

**KULPMONT BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

August 14, 2024

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 August 14, 2024

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

ABSENT: Charles Staskiel

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Treasurer Paul Niglio, Solicitor Edward Greco, Code Official Heather Owens, Police Chief Stephen Mazzeo, Fire Chief Raymond Siko and Borough Secretary Rhonda Wilk

OTHERS PRESENT: Edwin Howerter, Joe Politza, Justin Skavery, John A. Klokis, Susan Klokis and Jason Tandler.

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

Mr. Chesney stated Justin Skavery is here this evening and asked that the council allow him to speak at this time concerning the status of zoning and to provide an update on the MAP meetings.

Justin Skavery, Plan Coordinator for Northumberland County, stated he is here to talk about the Map Program. Kulpmont, Marion Heights and Mt. Carmel Township have been working on the program for the past two years or so. He stated he has a copy of the draft map of the zone districts as well as a description of those areas. He passed the draft map, subject to change and zoning districts to the council for review.

Mr. Skavery explained the sections on the map and stated he will send a pdf on the breakdowns of the districts and their descriptions of the sections. Mr. Chesney reiterated what Mr. Skavery said on the zoning districts and sections and stated some may be grandfathered in and most pertain to anything new coming into Kulpmont. Solicitor Greco asked what stage he was at and asked if he was at the public comment stage. Mr. Skavery replied he is not at that stage yet, this is just a presentation of the draft, no action is to be taken right now adding that will come at a later time. He stated he will stick around for any questions. The council thanked Mr. Skavery.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report

MAYORS REPORT- (Robert M. Slaby)

No Report

SECRETARY'S REPORT- (Rhonda Wilk)

Rhonda Wilk stated a motion is needed to approve the meeting minutes from July 10, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fanella to approve the June 12th and June 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), FANELLA, (yes), CHESNEY (yes), STASKIEL (absent), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Rhonda Wilk stated a letter was received from Kulpmont 100 concerning the First Responder Parade planned for September 14th. They are requesting use of the Veterans Memorial Field for staging of fire and emergency response apparatus prior to the parade and closure of Rt. 61 from 5th to 13th Streets in the Borough and to restrict and post along the parade route from 12 noon until 3:00 p.m. A copy of the special events permit will be provided once received.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to allow Kulpmont 100 use of the Veterans Memorial Field for staging emergency apparatus and request to post the parade route restricting parking.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), FANELLA, (yes), CHESNEY (yes), STASKIEL (absent), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

Correspondence was received from PSAB regarding the Fall Leadership Conference to be held in Lancaster October 11th – October 13th with the discount registration period running until September 19th, after that there will be a price increase. Copied to, Mayor and Council.

Northumberland County Tax Claim Bureau sent information of properties subject to tax sale for delinquent taxes and stated any municipal claim against a property to certify before August 30th. Copied to the Mayor, Council, Solicitor and Code officer.

An email was received from the Fire Chief, Raymond Siko concerning squad apparatus to be repaired by Bull Dog and was Copied to Mayor and Council.

Mr. Chesney stated in his announcement to us it read upon inspection the new line installed by bulldog when the squad got serviced burned through and busted and stated later it appears that it was a repair glitch that under the cab area of the apparatus and certainly bulldog will be able to repair it. Mr. Chesney questioned if bulldog put it in wrong or in an area that caused this to happen will the borough be billed? Chief Siko stated it was a pressure filling that was not clamped and blew off, they already came back repaired, apologized and fixed it immediately. Mr. Chesney replied, “very good.”

A letter was received from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regarding The Freedom 40 LLC and was copied to the Mayor, Council, Code office and KMHJMA.

A letter was received from Northumberland County Elections and Voter Registration, notification of the November 5, 2024, General Election and voting machine delivery, Copied to Mayor and Council.

A late correspondence was received today from Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission concerning billing dispute and notification of scheduled conference call, Copied to Mayor, Council and Solicitor

TREASURERS REPORT (Paul Niglio)

Mr. Niglio stated all Council received a copy of the financial information and the bills to be paid.

MOTION- Mr. Chesney made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Motyka to approve to pay the bills.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), FANELLA, (yes), CHESNEY (yes), STASKIEL (absent), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
6YEAS – 0 NAYS

SOLICITORS REPORT (Edward Greco)

Solicitor Greco stated there is no word on the survey on Kulp Avenue from Mr. Brinkash.

