

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Robert Chesney
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,
Kulpmont Borough Council held the meeting for general purpose on
Wednesday October 9, 2019

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mayor Bozza, Stephen Bielskie, Robert Chesney, Robert Fanella, George Malakoski, Robert Slaby and Walter Lutz

ABSENT: Michael Sinopoli

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Solicitor, Edward Greco and Treasurer, Paul A. Niglio, Jr.

PRESENT: Chief Foust, Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk, Code Officer Russ Moroz, Borough Supervisor Bruce Graff and Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Gilotti

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Politza, Barry Fetterman, Edwin Howerter, Tom Letcavage, Victor Nestico, Michael A Susnoski, Hope Masser, Jill Smith, Heather Owens, Stephen Motyka, Ed Goodeluinias, Joe Meyer and Joseph Dowkus II

Mr. Lutz asked members of the Kulpmont 100 to come forward and presented them with Resolution #744 that reads as follows:

RESOLUTION #744

***WHEREAS,** Kulpmont Borough Council is proud to recognize the Kulpmont 100 and its members who through their diligence, hard work, planning and dedication to make Kulpmont Borough a better place, and*

***WHEREAS,** Kulpmont Borough Council, with pride, recognizes and commends Jeff Gilotti, Tom Letcavage, Joe "Moose" Meyer, Marshall Mirarchi, John Motyka, Victor Nestico, Joe Pancerella, Dave Shinskie and Mike Susnoski for their hard work in organizing events and generosity to the Borough, and*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that Kulpmont Borough Council and the citizens of the Borough of Kulpmont congratulate the Kulpmont 100 and wish them much success with all future events and projects. Thank you for truly making the Borough of Kulpmont the best it can be, with much appreciation and the best of luck in all future endeavors, and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the original of this Resolution be presented to the Kulpmont 100

ADOPTED ON THIS THE 9th DAY OF OCTOBER 2019

Mr. Lutz stated he would like to mention Mayor Bozza was the President of the Kulpmont 100 when they started and stated Mayor Bozza and the Kulpmont 100 were the spark to get a lot of things done. Mr. Lutz thanked the Kulpmont 100.

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

Mr. Joseph Dowkus of 1135 Poplar Street stated he received a right to know reply for a request he had made and stated before the meeting minutes are approved from the September meeting where the statement that the backhoe repair cost \$500.00, that should be corrected because he received invoices for repair to the backhoe in the amount of \$1388.17.

Mr. Dowkus stated the dates do not add up to when the tree was downed and wants to make sure that is amended and stated in last month bills the amount was noted on the list and then quoted it was a \$500.00 fix again stating he just wanted to make sure it was amended. Mr. Lutz thanked Mr. Dowkus for his comments.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Walter Lutz)

Mr. Lutz stated at last months meeting we talked about zoning in the Borough and in the context of that discussion it came out that we made need to hire outside consultants and the cost was incredible.

Mr. Lutz stated there is a PSAB zoning seminar class that will be held in Lackawanna County late October early November and the cost is \$20.00. He stated he is registered for the class and asked for consideration to reimburse him for mileage. He added his hope is that they gain a bit more knowledge.

MOTION- A motion was made by Mr. Slaby and seconded by Mr. Chesney to reimburse Mr. Lutz for mileage for travel to zoning training at the IRS mileage reimbursement rate.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (abstain), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (yes)
5 YEAS – 0 NAYS – 1 ABSTAIN

Mr. Lutz requested to meet in executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel issues and legal issues.

Mr. Lutz stated demolition has been completed by Affordable Construction & Demolition on the 900 block of Chestnut Street. Mr. Lutz stated the total invoice amount was \$77,812.00 and that we received \$72,240.00 reimbursement from the County and \$5,562.00 was paid by check directly to the contractor by the Northumberland County Housing Authority. Mr. Lutz stated the entire project was paid in full.

MAYORS REPORT- (Nicholas Bozza).

Mayor Bozza stated Mr. Fanella will hit on the tree planting adding if we have time tomorrow and stated he would like to get some compost up there and uproot some ground for the pollination garden if there is time and asked Mr. Motyka if he knows what the time frame is.

