

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President George Hinton, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Council members David Hess, Steve Bender, Dave Manzo, Patrick Webber and Alex Cortezzo. Also, in attendance were Mayor Wesley J. Smith, Borough Solicitor Ronald Karasek, Borough Engineer Brian Pysker, and Borough Manager Louise Firestone. Absent was Councilman Jeff Yob.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Peter Albanese, representing Green Knight Economic Development Corporation (GKEDC), came before Council to discuss the Male Road Bridge. Male Road (from S.R. 512 Intersection to the borough/township line) and the Male Road Bridge belong to Wind Gap Borough and the condition of bridge has been a concern for some time. GKEDC Industrial Park is a development that was approved both by Plainfield Township and Wind Gap Borough as there are lots situated in both municipalities. Recently, a new warehouse was built on the other south side of Male Road in Plainfield Township. Because of the current condition of the bridge, it has necessitated weight restrictions, but now because of the industrial development the bridge will become heavily used by commercial traffic. GKEDC understands the concern expressed by Wind Gap so they approached both Wind Gap Council and Plainfield Township Supervisors and asked to have a meeting with Senator Scavello and State Representative Ann Flood to discuss a strategy to get both private and public entities all working toward a solution to the funding of the necessary improvements to the bridge. Unfortunately, that meeting did not take place last year. Senator Scavello, State Representative Flood, Louise Firestone and the Green Knights came up with a different plan that would assist in the effort to secure funding. They came up with a plan to do a cost-share. Senator Scavello's office asked the developers to come up with \$250,000, and for Wind Gap Borough to submit a grant to hopefully get \$250,000 from the Senate and \$250,000 from the State House. Mr. Albanese reported that he has commitment that the \$250,000 has been secured between GKEDC and the owner of the warehouse. The next step is to get an engineered drawing of the planned necessary repairs to include in the grant application submission which has a July deadline. Mr. Albanese wants to make sure that Council is on board with moving forward with this project. GKEDC is looking for confirmation that the borough does intend to proceed, not only with the application and the follow-up but also the construction of the bridge once funds are secured. Louise is currently working on the grant process through PA DCED.

On motion by Alex Cortezzo to accept the support of the private funds/matching funds to be able to apply for the Multimodal Transportation Fund (MRF) Program through PA Department of Community and Economic Development of the discussed \$250,000 amount from each party and seconded by Steve Bender. Roll call taken. In favor: G. Hinton, D Manzo, P. Webber, S. Bender, A. Cortezzo. Opposed: D. Hess. Motion carried with a vote of 5-1.

2. Pete Albanese also had questions regarding the Community Commercial Zoning District. He would like to understand how the Borough envisions what the CC District would look like and how developers should move forward in this district. The Zoning Officer, Suzanne Borzak, will send Pete a list of permitted uses and set up a meeting if necessary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Alex Cortezzo to approve the May 2, 2022 minutes and seconded by Dave Manzo. Roll call vote taken. In favor: S. Bender, A. Cortezzo, G. Hinton, D. Manzo, P. Webber. Abstained: D. Hess. Motion carried: 5-0-1.

NEW BUSINESS

1. K Alley – Streambank Soil Erosion – George Hinton reported that a property owner between Water and Washington has previously expressed concern because the streambank is eroding and now it is only 52 inches from his detached garage. Brian Pyscher said there are three culverts on West Street near the property, but if this is in the alley or eroding the alley or Borough property, we would need to address this erosion issue. In order to determine the specific location and how to proceed a review of the properties must occur. If necessary, the borough will have to contact DEP and PA Fish and Game Commission.

On motion by Alex Cortezzo to authorize Brian Pyscher to do the research for K Alley and to look into the permitting process and seconded by Steve Bender. Roll call taken. Council agreed unanimously.

2. Lincoln Street Project Update/Concerns - Louise Firestone reported that resident from Lincoln Street stopped in the office expressing concern about the project and potential damage to their driveway. Steve Bender reported that Rich Fox called him and he went to the site because the resident claims their driveway was damaged by the roller. Steve said that he does not believe that the driveway apron was in all that great of shape. Steve believes that if any repair is attempted to the curb, about 4 feet of his driveway is going to crack because there is already a lot of cracks and decay in the macadam. Council will drive on Lincoln to understand the situation.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business was on the agenda and none was discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORT

A written committee report was provided to Mayor Smith and Council.

Mayor Smith's Report

Mayor Smith reported that he attended a second clean-up event with Representative Ann Flood along Male Road, which was another success. They project that over the two days of clean up, approximately 1,000 pounds of trash was picked up and was properly disposed. He attended a Memorial Day Assembly at Pen Argyl High School that was put on by the Character Education Program. He met some students from Wind Gap, which gave him the chance to introduce himself. Mayor Smith established a Mayor's Award scholarship that will be given to a high school graduating senior next week who is a resident of Wind Gap that demonstrates

leadership and community service. Mayor Smith will be attending the next scheduled COG meeting on Wednesday May 25.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel – Teamster Contract

Council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss the Street Department union contract at 8:19 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:29 p.m. No action was taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Dave Manzo to adjourn the meeting of May 17, 2022. Council agreed unanimously. The meeting of May 17, 2022 adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Louise Firestone, Borough Manager