

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
SPECIAL MEETING
For General Purpose
7:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer by Councilman Joseph Dowkus
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the body present,
Kulpmont Borough Council held the special meeting for general purpose on
Wednesday June 7, 2023

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

ABSENT: Mayor Robert M. Slaby, Solicitor Greco and Treasurer Paul Niglio.

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Code Officer Heather Owens and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk.

OTHERS PRESENT: John Grinaway, Claire Taddeo and Rev. Andrew Stahmer.

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

Mr. Chesney stated he wants to speak for Mr. Grinaway and stated he is having a issue that he cannot speak this evening and asked him to speak on his behalf. Tonight. Mr. Chesney stated he is having an issue with cars parking in his garage which is making it hard to get out of his garage and becoming a safety issue. Mr. Chesney stated he just asked him to present that for him.

Mr. Chesney stated there is an issue with vehicles not being inspected or registered and blocking driveways. Mr. Bielskie stated we have an ordinance for that. Mr. Chesney agreed and said the Chief like today spent all day in Harrisburg, and there is not much he could do. Mr. Chesney stated even if the Chief patrols one or two alleys a day on a regular patrol. Mr. Dowkus stated there is an ordinance that justifies Mr. Grinaways gripe, and it will be brought to the mayors attention and stated we will take care of it.

Heather Owens stated she just would like to mention that she has been contacted about this several times and just wants to say she does not or is not authorized to run plates and so she cannot do anything about it, it is a plate issue, and she does not have that capability. She stated concerning the car from New York, it's a plate issue and she certainly cannot knock on peoples' doors to find out who owns the vehicle and just wanted to explain why she is or cannot do anything about it.

Mayors Report (Robert M. Slaby)

Kulpmont 100 is requesting permission to proceed with the First Responder Parade on September 9th.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella for permission to be granted for the event to be held on September 9th and authorize a letter be sent by the Mayor to Kulpmont 100.

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

Personnel – (Joseph Dowkus)

Mr. Dowkus stated a letter of resignation was received from Douglas Katalinas with his last day being July 7, 2023.

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to accept the letter of resignation.

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

A discussion took place and Mr. Chesney commented on the knowledge and experience of Mr. Wasilewski

MOTION- Mr. Dowkus made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to hire Mr. Gregory Wasilewski for the Street Department at a rate of 15.00 per hour, with 90-day probation and then review.

After further discussion Mr. Fanella made a subsidiary motion.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made a subsidiary motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to hire Gregory Wasilewski at a rate of 17.00 per hour full time, with benefits.

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

Mr. Dowkus asked if we could reach out to Mr. Wasilewski and have all the necessary paperwork done and ready to start on Monday.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD –

Claire Taddeo stated she is here regarding a property at 1152 Poplar Street and stated the back porch roof is falling. Mr. Bielskie stated he had talked to H & P Construction who oversees that. Claire Taddeo stated pigeons are going in there and there are dead pigeons, big pigeons. She stated there are gaps and that is where the pigeons are going in. She stated there is debris in the yard and she has seen rats, she stated she has some photos and proceeded to approach Council President with the pictures.

Mr. Bielskie stated somehow, they are related to somebody from H & P and they decided they will go and do the work for them. Ms. Taddeo questioned if he has any idea when. Mr. Bielskie stated he will approach them again. Mr. Motyka questioned Mr. Bielskie if we give them a time limit. Mr. Bielskie stated we are going to need to. Mr. Chesney stated we need to crack down on all of this. Mr. Chesney stated Mr. Grinaway also mentioned on his block because they put garbage out front, he has seen rats going across his front porch and people do not need to live like this.

Claire Taddeo questioned how many windows have to be broken and boarded up for..... Mr. Bielskie stated you could go through town and every third house has a broken window. Claire Taddeo asked about those windows that are not closed that are next to another property such as a double home.

Mr. Dowkus stated there are outstanding citations, Ms. Owens does a great job patrolling the town and stated and citizens make council and the code officer aware of these situations, but stated if he sends a piece of stationary to her house he asked if she is going to respond and said they don't. Mr. Bielskie stated right across the street from him there are houses that have had their windows open for three years now.

Mr. Dowkus we are doing the way the rules and laws abide. Mr. Bielskie stated they are cited the first time and the second time and once the fee gets over a certain amount they are taken to the magistrate. He stated it just is not that simple.

Rev. Andrew Stahmer stated the area where people were dumping, signs were up and this morning the signs were torn down. It is a real mess with the dumping and what is going to be done to clean up the area if B & B does it or who is going to clean up that area. He shared his concern on speed limits in small alleys and the problem of speeding in areas of the borough and the safety of the people walking.

Rev. Andrew Stahmer stated he understands the council is trying to hire police. He talked about vehicles from out of town being parked around without inspections and registrations and talked about cars being parked in his lot and asked about towing and who is responsible for paying for that. The council stated a sign must be posted. Rev. Andrew Stahmer stated that all someone needs to do is come and let him know if they will need to park there, who they are and call or leave a note there.

A discussion took place on options and discussing making the street down there one way and discussed there would need to be a traffic study.

Mr. Motyka stated we need to consider any ARPA money that is not spent or allocated, we need to get some ideas on how to spend the \$50,000.00 we have not allocated, it was spoke of last week, the Feds are going to start pulling that back, the money not allocated and so we need some ideas.

Mr. Chesney discussed a meeting next week where Pat Mack and Ed Christiana added they will come into town and look at some of the blights and dilapidated buildings. He stated there are four properties that have been identified and stated we may be able to do something there.

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS-

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The June 7, 2023, Meeting was adjourned by the call of the Chair.

**Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary**

Approval date – July 12, 2023