

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT
MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL

OCTOBER 3, 2016

The Council of the Borough of Vandergrift met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m., with President Carricato presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kathleen Chvala	Vernon Sciallo
Brian Carricato	Christine Wilson
James Rametta	Frank Moliterno

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Larry Loperfito, Solicitor	Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Lucian Bove, Engineer	Theresa Geltz- Asst. Secretary
	Joseph Caporali, Police Chief

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the September 6 2016, meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala. Motion carried

VISITORS:

A motion was made by Mr. Moliterno, second by Mr. Sciallo, to hear from visitors at this time. Motion carried.

Vera Spina, 303 Longfellow Street, addressed Council in regards to the Westmoreland County update of a comprehensive plan. She suggested that members of Council visit the County Website-wcplanning@co.westmorreland.pa.us.

Ken Artman, president of the Vandergrift No. 2 Fire Department, addressed Council in regards to their disappointment with the V.I.P in not accepting their proposal to rejuvenate the former J.C Penny building on Grant Avenue. (See page 2-A)

Julia Martin, chairwoman of the V.I.P., stated that the firemen's proposal was too low and have since been presented a proposal from a micro brewer that meets the V.I.P's plan to bring a new business instead of rearranging an existing business. She also stated that the V.I.P. is a private entity, of which, can do what they want with properties owned by the V.I.P.

President Carricato stated that bringing in new business is good, but looking at growth of an existing enterprise is better.

Mr. Moliterno stated that he was very disappointed in the accomplishments of the V.I.P. He stated that over the past 10 years there has been little or no change on Grant Avenue.

Mary Lee Kessler, board member of the V.I.P., stated that a vote was taken by the Board to work with a micro brewer. She stated that the opinion of the Board was to bring a new business to town. She also stated that there is no formal agreement of sale at this time.

Solicitor Loperfido recommended that the General Government Committee meet with the V.I.P on this matter.

Don Detar, 213 Lowell Street, thanked Mrs. Wilson for having a tree removed, and also thanked Mr. Sciull for repairing the potholes and repairing the sidewalk.

Michael Geiselhart introduced himself to Council. He stated that he is running for the PA. State Representative seat, HD 55, which includes the Vandergrift Borough.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

No Report

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

No Report

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Secretary reported that the Code Officer, Mr. Maszgay, addressed 51 complaints and filed 9 citations during the month of September.

We, the Officers and Members of the Vandergrift Fire Department #2 would first like to express our sincere thanks to the President of Council, Borough Solicitor, and all Council Members for their support of our recent proposed plan to rejuvenate the old JC Penny Building to relocate our Firemen's' Social Club.

However, we have recently been surprised to hear from on the street sources that this option has been taken off the table by the VIP, the current owners of the building, by means of entering into an agreement of purchase to a private entity for basically the same categorized purpose that would have greatly supported and enhanced the fire departments mission to protect the properties of the Borough.

As you all have agreed, we feel our department's plan for a dining and entertainment facility would greatly enhance the downtown atmosphere, not only by the project itself, but also by many outdoor venues in conjunction with the Farmers Market, Parades, and weekly planned street fairs.

Unfortunately, after an initial offer and counter offer, we have never heard of a promised reply other than "we will check with all the other members of the VIP and see what they think", only now to hear a deal was made with another entity.

Our department may now have no other choice than to build upon our 25-acre property, the old US Steel Property, located along the Route 56 bypass. We have felt this prime parcel would be more beneficial to the Borough if its use was for a strip mall, medical facility, or box store as it is the only parcel left to be able to be developed for the benefit of the Borough.

We feel the VIP was near sighted in their actions by being more concerned about Grant Avenue than the benefit of the entire town. We are very disappointed by their actions, and question their decision.

We felt the necessity and seriousness of this situation needed to be expressed to all of you. Again, thank you for time and effort in this failed beneficial project.

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mr. Sciallo, to accept the Code Officer's Report. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary presented the following correspondence received:

Exhibit 1-A: Julia Martin, V.I.P.

Subject: Light-Up Vandergrift Christmas Parade & Party Event on Friday,
November 25th.

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala, to approve this matter with with a condition that candy may be thrown from vehicles in safe manner. Motion carried

Exhibit 2-A: Ashleigh Hannigan, Vandergrift No. 1 Fire Department.

