

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFF

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFF COUNCIL MEETING

May 6, 2024

The Council of the Borough of Vandergriff met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 pm, with President Holmes presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Jody Sarno       | Thomas Holmes   |
| Marilee Kessler  | Rae Ann Bruner  |
| Christine Wilson | John Uskuraitis |
| Daisha Clayton   |                 |

OTHER OFFICIALS:

|                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Lenny Collini, Mayor  | Stephen J. DelleDonne, Secretary   |
| Shae Kraft, Solicitor | Theresa Geltz, Assistant Secretary |
| Lucian Bove, Engineer | Joseph Caporali, Police Chief      |

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the April 1, 2024 were approved by motion of Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Wilson. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Ms. Clayton, to hear from visitors at this time. Motion carried.

Taylor Troiano, 328 Harrison Avenue, questioned when the vet banners will be installed on the streets.

Mrs. Kessler stated the banners will be up by Memorial Day.

Lois Troiano, 328 Harrison Avenue, addressed Council on obtaining approval for the First United Methodist Church to have an event at Kennedy Park. She stated that the church will be sponsoring a Fun Day, which will include a petting zoom games, prizes, bingo and crafts. She stated that the event will be held on August 10<sup>th</sup>, for 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

President Holmes stated that an application will need to be filled out along with an insurance certificate.

Debbie Green, 118 Fifteenth Street, stated that there is a problem with dogs running at-large within the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Park. She stated that people are not picking up after their dogs. She stated the Council needs to enforce the leash act.

Chief Caporali stated that he would have police patrol this area.

Don Detar, 213 Lowell Street, stated that something needs to be done about vehicles parking at the bottom Beech Street, making it difficult to pull out on to Poplar Street.

Dave Spiller, owner of Tommy's Catering on Grant Avenue, requested Council to approve a loading zone in front of his business.

President Holmes stated this request can not be approved as it would open up other business to request a loading zone in from their business.

Mr. Spiller question if there any grants for sidewalk replacements in town.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the sidewalks in town are the responsible of the property owner.

Mr. Spiller questioned how he could obtain a meter bag in front of his business.

President Holmes stated that the placement of meter bag will cost \$10.00 month and he would need to purchase a bag from Myers Print Shop. He also stated that this for courtesy parking only, not only for Mr.Spiller's vehicles.

Brian Hoover, 404 Jackson Avenue, presented his problems with a neighbor across the street, whereby he encountered numerous disagreements, indicated that the neighbor chased him up the street with a hammer.

Solicitor Loperfito stated this is on-going police matter, and recommended that no comments be made by Council.

Bethany Johns, 2042 Dime Road, requested use of Kennedy Park June 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, and August 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> for free fun and food by The Rock Church. She submitted a certificate of insurance for this event. (See page 2-A)

2-A

# Sundays in the Park!

**Kennedy Park**

**Vandergrift**

**Jun 23, 2-4pm**

**July 14 & 28 2-4 pm**

**August 11 & 25 2-4pm**

Events will be cancelled if raining



**FREE Fun & Food for all ages--**

**\*Rock Climbing Wall**

**\*Bounce Houses**

**\*Obstacle Course**

**\*Bungee Run**

**\*Sno Cones**

**\*Hot dogs & nachos**

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**THE ROCK**

RECREATION CENTER

**1715 State Rt 56 Spring Church, PA**



A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mrs. Kessler, to return to the regular order of business. Motion carried.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Collini advised residents to begin maintaining the yards.

Mayor Collini stated that the "Gathering on Grant" will start Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Collini stated that he is trying to raise funds for the installation of a "Pickle Ball Court" at Kennedy Park.

Mayor Collini encouraged residents to get along with each other.

A motion was made by Ms. Clayton, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to accept the Mayor's Report. Motion carried.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary presented a sketch of the proposed structure by the Kiski Valley Lancers at Kennedy Park. (See page 3-A)

President Holmes turned this matter over to the Engineer for review and recommendation.

Solicitor Loperfido recommended the structure adhere to set backs within the Zoning Ordinance.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mrs. Kessler, to accept the Secretary's Report. Motion carried.

