

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of Koppel Borough Council for July 21, 2020

Council Attendance: **Barbara Gioffre, Frank Pisano, Athena Pangikas-Miller, Michael Sabino, and Sandy Florie**

Borough Solicitor: Joseph Budicak

Mayor: Tom Vannoy

Guests Present: Jeff Dengler, Ken Orrico, Tracy Ierino, Martin Sheeler, Dwayne Lehman, Patty Palamone

Absent: Glenn Marshall, Jr., Eugene Docchio

The meeting opened with a Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance by Barbara Gioffre

A motion was made to **accept the June 16, 2020 Minutes.**

Motion made by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Motion seconded by: Michelle Sabino

Roll call – Completed

***The motion was approved by all present members of council.**

A motion was made to **pay the Borough General Fund bills.**

Motion made by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call – Completed

*****The motion was approved by all present members of council.**

A motion was made to **pay the Borough Fire Dept bills for June**

Motion made by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call – Completed

*****The motion was approved by all present members of council.**

A motion was made to **adopt a Curfew Ordinance**

Motion made by: Frank Pisano

Motion seconded by: Michael Sabino

Roll call – Completed

*****The motion was approved by all present members of council.**

A motion was made to **adopt a new Garbage Ordinance**

Motion made by: Frank Pisano

Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call – Completed

*****The motion was approved by all present members of council.**

A motion was made to adopt a Municipal Interest and Recovery Fees Ordinance

Motion made by: Frank Pisano

Motion seconded by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Roll call – Completed

***The motion was approved by all present members of council.

US CENSUS

Dr. Dwayne Lehman – Census Partnership Specialist, Philadelphia Regional Census Center

Dr. Lehman asked how many have completed the census. Those present with a “yes”. He reported that it is not too late to complete the census. Covid has pushed the end date out. Dr. Lehman reported that Koppel came up on the Department of Commerce radar indicating that response is only 42.7%, Beaver County is 74% and State wide is 62%. He suggested that the census is easy, safe and important. It can be mailed as a hardcopy, called in, or completed online at 2020census.gov.

He also said at the Census does not take any personal information and is not shared with other government agencies. The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

When you respond to the census, you help your community gets its fair share per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs such as Head Start, school lunches, highway assistance grants, education, highway and infrastructure grant. Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, and this creates jobs. The results will determine how many seats in Congress each state gets. It is important.

Because of Covid the Census has expanded data gathering through October 31. Because of Covid there are restrictions and once restrictions are lifted, the Census will begin to start with traditional door knockers. That is scheduled for the 31st of July. Mobile questionnaire centers will be setting up at supermarkets, Home Depot, and other sites to assist people in completing.

US CENSUS – HOW TO RESPOND
PHONE – (844)330-2020 you can phone in your census response and takes only 10 minutes.
ONLINE - https://my2020census.gov

GRANTS

Tracy Frampton – EADS Group

The grant Koppel applied for is the CDBG Storm Water Improvement Grant. We applied for \$192,000 and were approved for \$90,000 for storm sewer and sidewalk improvements along Arthur Street from 6th to 5th Avenue. EADS assisted the borough in making the application for the grant and it will be next year before construction will start on the site. Tracy presented to Council the option of applying for another grant offered by DCED to complete the project from 5th Avenue, Arthur Street to SR 18. It was explained that a feasibility study was done in applying for the CDBG Grant and this will be used in

applying for the next grant. If awarded the funds may be used for the development, rehabilitation and enhancement of transportation assets to existing communities, streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development. This competitive grant is due the end of September and the match requirement is waived. There is a \$100 application fee and the cost for preparation of this grant by EADS is \$1,500. A proposal will be submitted by EADS and Council will need to make a resolution to apply.

POLICE

The Police will need to notify the secretary of any supplies they need. It was requested that they drive through Koppel at the start of each new shift.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Brandon Fombelle was not present at the meeting. His report stated the following:

Columbia Gas will make all necessary patches and repairs in Koppel this fall.

Waiting for a notice from Mahoning Builders for a start date to lay cement at the entrance of Mount Street and mill entrance.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

A question came about the Norfolk Southern and the crossing on Mount Street. It needs repaired due to the rebar being exposed. The crossing is deteriorated. Pictures will be sent to the solicitor so he can send a letter to the railroad to ask for repair.

The current Parking and Traffic Ordinance has an omission and needs to be amended and will be a work in progress.

Three ordinances were prepared, advertised and adopted. They are the Garbage Ordinance #399, Curfew Ordinance #400 and the Municipal Interest and Recovery Fees Ordinance #401.

The Curfew Ordinance will be enforced and is for any minor not in the accompaniment of a parent or guardian and under the age of 18. Curfew hours are 11:00 pm to 6:00 am.

The Municipal Interest and Recovery Fees Ordinance allows the borough to impose interest on all municipal claims filed and also authorizes the recovery of reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the borough in the collection of any delinquent accounts for municipal claims or taxes.

MAINTENANCE

Ken Orrico stated that maintenance had been working at the Baseball field restoration and had not been working on potholes because of it. Ken asked that you let the borough know where there are potholes. Maintenance has been working on multiple projects going on at the same time. One of the projects is installing "no dumping" signs along the railroad tracks. Michael Sabino reported that Second Avenue is all torn up again. There are big chunks of pavement missing. Frank Pisano reported that on the end of 5th Avenue there is a large hole.

Fire extinguishers from the Police car were used and needed to be checked. When used the police should tell the secretary, so that Ken can get them recharged.

POTTER BASEBALL

The Potter Baseball Tour was a success and a lot of work was done to renovate the Koppel ball field. There is an interest to do it again next year. It was suggested to raise money by selling tickets and having a raffle before next year. A **big thank you** goes to Frank Pisano, Jr. for rolling the field, Bud Marshall for disposing debris, Tom Vannoy for donating his grill and wheel barrel, Patty Palamone and Athena Pangikas-Miller for serving lunch and dinner, Lorraine Byers for serving lunch and donating the cake, hot dogs and condiments and Ed Prence for recruiting the old timers to play ball.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Former Police Officers, Borghi and Sarcone, were charged and have pled guilty. They were given ARD and will make restitution. Koppel is in the process of possibly hiring two new officers and have received a couple of good applicants. At present, one officer is off sick and will be so for a while.