

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
TOWN BOARD MEETING**

November 1, 2022

A regular meeting of the Kirkwood Town Board was held on November 1, 2022 at 6 PM at the Joseph A. Griffin Town Hall with Supervisor Lewis Grubham presiding.

Present: Supervisor Lewis Grubham
Councilman William Diffendorf, Jr.
Councilwoman Katie Legg
Councilwoman Sandy Wasson
Councilman Robert Weingartner

Also Present: Robert McKertich, Attorney
Kelley Diffendorf, Town Clerk
John A. Finch Jr., Commissioner of Public Works
Marchie Diffendorf, Planning Board Chairman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 4, 2022 Town Board Meeting and (2) October 25, 2022 Public Hearings.

OTHER – Broome County Budget Address.

Brian Norris, Director of Broome County Security, spoke to the Board on behalf of the Broome County Executive's Office regarding the 2023 Broome County Budget Address. Mr. Norris hit on key points throughout his speech that included, the growth of the fund balance to \$35 million, tax cuts, the return of major businesses and projects to the area, how the American Rescue Plan fund is being utilized, new service to the Binghamton Airport, affordable housing, the repair of roads, parks improvement projects, Veterans funds, small community fund, public safety, crime rates being down, and much more. Mr. Norris thanked everyone for their time and took a few questions.

After hearing questions and comments from the Board and residents, Mr. Norris acknowledged that all the questions and concerns would be passed on to the Broome County Executive's Office. A brief description of the comments and questions mentioned are as follows: the fund balance and how high it can go (Councilman Diffendorf), will the moratorium on gas prices end or be extended (Marchie Diffendorf), any improvement to the parking at Bagsai (Marchie Diffendorf), Hawkins Pond renovation needed (Carolyn Price), possible increase of tax rates depending on equalization rates (Carolyn Price).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Dog Control Report.

Councilwoman Legg reported numbers from the October 2022 Dog Control Report. A copy is filed in the Town Clerk's office.

Spreader Damage.

John Finch reported the spreader/sander that was damaged during one of the bad snowstorms earlier this year was fully covered by insurance with no cost to the Town.

Deputy Supervisor.

Supervisor Grubham thanked Councilman Weingartner for taking over during the last scheduled Town Board Meeting. That was the first time Supervisor Grubham had to miss a meeting in over 38 years.

Job Fair.

Supervisor Grubham noted that Councilwoman Wasson organized the job fair held at the Town Hall on Thursday, October 27, 2022 and acknowledged how well attended it was by both employers and perspective employees. It would be a good thing to do again.

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OLD BUSINESS:

135:22
Adopt 2023
Budget

Councilman Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution, after a Public Hearing, adopting Annual Budget for 2023, in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilwoman Wasson seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Diffendorf - yes
 Councilwoman Wasson - yes
 Councilwoman Legg - yes
 Councilman Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion. Supervisor Grubham mentioned the tax rate was lowered about 5%, for a median house (worth \$115,000) in Kirkwood that would be about a \$27 decrease. This is a really good thing for our tax payers and we all should be happy we were able to do that for them.

136:22
Adopt LL#7
No Parking
Meadow Lane
Certain Times

Councilwoman Wasson moved to adopt resolution, after a Public Hearing, adopting Local Law No. 7-2022 entitled "A Local Law Amending the Traffic Ordinance to Restrict Parking on Meadow Lane During Certain Times", in accordance with the attached resolution. Councilwoman Legg seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Diffendorf - yes
 Councilwoman Wasson - yes
 Councilwoman Legg - yes
 Councilman Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

137:22
Schedule PH
2023 W&S
Budget

Councilwoman Legg moved to adopt resolution scheduling a Public Hearing for November 29, 2022 at 6 PM on the Year 2023 Water & Sewer Budget. Councilman Weingartner seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Diffendorf - yes
 Councilwoman Wasson - yes
 Councilwoman Legg - yes
 Councilman Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

138:22
Schedule PH
2023 Fire
Contracts

Councilman Weingartner moved to adopt resolution scheduling a Public Hearing for November 29, 2022 at 6:05 PM on the Year 2023 Fire Contracts. Councilman Diffendorf seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Diffendorf - yes
 Councilwoman Wasson - yes
 Councilwoman Legg - yes
 Councilman Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

139:22
Appoint
C.Cole
PT Clerk
Court

Councilman Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution appointing Christine Cole as Clerk, PT to work in the Town Court, effective November 2, 2022, at a rate of pay of \$18.00 per hour. Councilwoman Wasson seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Diffendorf - yes
 Councilwoman Wasson - yes
 Councilwoman Legg - yes
 Councilman Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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DISCUSSION – Truck #24 and Truck #26.

