

MUNICIPALITY OF KINGSTON TOWN COUNCIL

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Town Council of the Municipality of Kingston was held in Council Chambers, 500 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, September 3, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members of Council were present.

Mr. Robert Thompson, Jr. – President - excused

Mr. Rob Jacobs, Vice President

Mr. Jack Schumacher

Mrs. Roberta Rowlands Mr. Anthony Diction

Mrs. Nancy Cooper

Mrs. Margaret Neville

Others present: Paul J. Roberts, Jr., Mayor; Paul Keating, Administrator; Harry Mattern, Esq., Solicitor; Julie Norton, Secretary

SWEARING IN OF RICHARD J. KOTCHIK, CHIEF OF POLICE:

Mayor Paul Roberts was proud to swear in Richard J. Kotchik as Kingston's Chief of Police at 7:03 p.m. Mr. Jacobs congratulated Chief Kotchik and thanked Mayor Roberts, Paul Keating and Kingston Council for their support. Chief Kotchik said that he believes in Kingston and has one of the most professional police departments in Luzerne County. Chief Kotchik is proud to serve this Municipality.

Mr. Jacobs welcomed Mike Berrish, President of Pringle. Mr. Berrish said that he appreciates how well the towns work together.

CITIZENS' REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

Cathy Orrson, 363 Joseph Drive – complained about the tree in the back of her property and that no one had the courtesy to return her call. Mr. Keating said that he and Code Enforcement looked at the tree and it was determined that it is not the responsibility of the Municipality. Mrs. Orrson said that it takes over a quarter of her yard. Mr. Keating believes the tree is not on Mrs. Orrson's property; however, if we are capable and have extra time, which this is not an

emergency, I will request the DPW director look at the tree. Mr. Keating made it perfectly clear to council that it is not the Municipality's responsibility regarding this tree, but will try to come up with a resolution with the DPW director.

Mrs. Orrson also commented regarding the willow tree at the corner of Pierce Street and Wyoming Avenue saying that tree should be taken down as it is a hazard. Mr. Keating said that the owner of the property has been put on notice and, again, it is not our responsibility as a Municipality to remove this tree. The owner is not willing to have the tree removed and is taking a chance. Mr. Jacobs also believes the tree should be removed as it is not healthy.

Clark Stewart, 12 Meyers Court – Mr. Stewart told council that Target Table and the area is failing. Mr. Keating told Mr. Stewart that Target Table is on the Agenda this evening regarding demolition and that should end the questioning about the demolition issue.

Also, in 2013 issues were unfounded regarding the “quad” incident involving two police officers who still work for the Municipality. Mr. Stewart gave council, Mr. Keating, Attorney Mattern, Mayor Roberts and Municipal Secretary a copy of information from his Facebook page that Mr. Stewart compiled. Mr. Stewart went on to say that the police are writing bogus reports and the police are covering it up. There is a conflict of interest and no one is doing anything. Mr. Jacobs (Acting President) asked Mr. Stewart if there was anything else he would like to add and Mr. Stewart responded “no”.

ADMINISTRATORS VERBAL UPDATE:

Mr. Keating requested that if any council member has any input regarding the Capital Budget, please call.

Regarding Ordinance 2019-7; a four-year contract for police services with Pringle Borough will be introduced this evening. The contract includes a 1% increase.

Regarding Resolution 2019-22; Demolition for Frederick Corss Street School. Kingston was originally awarded \$80,000.00, but we needed \$18,000.00 more which we secured this date for a total of \$98,000.00 for the demolition work.

You will find MS4 updates recently given to us from WWSA.

There is also a “Save the Date” from Wyoming Seminary celebrating their 175th anniversary.

Two of the three RFP's are the paving of West Union Street between Wyoming Avenue and Luzerne. There are four different engineering forms. Kingston will be able to use funds from Community Development funds to pay for this project; and, a new roof and hot water heater will be installed at the Rec Center.

The third RFP will be painting the gym at the Rec Center. There will be a Special Meeting in September to award a contract.