Mr. Motyka of 1471 Scott Street replied stating with the upcoming tree planting and the time frame for the pollination garden being discussed, he is donating and presented a check in the amount of \$250.00 for the pollination garden and encouraged any borough citizens interested in donating to send their donation to the Kulpmont Borough.

Mayor Bozza reminded that Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday October 26th from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and the rain date will be October 31st. Mayor Bozza stated our police will be out patrolling.

Mayor Bozza stated the Parade with Bon Fire to follow will be held on Thursday October 24th. Registration for the parade will be at Holy Angels prior to the parade which will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Bozza stated the crime watch meeting will be held next week on Thursday at 7:15 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated approval is needed on the September 11th and 25th 2019 meeting minutes.

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve the meeting minutes from the September 11th and the September 25th meetings.

VOICE VOTE

Unanimous

Rhonda Wilk stated Correspondence was received from the Kulpmont Lions Club on the Halloween parade to be held on the 24th of October beginning at 7 p.m.

Rhonda Wilk stated correspondence was received from the Northumberland County Planning Department on the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Information and was Copied to both Mayor and Council.

Mayor Bozza questioned if Council has ever donated to that parade. Mr. Niglio answered “no.” Mayor Bozza stated he would like to see the Council donate \$100.00 and stated he was talking with Mr. Bango last week and they are always looking for support.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to donate \$100.00 to the Lions Club for the Halloween parade.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Chesney said he stumbled with accepting the minutes and wanted to revert back asking if there is any clarification on which Mr. Dowkus presented and questioned on the bills. Mr. Lutz replied it will come out at the end of the meeting and is fully verifiable. Mr. Lutz stated he will provide the facts and the backup.

TREASURERS REPORT – (Paul A. Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated Council received a copy of the Financial statement and bills to be paid a motion is needed to approve and pay the bills.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to approve the financial statement and to pay the bills.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Niglio stated Ordinance 2019-02 the PMRS Non-Uniform Pension Plan Ordinance has been duly advertised and stated a motion is needed to adopt the Ordinance.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made the motion and Mr. Chesney seconded the motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-02 the PMRS Non-Uniform Pension Plan Ordinance 2019-02

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

SOLICITORS REPORT- (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated he is requesting an executive session to discuss the ongoing litigation that goes back prior to his appointment and before many of the Council members were on the board.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – (Nathan Foust)

Police Report Attachment #2

Mr. Lutz questioned the section that list out all the activities he questioned under traffic what that includes. Chief Foust stated the traffic section has to do with anything traffic wise, nothing with the traffic citations it is something for a non-standard traffic stop.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Fire Chief Report Attachment #3

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (Kevin O’ Hearn)

No Report

BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT- (Tri County COG)

Attachment #5 August and September Reports

CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT – (Russ Moroz)

Report Attachment #4

Mr. Lutz questioned the progress with the property with the vehicle on it. Russ Moroz stated he is working with the police and the solicitor. He stated this appears to be a county owned property and so County will need to sign off to remove the vehicle.

Solicitor Greco stated he will check on that and asked Mr. Moroz to follow up with him.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella announced food surplus distribution will be held on October 17th from 8 a.m. until 12th noon at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Fanella stated the Northumberland County Conservation District Tree Planting will be held on Thursday October 10th and the rain date Tuesday October 29th at the Veterans Memorial Field and they will be coming through Borough Hall to view the Scott Colliery Portrait that is displayed in the hallway.

Mr. Fanella suggested Council consider approving advertising for bids for both the Fir Street and Fifth Street project, so we are ready to go forward when we hear from the engineer, Livic.

MOTION- Mr. Slaby made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bielskie to advertise for bids for the Fir Street and Fifth Street project.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

The Street Paving and the Parking lot paving has been completed. Mr. Fanella stated there were some complaints and stated he is waiting for New Enterprise to call him back and they will then be doing a walk through.