Solicitor Greco stated concerning the correspondence from Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, we are moving forward, and he has a will attend a phone conference along with Mr. Motyka.

POLICE CHIEFS REPORT – (Stephen Mazzeo)

Police Report attached.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – (Raymond Siko)

Fire Chief Report Attached. Chief Siko regarding the squad involved in an accident he has been in contact with the insurance company and is working to find a vendor that could match the reflective stripping on the equipment which will need to be replaced. Chief Siko stated there is a small scratch on the bumper they could live with and are only looking to have the stripping replaced.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – (vacant)

Vacant, no report

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT– (Tri County COG)

No Report

CODE/HEALTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT – (Heather Owens)

Report attached and added we passed the ordinance for trash to be picked up at the rear of the property and asked residents to be mindful of that.

SERVICE AND FACILITIES – (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated that food surplus distribution will be held on August 15, 2024, from 8:00 until 11:00 at the borough garage.

Mr. Fanella stated he has quotes for two shelving units needed to store file boxes. Mr. Motyka stated he believes we may have suitable shelving in the basement. It was agreed to look in the basement to see if shelves could be utilized.

Mr. Fanella stated concerning street repairs he would like to put four streets out for bid, one would be Lamplight Acres, Fifth Street SR 61 to Spruce Street, Ash Street 10th to 11th Street, and Ash Street 9th to 10th Street.

MOTION- Mr. Fanella made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to put streets out for bid to include Lamplight Acres, Fifth Street SR 61 to Spruce Street, Ash Street 10th to 11th Street, and Ash Street 9th to 10th Street.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), FANELLA, (yes), CHESNEY (yes), STASKIEL (absent), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
6YEAS – 0 NAYS

Mr. Fanella stated on Sixteenth Street, we are going to check into that because it isn't on any maps for the liquid fuels, and we will need to find out if we own it.

Mr. Fanella stated the code vehicle needs a radiator and stated Ed is not here tonight to elaborate on that.

Mr. Fanella stated with the Aqua project, paving should start next week adding he is not sure where they will start until Meckley's contacts him with more information.

Mr. Fanella stated one thing we need to address is the police coverage down at the Veterans Memorial Field. He stated the contract with the high school says our police would take care of it. Mr. Fanella stated he thinks we should have something in writing now we are going to have another expensive building down there and we need to determine coverage. He stated Chief Hollenbush says one thing and this and that, but stated he feels it should be up to us to patrol, the property is leased to us. Mayor Slaby stated it always has been, the twelve years he served as Mayor of the police department. He stated at that time when he had one or two at that time, Joe Scicchitano of the street department at that time would lock the gates at night and did the best they could.

Mr. Motyka questioned the solicitor on how hard it is the procedure to annex, so it actually becomes borough limits. Solicitor Greco responded saying we obviously must file documentation in court, the question is how hard Mt. Carmel Township will fight us on it adding they are not getting any tax revenue from it or plans to develop. Mr. Niglio questioned if there would need to be a vote on when you take over. Solicitor Greco stated he would need to look into it.

Mr. Fanella stated we ran into problems with dumping. Code official Heather Owens stated there have been several situations of people dumping and stated we know who they are. She stated if they don't enforce it, and we don't enforce it then there is just a green light to keep dumping. Mr. Niglio asked if that was outside of our dump. Heather replied and said it is in the clean fill area that the person dumping is going on.

Mayor Slaby stated he would hate to have the gate closed for a number of hours in the morning; people like to come out and start working at 7 or 8 o'clock. Mayor Slaby stated it really won't serve the purpose of why it is down there. Mayor Slaby stated and this push back between Kulpmont and Mt. Carmel Township has been going back to when he first got elected commenting, "it is ours, it is not ours we will do this, we will do that." Mayor Slaby stated something so simple becomes so difficult between municipalities. Mr. Fanella suggested we approach the township supervisors and see how they feel about it. Mr. Fanella stated they are in agreement. Mayor Slaby addressed the president and stated since he is in charge of the police, he would be willing with the approval of council he would meet with the township supervisors.