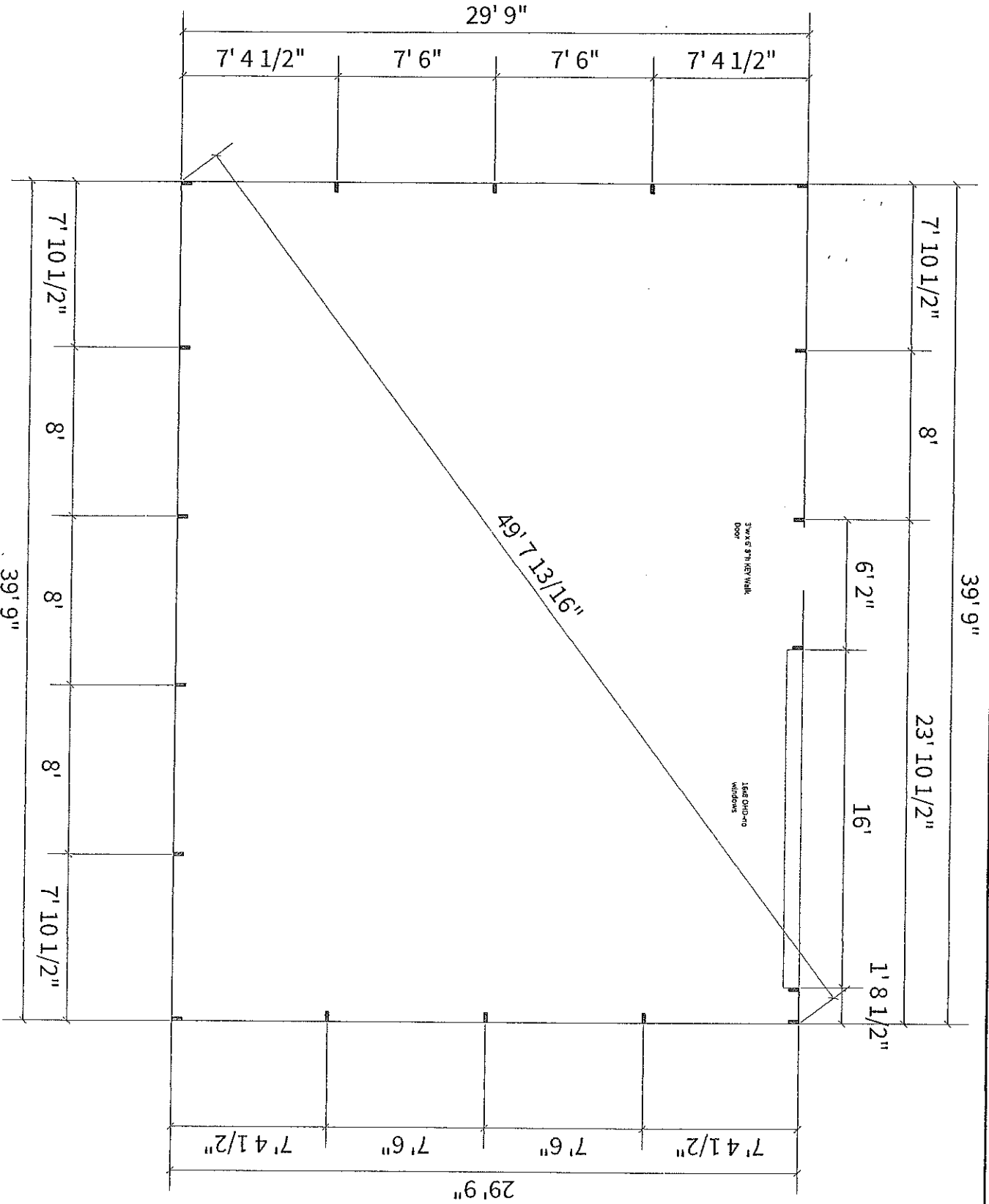
#### CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Code Officer Brian Young stated that he issued 23 violation notices and 4 citations during the month of April. He also requested the amount of \$1,000 for various grass cutting problems.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Ms. Clayton, to approve the aforementioned request. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to accept the Code Officer's Report. Motion carried.

