hodge)

No Report

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated Ordinance 2022-03 has been advertised establishing compensation to the tax collector.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-03 Establishing compensation to the tax collector and was seconded by Mr. Bradley.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), BRADLEY (yes), CHESNEY (yes), DOWKUS (yes), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
7 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Dowkus stated he has an ordinance committee here tomorrow at 6 p.m. and stated they are going to meet with Kenny from the Shamokin Fire Company in regard to the packet of information that was given to the committee by Mr. Slaby on the Red X program.

Mr. Dowkus stated the only other thing he has is the reviewing of the overhead wire.

GRANTS/RECREATION – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated all is going well with the projects at the field, mostly spearheaded by Mr. Motyka. He stated they are doing a heck of a job.

As far as grants go as he mentioned he would like to meet with the finance committee so that we have all our ducks in a row.

PERSONNEL- (Joseph J. Dowkus, III)

Mr. Dowkus stated the committee will meet tomorrow at 7 pm to discuss and review the police contract.

FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE – (Joseph J. Dowkus, III – Vice Chair)

No Report

Mr. Chesney stated he would like to thank and commend the Fire Department on their actions at the recent fire in the Borough. Mr. Chesney stated it was a very dangerous situation, and they did a heck of a job.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Erika Noll of Kulpmont stated they have been having a lot of problems with the 18-year old's and above that are living at 728 Oak Street and stated from her understanding the property owner is in jail. She stated she saw one illegal vehicle has been towed yesterday adding there is one left.

Ms. Noll stated May 1st they were outside with the children and there was a drug deal going on right in front of the children. She stated all hours of the night there is foot traffic in and out and ATV's adding she has pictures and security camera footage.

Ms. Noll stated everyone on the block fears retaliation and stated she moved here to raise her children and they are working on buying more property to make their home bigger in the borough. Ms. Noll stated this is nonsense the trash is getting higher and higher on the back porch and stated it is a meth house and we are going to have an explosion soon, something needs to be done.

She stated she wrote letters to the mayor, to the borough within the last two weeks. Mayor Slaby stated he did receive her communication. Ms. Noll stated people are stumbling down the steps at all hours of the night. Mayor Slaby asked her to stay after the meeting and he will take her information and stated he will be glad to sit down with the officer and himself to meet with her.

Paul Niglio of Kulpmont of 415 Spruce Street. He stated concerning the fires that are going on, he questioned if the borough has a policy on where the fire chief does a written report when there are fires here on file at the borough.

Mayor Slaby stated he would be satisfied as Mayor if a Fire Chief would come to a meeting once in a while.

Mr. Niglio stated he is going to also recommend to Council the borough changes their meetings back to a Tuesday because the fire company meets on Wednesday.

Mr. Niglio stated he is not up on the fire ordinance, but he watches shows on TV about fireman all the time and they have to file reports and they are reviewed by somebody. Mayor Slaby stated he thinks the borough probably does because he knows in the city they do, there was just a major fire the other night.

Mayor Slaby stated he as the mayor and the President of Council should probably sit down with the Fire Chief and hash this out. Mr. Bielskie stated he believes the Fire Chief would need to give a report to the insurance Companies' on how the fire started. Mayor Slaby stated the Fire Chief in the City told him one of his responsibilities is to notify the state and stated they must all need to.

Mr. Niglio stated he has a substantial amount of his life savings in his property and questioned if we monitor response times, who is responding. We have a volunteer force in Kulpmont and if we have a fire at 10 a.m. in Kulpmont he questioned who is available.

Mr. Niglio stated he is not saying anything against the fire company adding he thinks they are doing a terrific job. Mr. Niglio stated he is just saying is there a report for review, we may be able to do things better.

Mr. Niglio stated we may be doing things the best we can but stated he is not one to know that and is not even pretending to know that but added someone should know that.

OLD BUSINESS-

Mayor Slaby addressed Mr. Motyka on the email he sent out concerning making contact to Truist Bank concerning finding a tenant for the bank building. Mayor Slaby stated he will reach out to the Bank.

NEW BUSINESS-

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular monthly meeting is June 8, 2022

Mr. Chesney asked for everyone to remember everyone who has served and given their lives on Memorial Day.

Mr. Bielskie stated Council will now meet in executive session to discuss litigation. Solicitor Greco announced Council met in executive session for approximately 20 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

The May 11, 2022, meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair

**Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary**

Approval date – June 8, 2022