Mr. Niglio questioned why we don't just block the egress, and people won't go down there anymore. A discussion took place on closing it off to the public and eliminating the problem of people dumping. Mr. Chesney stated he feels if we find garbage that can be identified with a name.....Mr. Bielskie interjected and said the issue is Mt. Carmel does not want to do anything about it. Mr. Motyka stated if he owns a cabin in Potter County and someone is littering on his property, they take care of it and stated the same thing

here if Kulpmont owns a piece of property outside Kulpmont Borough and violations occur down there Mt. Carmel Township is obligated to fine those people. Mr. Bielskie stated the requirements with garbage are a lot of paperwork. Mr. Novakoski stated they do not want to bother.

Mr. Fanella stated with the projects we have coming up, that will be pretty much filled in. Mr. Novakoski commented on the project at the Ramp field and stated when DCNR comes in to do the creek bed and see the trash down there, who they are going to blame, us. Mr. Bielskie stated that is not our property. Mr. Novakoski stated he knows that but if we close it off and say we are not giving anyone access to it, they can't blame us.

Mayor Slaby, said he doesn't honestly know, and questioned if there is any written proof of who owns the property. Mr. Fanella stated there is a lease from Susquehanna to the Borough of Kulpmont for that property is Kulpmont's as long as it is used for recreation, it is in our office. Mr. Fanella stated then there is an agreement with the Mt. Carmel School District. Mr. Novakoski stated the borough uses it for clean fill, the people are bringing in poles, concrete, fence post with concrete, sidewalks and stated that is not clean fill.

MOTION- Mr. Novakoski made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Chesney to close off the access to the area.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), FANELLA, (yes), CHESNEY (yes), STASKIEL (absent), MOTYKA (no), HODGE (no)
4 YEAS – 2 NAYS

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – (Stephen Motyka)

No Report

CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY- (Stephen Bielskie)

No Report.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - (Robert Fanella)

Mr. Fanella stated there was a motion at the July meeting to advertise the sidewalk ordinance, but stated the committee is still looking at that ordinance and considering adding additional requirements. He stated it is not ready to be advertised at this time and so we will table that.

RECREATION/GRANTS COMMITTEE – (Robert Chesney)

Mr. Chesney stated he received another call from the County from Mr. Mack. Mr. Chesney stated he would like to hold a meeting soon with Solicitor Greco and some other people from the county to start utilizing the blight money on some of the buildings which have been identified in the past. Mr. Chesney stated hopefully that will materialize.

Solicitor Greco commented and said dates have been floated around to set up this meeting.

Mr. Motyka stated we need to advertise for bids of specialized wall material to complete the DCNR project at the Veterans Memorial Field.

MOTION- Mr. Motyka made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Novakoski to advertise for bids for the specialized wall material to complete the DCNR project at the Veterans Memorial Field.

ROLL CALL VOTE- NOVAKOSKI (yes), BIELSKIE (yes), FANELLA, (yes), CHESNEY (yes), STASKIEL (absent), MOTYKA (yes), HODGE (yes)
6YEAS – 0 NAYS

PERSONNEL- (Bernard P. Novakoski)

No report

FIRE/EMA/POLICE COMMITTEE – (Bernard P. Novakoski)

No Report

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Chesney stated there was an article placed in the paper concerning the Fire Department and stated he just wants everyone to know that article was placed and signed as Bob Chesney the citizen and not Bob Chesney the councilman.

Mr. John Klokis asked the council concerning the closure of dumping yard clippings at the Veterans Memorial Field, what they are to do with yard waste. The council suggested taking branches, clippings to J & S, they accept that material or to Coal Township Recycling Center.

OLD BUSINESS-

Mr. Chesney stated concerning grass and garbage he has seen some improvement but stated we must do better, South Seventh Street, South Sixth Street, the 1200 block of Chestnut Street, and the Mill are some areas to look at.

Mr. Novakoski stated Eighth Street and Scott needs to be addressed for trash and in general everything is overgrown and needs to be trimmed back, we need to have the owners trim everything back, you cannot even see when turning that corner.

NEW BUSINESS-

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wishing everyone a nice Labor Day

ADJOURNMENT of the August 14, 2024, monthly meeting

**Rhonda Wilk
Borough Secretary**

Approval date September 11, 2024