## Post Layout



#### COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

None

#### REGULAR & STATED BILLS:

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mr. Sarno, to pay all stated and approved bills. Motion carried.

#### STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Chairperson Wilson informed Council that the new schedule for trash and recycling collections will begin 6:00 am to 2:00 pm, effective May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Wilson reported that on Cooper Street, hot patch was used to pave a sewer ditch, work was done in-house.

Mrs. Wilson reported that on 30<sup>th</sup> Street, hot patch was to used pave around a catch basin-work done in-house.

Mrs. Wilson requested the use of Liquid Fuel Funds to pave 1 section 35<sup>th</sup> Street, and 2 sections on Florida Avenue. She explained that these streets did not qualify using CDBG Funds.

A motion was made Mrs. Wilson, second by Ms. Bruner, to direct the Engineer to prepare specification for repairs to aforementioned streets for advertisement and funding using Liquid Fuel Funds. Motion carried.

#### ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Bove reported that he has not received approval of the 2024 CDBG application.

Engineer Bove stated that the Vandergrift Casino & Library Building Improvement Project is ready to be advertised for bids, to be opened at the June 3 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Clayton, to advertise the above project for the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

A motion was by Ms. Clayton, second Mrs. Wilson, to move with the Grant Avenue & McKinley Crossing Projects for the month of June. Motion carried.

In regards to the M.A.A.T Agreement, he stated that the Borough is not entitled to the sewer tap in fees.

With actions by Council, the Engineer continued reviewing his report. (See page 4-A)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please see my requested agenda items below for the Monday, May 6, 2024 Council meeting:

1. **2024 CDBG Application Approval**
2. Olmsted Commons Park Development Project
3. Columbia Avenue Parking Lot Rain, Gardens & Tree Pits
4. 2022 CDBG Project - Contractor DP Case 31250
5. Westmoreland County Utility Coordination Committee
6. **Vandergrift Casino Theater and Library Building Improvement Project - Phase 2**
7. PNG Gas Line Replacement Projects
  - a. Franklin Avenue Project – On hold
  - b. Sherman Avenue Project Phase 2 (Sherman, 6 St. and 11<sup>th</sup> St.)
  - c. Washington Avenue Project (Hancock, Custer, 16<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and Washington)
  - d. Fourth Street Project
  - e. Sherman Avenue Project Phase 1 - this year
  - f. Columbia Avenue (11<sup>th</sup> Street) Project - September
  - g. **Grant Ave. & McKinley Crossings Project** - June.
  - h. Longfellow Street Project 2025 (CDBG)
  - i. Indiana Ave. - Spot (grass)
  - j. Longfellow Street - 2 Spots (grass)
8. MAAT Upper West Vandergrift Sanitary Sewer Connection
9. Grant Avenue & McKinley Street & ADA Ramp Reconstruction
10. Ninth Street Retaining Wall Replacement Project
11. Calander of Events - Grant Avenue & Columbia Lot
12. Columbia Avenue Tree Grates
13. Liquid Fuel Street Resurfacing
14. ATI Ribbon Cutting and Plant Tour
15. MAAT Agreement for LaBelle Vue Road Sewer Connection
16. Project 70
17. Stimulus SLFRF
18. Any Engineering related Items added to the agenda

Items requiring board action are shown in **Bold** print. If anyone has any questions, or If any additional items are required, please let me know as soon as possible. I plan to attend the meeting and will be available to answer any questions. Thank you.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Kessler, to approve the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.

#### BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Clayton distributed a budget reports for the General Fund, Pool Fund, and the State Aid Funds.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to accept the Budget & Finance Report. Motion carried.

#### POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairperson Kessler reported that Michael Carricato has submitted a letter of resignation, effective May 1, 2024, from his position as a part-time police officer. (See page 5-A)

A motion was made by Mrs. Kessler, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to accept Michael Carricato's resignation and to thank his for his 18 years of service to the Borough. Motion carried.

Mrs. Kessler informed Council that Stacy Rimel has resigned her position as a full-time school crossing guard.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kessler, second by Ms. Clayton, to accept Ms. Rimel's resignation. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kessler, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to hire Vianna-Natale Nuscis to the position of full-time school crossing guard, contingent upon passing the background investigation. Motion carried.

