

KANE BOROUGH COUNCIL
August 14, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of Kane Borough Council was called to order at 6:30 P. M. by President Tom Kase. The meeting was held at the Kane Borough Building, 112 Bayard Street, Kane, PA 16735. Members were notified of the meeting on December 13, 2023.

INVOCATION

Father Bill O'Brien led council in prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Tom Kase (President), Jack Zelina (Vice President), Sam Cummings Jr., Debra Miller Brandy Schimp (Mayor), Don Payne (Secretary), Tony Alfieri (Solicitor), Carrie Klaiber (Recording Secretary), Heath Boyer (Police Chief), Mick O'Rourke (Street Department Manager)

Telecommunications: None

Excused: Melanie Clabaugh, Kelle Bari, Jerry Milliron

Absent: Matt Bressler (Fire Chief), Joe Geer (Code Compliance)

VISITORS

Andy McKowan (Kane Republican), Steve Dyne, Michael Lombardo, Bill Cook, Stephanie Hayduk, Gunner Moore, Debbie Ziegler, David Korn.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Zelina, seconded by Dr. Miller, to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2024, regular monthly meeting. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

MONTHLY REPORTS

Budget – Report submitted to Council.

A motion was made by Dr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Zelina, to approve the Budget Report, as presented. Motion carried.

Tax Collector – Balance on duplicate = \$97,791.86 (previous balance \$106,831.46)

A motion was made by Dr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Zelina, to approve the Tax Report, as presented. Motion carried.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Check detail in the amount of \$129,039.33 was presented to Council for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Zelina, seconded by Mr. Cummings, to approve the Bills for Payment. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Office – Report submitted. Mr. Payne also stated that tree planting will be postponed until spring due to all of the planned planting being in Borough right-of-way and winter plowing may not be best for them. Mrs. Klaiber stated the RentFun! Installation has been delayed due to a maintenance issue that they had with the kiosks at other locations. They are working with the manufacturer to correct this, and they believe the installation will be in late August or early September. Street paving is expected to begin on Pine Street on or about Monday, August 19th. We do not know for sure if they are only doing Pine Street and then coming back for the rest, or if the crews will be staying in town to complete all the scheduled work. Mr. Zelina reported on a meeting with Adam Hartwig with Alliance for Non-profit Resources to look at vacant lot around the Borough for development of single-story housing. Mr. Hartwig is now saying he they are thinking they would prefer to build to suit, rather than choose a lot and do a “model home”, as was originally discussed. Other contractors or local developers would be more than welcome to do the same.

Code Compliance - Report Submitted.

Solicitor – Report Submitted.

Police – Report submitted. Chief Boyer stated that Officer Joe Schmader has resigned as a part-time officer. His last day will be Saturday, August 17th. The new Patrol vehicle has been delivered to the outfitter and they are working with them to avoid an issue that the Sheriff’s Department had with the same make of vehicle with the power outsourcing for their necessary equipment. He also reminded all that Alternate Parking on Hemlock Avenue only begins Tuesday, August 20th, as school starts Wednesday, August 21st.

Street - Report Submitted. Mr. O’Rourke stated that in addition to their regular work, they have trapped and released 5 skunks in the Borough and that we now have 2 traps available that can be borrowed by citizens.

Fire – No Report submitted.

Assessment – Report submitted.

Health Board – Report submitted.

A motion was made by Dr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Zelina, to approve the Department Reports, as presented. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Negotiations – A meeting is scheduled for September 4th for the Negotiations Committee to meet. There is also a meeting with the Police Dept Representative(s) on September 12th regarding the 2025-2027 contract.

Parks- Minutes from the July 10, 2024 meeting were submitted. There are several trees that Kane Lawn and Garden has still not replaced that are in need. Mr. Payne will continue to reach out to them to get his resolved.