The final stages of Church Street park is finally here and should be wrapping that project up shortly.

There is correspondence from Senator Lisa Baker to Chairman Dennis M. Davin supporting the Municipality's grant from DCED through the Multimodal Transportation Fund in the amount of \$1,013,346.00 as well as supporting its 2019 Church Street/Third Avenue Revitalization and Public Safety project. Mr. Keating recommended awarding these projects. Both projects are pending.

Mr. Keating said that our finances look good. As of August 31, 2019, our revenue exceeds our expenses by \$679,645.32. Our expenses should be at the 66 ½% mark and we are at 66.36%. Mr. Keating said that he is pleased with this report.

Regarding the Kingston Pool, there are approximately \$20,000.00 in outstanding bills. Our revenue exceeds our expenses in the amount of \$57,000.00. Mr. Jacobs stated that he is thrilled that the pool is making some money. Mr. Keating said that daily guests, not members, throughout the summer brought in approximately \$97,000.00.

Mr. Keating congratulated Mr. Kotchik and also thanked and congratulated the other two candidates for stepping up.

AGENDA ITEM:

It was moved by Mrs. Rowlands and seconded by Mr. Dicton that **Resolution 2019-22** Awarding a Contract for the Demolition of The Frederick Corss School 128-130 Cuba Street

Motion carried and so ordered.

The vote of Council was recorded as follows:

Mr. Schumacher -Yes

Mr. Dicton – Yes

Mrs. Rowlands – Yes

Mr. Jacobs - Yes Mrs. Cooper - Yes Mrs. Neville - Yes

Motion passes.

REPORTS:

The Fire Department responded to 435 calls. A new SUV has been purchased for the fire chief.

The Police Department responded to 711 calls and 20 were in Pringle. There were 470 parking tickets issued. Although a decision has not been made, the police department is in need of a new vehicle and equipment.

There are 574 memberships at the Rec Center.

DPW collected 236 tons of garbage and 104 tons of single stream recycling. 150 tons of asphalt has been applied to Kingston streets. 6 cubic feet of concrete has been poured. The pool will be closed within a week. There are several projects that DPW is wrapping up as the end of the year approaches. Our mechanic is beginning to prep vehicles for the winter season. There is enough money in the budget so that two large dump trucks for plowing were purchased.

Code Enforcement issued 26 violation letters, 9 non-traffic citations and performed 10 residential inspections.

Finance reports are attached for your perusal.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Keating announced that Firefighter Ralph Seltzer is retiring. Mr. Seltzer was an asset to Kingston and he will be a hard man to replace. On behalf of Kingston and myself, we wish him the best.

Mayor Roberts congratulated Ilana Rosenthal, tennis player, who traveled to New York and recently won the singles and finished second in the mixed doubles. There were players from fifteen states and nine countries.

Attorney Mattern said that things have been somewhat quiet. There has been no response regarding the Franconi matter and oral argument should be scheduled very soon.

Mr. Schumacher congratulated the Administration for choosing the new police chief. Congratulations Rich!

Mr. Diction welcomed Rich and thanked the Administration and the Mayor. The Memorial Wall is at the high school beginning Thursday through Sunday.

Mrs. Rowlands thanked Mr. Keating for managing the budget and welcomed Chief Kotchik.

Mr. Jacobs welcomed Chief Kotchik. Also, Mr. Jacobs congratulated Mr. Keating and all who worked on and at the pool. Everyone did an outstanding job, not to mention to revenue that was earned.

Mrs. Cooper congratulated Chief Kotchik. The Trunk or Treat will take place on Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 5pm to 7pm in the HK&Q parking lot and parking is available at the JCC parking lot. The rain date is Sunday, October 27, 2019 from 2pm to 4pm.

Mrs. Neville congratulated Chief Kotchik. Mrs. Neville recently spoke with Mr. Keating regarding a grant proposal and she was very impressed with Mr. Keating working for and with the Municipality.

There being no further business, it was moved by Mrs. Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL:

Robert Jacobs - Acting President

ATTEST:

Julie Norton, Secretary
September 3, 2019