FINANCE/PURCHASING– (Robert Slaby)

No Report

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY (Stephen Bielskie)

Mr. Bielskie stated PCCA Pa Construction Codes Academy has upcoming classes that Ms. Owens should attend, BCO101 at a cost of \$375.00 and the IPMC 101 at a cost of \$125.00. The cost of both classes will be \$500.00.

MOTION- Mr. Bielskie made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve code officer Heather Owens to attend two classes at a total cost of \$500.00 plus mileage.

ROLL CALL VOTE- LUTZ (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), CHESNEY (yes), FANELLA (yes), MALAKOSKI (yes), SINOPOLI (absent), SLABY (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (George Malakoski)

No Report

GRANTS/RECREATION – (Walter Lutz)

No Report

PERSONNEL- (Michael Sinopoli)

No Report

FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE – (Chesney, Sinopoli and Fanella)

Mayor Bozza questioned Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Gilotti about something he recently read in the newspaper about Grant Money for the fire department and asked if we are going to benefit from that. Jeff Gilotti replied that we already received ours and stated it was the, that is the Fireman's Relief money. He added it is based on out of State Insurance Companies and stated we should look to get more money next year. Jeff Gilotti stated he is under the impression it is state wide adding we already got our check for this year.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Ms. Jill Smith of 1305 Chestnut Street asked what the status of the star that was in the Mill is that they spoke about back in January. Mr. Lutz reply was that he thinks the Kulpmont 100 is looking into getting a big new star. Ms. Smith stated the old star is more rooted in the community and then said he told her he sent it off to be refurbished.

Mr. Lutz replied he did not recall telling her that. She then questioned if he just goes into properties and takes belongings that do not belong to him. Mr. Lutz reply was no. Ms. Smith then said you did, you told me you sent it off to Williamsport. He stated his sense is it deteriorated and said they were going to look at the star to refurbish. Ms. Smith then said "so, you did send it off to Williamsport." Mr. Lutz replied folks took pictures of it.

Ms. Smith then questioned where the star is today. Mr. Lutz replied he has it in a safe place in his possession. Ms. Smith questioned if it was in his personal possession or the possession of the Borough. He replied, "no." Ms. Smith stated you did not have permission from the owner to have anything out of the building. He asked Ms. Smith if she knows who the owner is. Ms. Smith replied she will keep it under her hat and then told Mr. Lutz he was a thief in our Borough. Mr. Lutz then told Ms. Smith she had 25 more seconds. She then stated she was entitled to her opinion. Mr. Lutz agreed that she was.

Mr. Dowkus questioned with the classes Ms. Owens will be taking is there more or less classes or prerequisites we could invest into her as a community to further her job. Mr. Bielskie replied as of right now it will be the two classes. He asked if anything that goes through the state, or do we have our own ordinance. Mr. Bielskie replied for permits we write out it would not be profitable to train her as a building inspector, for the money we bring in for the amount of money we would pay out.

Mr. Dowkus questioned for the long run, instead of having the sub-contractor, your company..... Mr. Bielskie replied it is not his company, it is a company he works for. Mr. Bielskie stated they are not sub-contracting out, they belong to a COG, a Council of Government and the COG has their own inspections service which the Borough uses for free. Mr. Dowkus stated what he is saying is as anew person, if invested in her.....Mr. Bielskie interjected and said as the time goes by and if she is interested, he will train her. Mr. Lutz added and there may be indeed be courses and education.

OLD BUSINESS –

Mr. Lutz stated there has been some concern on how the search for the new code officer went. He stated the advertisement was in at least 5 times and spent quite a bit of money. Mr. Lutz stated at least five Council members interviewed the candidates, not all the five interviewed all seven, but there was quite a bit of involvement in interviewing. Mr. Lutz stated there was a background check made that was cleared and stated as far as he can tell he is not aware of any family or acquaintance other than casual. Mr. Lutz stated Council knew about Russ retiring for a long time. Mr. Lutz stated there was a public meeting where we said we were going to hire.