Property – The newly formed Trailhead Committee has met. They are considering getting some Arborvitae to block some of the old Kane Handle property. The maps they have been approved to hang are in process and the sculpture will be installed in September. The inquired if an engineering plan will be required for the proposed improvements to the old dept building. They would like to get planning done this fall / winter, so they are ready to begin work on site next spring.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. A motion was made by Mr. Zelina, seconded by Dr. Miller to accept the resignation of Dr. Dennis Olson as Health Office and Darlene Olson as Health Board Secretary. Motion carried.
- b. A motion was made by Dr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cummings to appoint Dr. Dale McLaughlin as the new Health Officer and Audrey McLaughlin as the new Health Board Secretary. Motion carried.
- c. A motion was made by Mr. Zelina, seconded by Dr. Miller to approve and accept Resolution #12-24, Acknowledgement of Emergency Procurement in the amount of \$20,437.00 for the repair of a sink hole at the corner of Greeves Street and Fraley Street in June 2024.
- d. A motion was made by Mr. Cummings, seconded by Mr. Zelina to approve and accept Resolution #13-24 increase the 2026 project amount and approve the 30% required grant match of \$150,813.00 and any inflation in cost to the estimate provided this year to be paid from the Controlled Account.
- e. A motion was made by Mr. Cummings, seconded by Dr. Miller to approve the first reading of Ordinance #A-1077 which will amend existing Ordinance §221-19 by adding an incentive to property owners to replace the sidewalks which abut their properties, paying \$10 per 5-foot square of replaced sidewalk.
- f. A motion was made by Mr. Zelina, seconded by Dr. Miller to approve the minimum financial commitment for the Non-Uniform Employee Pension Fund for 2025 of \$24,480.00.
A motion was made by Dr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Zelina to approve the minimum financial commitment for the Police Pension fund for 2025 of \$0.00.
- g. A motion was made by Mr. Cummings, seconded by Mr. Zelina to assign the request to amend Ordinance §78-7 Keeping of animals to allow small animal enclosures to be closer than 25-feet from the property lines to the Ordinance Committee for research and a recommendation.
- h. A motion was made by Mr. Cummings, seconded by Mr. Zelina to assign the request to amend Ordinance §143-9 Display of license; transient vendors to prohibit transient vendors to be located in the Central Business District, to the Ordinance Committee for research and a recommendation.
- i. A motion was made by Dr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Zelina to approve the use of Controlled Funds in the amount of \$36,000.00 to pay for repaving Walnut Street from Park Avenue to Tionesta Avenue as part of the 2024 Paving Project.
- j. A motion was made by Dr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Zelina to approve the use of Controlled Funds to pay the Street Re-paving Project Inspector labor costs (approx. \$14,000.00) for the 2024 Project.
- k. A motion was made by Mr. Cummings, seconded by Mr. Zelina to approve the first reading of Ordinance #A-1078 to amend Ordinance §221-19 by increasing the minimum annual pay of the Health Officer to \$3,000.00 per year and add payment of \$35.00 per occasion for dwelling inspections.
- l. A motion was made by Mr. Cummings, seconded by Dr. Miller to approve a change of venue for the October 9th Borough Council Meeting to the Six & Kane Building (63 N Fraley Street), and to approve a Special Meeting be held prior to the regular meeting, at 6:00pm for the PA Mayors Association presentation of the Mayor of the Year Award to our Mayor, Brandy Schimp.
- m. A motion was made by Mr. Cummings, seconded by Dr. Miller to approve Resolution #14-24 to the total project amount for the Evergreen Park Sidewalk Project to \$154,820.00 therefore, increasing the 15% required match to \$23,223.00 and commit an additional amount not to exceed \$8,000.00 for inflation and/or unanticipated expenses, to be paid from the Controlled Fund.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Report submitted. The International Peace Run Event was a great event. The Kane Kids of Steel greeted the runners and got to meet them all before they continued on. There is a multi-resource event at the Kane Community Center on Thursday, August 15, 3:00 – 7:00 pm. National Night Out was a great success.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS

Stephanie Hayduk: Ms. Hayduk is monitor of the Things Happening in Kane PA Facebook page. She came to ask a few questions and make suggestions on topics that seem to be creating animosity between the borough residents and the borough council and staff. First is the ordinance regarding grass being maintained at 6 inches. In a lot of cases the weeds are higher and are what seems to be creating a lot of the problem vs. the actual grass. She is asking for consideration to amend the ordinance to either not include weeds or to allow for 7-8" in order to allow for a every two weeks mowing schedule. Secondly, the Code Compliance Officer is not being professional. For example, he was at a public event and stated that he loves handing out citations. Discussion took place regarding the regulations for house numbers, how notices are given, when fines are issued etc. Third, notification for street paving was addressed, along with the various ways that the Borough communicates to the public including website, Facebook, calling the office. Finally, she asked for consideration of an increase in the licensing fee for Games of Skill.

Debbie Ziegler: Stated she has been notified twice regarding her grass being overgrown. She is concerned that the notices are not given consistently, her grass will be the same as the neighbor's and only she will get a notice.

David Korn: He explained he came to the meeting because Mayor Schimp reached out due to his Facebook post. He stated he is surprised that more citizens do not attend. He said he will try to get more people to come so they will be more informed. He suggested that we use social media to our advantage by livestreaming meetings (Mayor Schimp explained there are legal issues with live streaming). The process of ordinance change was explained by Mr. Kase. He stated that an individual start by presenting their case at a workshop. From there, it will be brought to council and possibly to the ordinance committee. An Ordinance Amendment takes two readings to be voted on for them to go into effect.

Mike Lombardo: Mr. Lombardo thanked to council for sending his ordinance amendment request to the ordinance committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Regular Session ended at 8:25 P.M. An Executive Session regarding Real Estate took place. At 8:40 P.M. Executive Session was ended.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, a motion was made by Dr. Miller seconded by Mr. Cummings to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P. M.

Carrie Klaiber, Recording Secretary