John Finch reiterated the discussion he had at the work session regarding the pre-authorization to order new Ford trucks (#24 and #26). With Ford being so backed up and not sure if the orders will even be processed John Finch has been looking at other avenues to upgrade these two trucks. At this point, the plan for Truck #24 has not changed and John Finch is hoping to get definite numbers from Ford soon on how much a new one would cost. Regarding Truck #26, he found a 2019 Ford F-550 on the auction site that comes fully equipped with more options than our current truck and its in very good shape. The auction ends next Wednesday (11/9/22) at 6 PM. John Finch is asking the Board for approval to go out to bid on this vehicle (an undisclosed amount was given to the Board regarding the max amount to bid). Councilman Diffendorf question John Finch if he was going to come back to the Board in two years to get another new truck since this one is only two years older than the current truck. John Finch claimed that he would not have to because of the stainless steel box, aluminum cab, versatility of the live floor, and good maintenance. If this bid does not go through then the plan is to go back to the option of ordering the truck through Ford.

When selling the current Truck #26 John Finch is speculating it should bring in \$40,000 or more.

Councilwoman Legg moved to adopt resolution authorizing the Commissioner of Public Works to bid on a 2019 Ford F-550 XL Super Dump Truck and Plow with the purchase price to be approved in a subsequent resolution. Councilman Weingartner seconded.

140:22
Authorize Bid
2019
Ford F-550 XL
DPW

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Diffendorf - yes
 Councilwoman Wasson - yes
 Councilwoman Legg - yes
 Councilman Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion. Councilwoman Legg explained that it is now time to give the Town the money to purchase the Inclusive Playground. Friends of Kirkwood Community has collected all the money, they know the cost, and what needs to be purchased. The lawyers met and have agreed on the agreement. John Finch recommended the agreement should state that Sourcewell pricing was used so the project does not have to go out to bid. Councilwoman Legg agreed and would get that verbage added. The hope is the project will start in the spring/summer of next year.

Councilman Weingartner moved to adopt resolution authorizing the Supervisor to enter into a Donation Agreement with Friends of Kirkwood Community, Inc., regarding the Inclusive Playground, in accordance with the attached agreement. Councilman Diffendorf seconded.

141:22
Agreement
Friends of Kirk
Community for
Inclusive
Playground

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Diffendorf - yes
 Councilwoman Wasson - yes
 Councilwoman Legg - abstain
 Councilman Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Councilman Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of an Inclusive Playground from Miracle Recreation Equip., Co., at a cost not to exceed \$210,264.00, in accordance with the attached quote. Councilwoman Sandy seconded.

142:22
Purchase of
Inclusive
Playground

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Diffendorf - yes
 Councilwoman Wasson - yes
 Councilwoman Legg - abstain
 Councilman Weingartner - yes
 Supervisor Grubham - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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Lift at Veterans River Park.

John Finch replied to Councilman Diffendorf stating the lift at Veterans River Park is being used to fix the soffits at the building and pavilion #3.

Window/Town Hall Repairs.

Supervisor Grubham mentioned that Joe Sheptock was hired to fix the rotting wood around many of the windows at the Town Hall. Also noted, there are many areas around the outside of the Town Hall that need replacement cedar boards, but lumber is very hard to come by right now. The Town Hall will eventually get re-stained once all the cedar siding is fixed.

AUDIT AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

Councilwoman Wasson moved to adopt resolution authorizing the audit and payment of the following claims: General and Highway Funds, Special Districts (Fire, Light, Water and Sewer Districts), Professional Services, Capital Projects and Reserve Funds claims #22001277 through #22001409 in the total amount of \$755,010.82, which includes prepaid claims as authorized by resolution adopted January 4, 2022. Councilwoman Legg seconded.

143:22
Audit/Pay

Roll Call Vote:	Councilman Diffendorf	- yes
	Councilwoman Wasson	- yes
	Councilwoman Legg	- yes
	Councilman Weingartner	- yes
	Supervisor Grubham	- yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Last Zoom Meeting.

Supervisor Grubham announced that this is the last meeting that will have the Zoom option. Our contract was ending and Zoom is no longer required.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Weingartner moved to adopt resolution to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Diffendorf seconded. All voted in favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley M. Diffendorf
Town Clerk