Mr. Lutz then addressed Mr. Dowkus and explained the meeting minute question he had from September concerning the repair cost to the backhoe. Mr. Lutz stated it was correct as stated in the minutes, the repair cost \$1,388.17 and the borough cost was for the insurance deductible which was \$500.00. A brief discussion took place and Mr. Lutz then asked Mr. Dowkus if he was good with it. Mr. Dowkus replied yes, he understands that.

Mr. Lutz then addressed the tree issue, he stated the tree is a huge oak tree right by the entrance of the football stadium adding it broke two times. Mr. Lutz stated the first time was on a Sunday and stated he thinks that was the 24th of August. Mr. Lutz stated it split and that part fell towards the Legion. Mr. Lutz stated we got a call and Councilman Fanella went up there and cleared the debris up with the backhoe and in the process slipped off a rock and damaged the backhoe adding even though it cost \$115,000.00, does not have any belly pan. Mr. Lutz stated he made the insurance claim and essentially, he does not want to go to jail over \$888.00 in false insurance claim.

Mr. Lutz stated the second time which was the 30th the rest of the tree fell over into the handicap railing, fell on the fence and caught the edge of the building there. He stated Councilmembers were there, the Mayor and members of the Fire Department and made it safe. Mr. Lutz stated another insurance claim was submitted, let's just say \$7,800.00 which the insurance company paid to clean up the tree debris, repair the railing, fence and building. Mr. Lutz stated when all is said and done the \$500.00 deductible we had to pay when the backhoe got damaged will cover it and so we will come out whole on it.

Mr. Dowkus stated when it was initially broken, Mr. Fanella was driving it and it was returned to the storage area while it was leaking hydraulic fluid. Mr. Lutz stated he does not know about that and then stated you have the numbers and asked if he is all good with the numbers now. Mr. Fanella commented "things break." Mr. Lutz commented luckily nobody got hurt. Mr. Fanella stated there was a leak that was caused by the rock, it flipped up and broke something, heavy equipment breaks.

Mayor Bozza questioned Mr. Fanella if Mr. Goodlunas talked to him about the no parking. Mr. Fanella replied no, not about that. Mayor Bozza stated he will get with him.

Mr. Chesney stated he would like mention as the year winds down, we should review what has been dealt with:

Flaws repaired that were previously accepted in the Borough Building, some may still need attention and will be remedied. The Wilson's mess cleaned up and now paved for a new recycling center.

Settlement of old drainage pipe at four different locations repaired (15th & Maple, 10th & Fir, 11th & Wood, 5th & Fir)

Paving to improve driving & drainage problems on Maple and Walnut Streets. These were needed and long overdue.

Remediation of the smoke stacks, asbestos, and other dangerous chemicals at the Mill.

Fight against Blight witnessed in the 900 block of Chestnut with the proper clean up and results present. Unlike the site on the 1200 block of Chestnut which remains an eyesore.

Amicable relations have been established between Fire-Fighters and the Baseball/Football Boosters which were frayed in the past.

Adding to the Police Force to increase protection and re-negotiating a contract which hadn't been discussed for over a decade.

Being awarded a grant to assist in paying for a new Police Car, Recycle Center and Subsidence Repair has been awarded.

Obtaining additional grant money to re-do the Basketball Court and extend it to include an Ice-Skating Rink with help from the Kulpmont 100 is underway.

Insisting on a more serious approach to Code Enforcement which will assist neighborhood sanitation and improve the standard of living.

Mr. Chesney made the statement that progress takes time.

Improvement takes intelligent and patient planning. Seeking alternatives that are reasonable must be discussed with input from various sources and always leveled with logic.

More issues will arise, but all will be rectified.

Openness at all Borough meetings and listening to citizens' concerns will continue to be practiced.

NEW BUSINESS-

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Kulpmont Knights of Columbus Wine Festival 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. will be held October 12th.

Trick or Treat in the Borough will be 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Lutz stated Council will now meet in executive session to discuss personnel, contractual and possible litigation matters.

The Solicitor Edward Greco stated Council met in executive session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss personnel, contractual and possible litigation matters.

ADJOURNMENT

THE OCTOBER 9th MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

**Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary**

Date of Approval _____