

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of Koppel Borough Council for October 20, 2020

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

Borough Solicitor: Joseph Budicak
Mayor: Tom Vannoy

Borough Engineer

Borough Police Officer: Officer Speer

Also Present: Jeffrey Dengler, Carol Shirilla, Tim Brewer, Patty Palamone and Henry Tjernlund

Absent: Glenn Marshall, Jr.

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

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A motion was made to **accept the September 15, 2020 Minutes**

Motion made by: Eugene Docchio

Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call –

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

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

Motion made by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call -

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

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A motion was made to **pay the borough Fire Dept bills.**

Motion made by: Athena Pangikas-Miller

Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call –

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

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A motion was made to hire two new Police Officers – Charles Pens and Darrell Holmes

Motion made by: Eugene Docchio

Motion seconded by: Frank Pisano

Roll call –

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

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A motion was made to give Linda DeSanzo a \$500 per year increase in pay.

Motion made by: Frank Pisano

Motion seconded by: Sandy Florie

Roll call –

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

Fire Department Bills

Skip Docchio questioned the Insurance payment which is one of the Fire Department bills. It was agreed to look into what this Insurance payment is for. It was found that the bill in question is insurance for equipment and the building, which they purchased after a fire at the fire department.

Police Report

The police report was submitted by Officer Speer. A question was asked what the medical call on the report was for. The officer said it was a health-related issue and not drug related. A question was asked about enforcement by the department about the “No U-turns” at the post office. Officer Speer said he would make it known to the department to enforce this.

Engineer’s Report

Work was completed on Mount Street satisfactorily and the bill was submitted to Tenaris for reimbursement. Someone questioned who removed the barriers. It was assumed Mahoning Builder’s removed them and maintenance was not present at the meeting to answer the question.

Solicitor’s Report

The Solicitor is working on a new traffic ordinance and working with Mary Sue regarding unpaid garbage bills and how to proceed going forward about the delinquency. The numbers of delinquent accounts have dropped considerably, as attempts by Mary Sue to collect on them have been very successful.

Mayor’s Report

Two new officers have been hired. A motion was made to approve the hiring of Charles Pens, start date September 24, 2020 and Darrell Holmes, start date October 21, 2020. Hans Spencer has resigned after taking a full-time job with Beaver Falls Police Department.

Mayor Vannoy has been looking into alternatives to the local police department inquiring about services from other communities and if Koppel could provide services. Big Beaver Borough has been approached and they are not interested as they receive police protection from the State Police.

Vandalism of Church Property

Charges of vandalism have been filed and will be going to the magistrate. There are two vandals and a victim’s statement has been delivered to Juvenile Services of Beaver County. Damages were in excess of \$10,000. Someone suggested that community services be performed as part of the restitution. Officer Speer said that Koppel could ask that community services be done in Koppel with the police department overseeing the service. It was also asked if parents of a minor can be held responsible for the damages and Officer Speer indicated yes. Two destructive conduct letters have been sent to the 4th Avenue home where the vandals live.

Guests

Jeff Dengler said that on 2nd and Richard there is water that continually runs and referred to it as a leak that has been leaking for two months. He questioned if it is the result of the work done on the sewer and waterline replacement that is ongoing.

Also, he observed a car driving down 4th Avenue, a 4-door white car that drives dangerously fast.

Tax Collection

Linda DeSanzo requested a raise for the year going forward from 2021. It was noted that she has not received a raise in a long time and does an excellent job. She has remained under budget for her expenses and she is consistently under budget. She is responsible for taking extra classes and upgrading of equipment. A raise of \$500 a year was approved by council to begin immediately. She is now paid \$2,600 per year.

Audit

A motion to approve the auditor Ken Loll for \$3,450 dollars and is \$50 more than the previous year. Services charged will not exceed \$3,450 and includes auditing and advisory role. It was approved.

Food Distribution

Food donated by Victory Family Church of Cranberry Township, PA will be distributed on October 21, 2020 to anyone who wants it. Distribution is at the church next to the parking lot and basketball area. Maintenance will be picking up the food and handing it out. Those helping are Ken Orrico, Jesse Burnett and Mayor Tom Vannoy. Drew Ohorodnyk speaking for Victory Family Church said this could be done on a monthly basis when and if it is available.

Rental of Rectory

The house has been cleaned, painted outside and some painting on the inside. Posting of the rental property was made to market it as residential and/or commercial. It is 2,300 SF and is in a very good condition. Frank Pisano would like to receive pictures to take to his work place to advertise.

Traffic Ordinance

It was requested by Mayor Vannoy that exceptions on the traffic ordinance be made in two areas.

1. No parking in the alley with the exception of times for street sweeping, leaf collection and snow removal.
2. Large Vehicle Parking Restriction with an exception to allow people who have a utility trailer, travel trailer and boat trailer. Those vehicles to be removed from mid-October to mid-May.

The solicitor was given a copy of the new Traffic Ordinance and discussion of it will be on the Agenda for next month.

Zoning

Owen Pella Zoning has been contacted in regard to requesting gutters be installed on the storage facilities on Mount Street. When it rains water pours into the alley and runs onto Mount Street. The gutters would help direct the water.

Meeting was adjourned