Mrs. Kessler stated that Jacob Zepeda has submitted an application for the position of part-time police officer, and therefore, made a motion, second by Ms. Clayton, to hire Mr. Zepeda as an extra police officer serving on a part-time basis for the Borough of Vandergrift from time to time on an hourly or daily basis as needed and this offer is contingent upon passing the background check. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mrs. Wilson, to accept the Police & Public Safety Report. Motion carried.

#### BUILDING & GROUNDS:

Chairperson Sarno stated that he is going to request any individuals in town to sponsor the purchase of benches or trees to place at the Olmsted Commons area.



Michael Carricato

3-14

Vandergrift Borough

20 February 2024

### Retirement Letter

I am writing to inform you of my retirement as a Patrol Officer in Vandergrift Borough. After 18 years of service in Vandergrift Borough my effective retirement date will be MAY 1, of 2024. I am requesting a formal letter stating the acceptance of my retirement and my years of service. I am appreciative of being apart of this community and the experience I have obtained through the course of my career. I am grateful to have served this community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Carricato', written over the printed name.

Michael Carricato

President Holmes commended Mr. Sarno & his committee for getting the Olmsted Project back on track.

Mr. Sarno stated the No. 2 Fire Department is having water problems to the basement which is caused to a hole at the side entrance to their building. He estimated that the repairs to this problem would be \$1,000.00 (See page 6-A & B)

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mrs. Kessler, to accept the Building & Grounds Report. Motion carried.

#### TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Bruner presented a report outling the number of street lights replaced and also matters regarding certain tree matters. (See page 6-C)

Mrs. Wilson stated that a tree at 328 Harrison Avenue needs trimmed.

Mayor Collini requested Ms. Bruner to address a damage light standard on Kennedy Drive.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to accept the Tree & Light Report. Motion carried.

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

A motion was made by President Holmes, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to amend the agenda for the purpose of presented a letter of resignation of the Code Officer, Bryan Young. (See page 6-D)

A motion was made Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mr. Sarno, to accept Mr. Young's resignation as the Borough's Code Officer, effective June 1, 2024. Motion carried.

Mr. Young stated that he would stay on to assist a new Code Officer.

A motion was made by Ms. Clayton, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to accept the General Government Report. Motion carried.

#### RECREATION REPORT:

Chairperson Uskuraitis stated that work has begun to have the pool ready for opening day. He reported the pool held water during the winter. He stated that the water in the pool has been pumped down and thanked the No.1 and No. 2 Fire Departments pumping the water out and washing the pool.

6-A



6-B



6-C

raeannbruner@vandergriftborough.com

5/2/2024 6:05 AM

## Tree and Light April 24

To Vandergrift Borough Secretary <vgborosec@comcast.net>

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Trees and Lights April 2024

Lights replaced:

135 Custer in 15th street alley

303 Emerson

709 Longfellow Extension

505 Emerson

508 Watson Street

310 1/2 Emerson

321 Emerson

Trees:

- Received one quote for 112 Sumner
- One company returned call and said they won't work for the borough.
- Request for new tree to be planted at 428 Hancock
- Tree trimming was to be done on East Adams and Hancock on 4/23 and tree service did not show up that day. Working on rescheduling.

TOM HOLMES  
PRESIDENT BOROUGH COUNCIL

6-D  
LENNY COLLINI  
MAYOR

## ***Borough of Vandergrift***

Larry D. Loperfito  
Solicitor

Office of the Secretary  
Stephen J. DelleDonne  
Phone: 724-567-7818  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690  
[www.vandergriftborough.com](http://www.vandergriftborough.com)

Joseph M. Caporali  
Chief of Police

May 6, 2024

To the Vandergrift Borough Council, as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 I am turning in my resignation for the Code Officer job. Thank you.

Bryan Young

Code Officer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bryan Young". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name and title.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Kessler, to accept the Recreation Report. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Sarno questioned whether Council will endorse the emergency services funding.

A motion was made by Ms. Bruner, second by Mrs. Kessler, to support increase funding from the State for emergency services. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mr. Sarno, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