Subject: Request use of Kennedy Park for their annual carnival to be held
Tentatively Tuesday, May 30th thru Saturday, June 3rd, 2017.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mrs. Chvala, to approve the aforementioned request, subject to new rules regarding the submission of certificates of insurance whereby the Borough is named as a certificate holder. Motion carried.

REGULAR & STATED BILLS:

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

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Chairperson Sciallo requested that residents collect and bag the leaves and place them on the front street of their property.

Mr. Sciallo stated that work will begin to collect leaves on the streets and that the new street sweeper will follow behind.

Mr. Sciallo stated that he would like approval to purchase a new snow plow for the 2008 Ford truck.

A motion was made by Mr. Moliterno, second by Mrs. Chvala, to approve the purchase of a new snow plow, to be funded with Liquid Fuel funds. Motion carried.

Exhibit A-A

Vandergrift Improvement Program, Inc.

P.O. Box 77, Vandergrift, PA 15690

Phone: 724-567-5286 / Fax: 724-567-7295

Email: vip15690@comcast.net

A 501©3 non-profit organization

September 30, 2016

Vandergrift Borough
109 Grant Ave.
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Re: Light-Up Vandergrift Christmas Parade & Party Event

Dear Council,

The Vandergrift Improvement Program is beginning the preparations for the annual Christmas celebration and parade. The 'Light-up Vandergrift Christmas Parade & Party' festivities will be on Friday, November 25th. We would like your permission to use the regular parade route (Walnut, Longfellow, Franklin and Grant) and to close the Walnut and Longfellow streets staging area before the parade starts to form at 5:00pm. Parade participants will gather on Walnut and the area near Ferrante Motors. Participating emergency vehicles will line up along Longfellow.

Vendors will begin to set up on the sidewalks on Grant Avenue at 3:00pm, at which time we will need to close Grant to through traffic. Entertainment will start on Grant Avenue at 5:00pm, and the parade will begin at 6:00pm from Walnut Street and end at the Casino Theater.

We would like to put the community Christmas tree up on the corner of Farragut near Carino's the same as in the past and also would like to have the Vandergrift Police lead the parade and assist with crowd control on Grant Ave.

Any and all help from Council will be appreciated and any council members wishing to participate in the parade please let me know by Friday, November 11th. A reminder to those who participate in the parade: For the safety of spectators along the parade route (especially Grant Ave.) throwing of candy/treats from moving vehicles is not permitted. Please have 'elves' (helpers) walk alongside of vehicle/float to distribute treats. Your cooperation and help in keeping this a safe event is greatly appreciated!

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 724-567-6762 (work) or by email julie@byerstaxiandbusing.com

Thank you,
Julia Martin
Chairwoman

Exhibit 2-A

Vandergriff Fire Dept. No. 1.
278 Franklin Ave., P.O. Box 6
724-567-7171
Vandergriff, PA 15690



Thomas M. Schaeffer, Chief

October 3, 2016

Vandergriff Council
109 Grant Ave.
Vandergriff, PA 15690

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Vandergriff No.1 Fire Department is once again planning our annual carnival fund raising event to be held tentatively Tuesday; May 30th thru Saturday; June 3rd, 2017. We are, as a result, requesting the use of Kennedy Park from Walnut Street north to the middle sidewalk and from Jackson Avenue west to Kennedy Drive. Please accept this request to include the field, the gazebo, the stage and all associated utilities (i.e. water and electric).

The events will operate on Tuesday, May 30th – Thursday, June 1st from 5:00PM To 10:00PM; on Friday, June 2nd from 5:00PM to 12:00AM and on Saturday, June 3rd from 4:00PM to 12AM. Activities being planned include carnival rides and the associated games and food concessions, as well as local non-profit food vendors. We are also attempting to schedule public interest and safety events during the week. The department will ensure that all the proper permits, licenses and insurance coverages are in place for the operation of this event.

This event has the potential to provide one of our largest sources of local fund raising and public relations for the year. We would like to thank you in advance for your ongoing support and co-operation. Please feel free to contact myself at 724-681-0228 or any of the following individuals for any further information.

Michael Reilly
President
(412)558-5673

Mark Fairman
Committee
(724) 994-0909

Joann Rabickow
Asst. Secretary
(724) 596-0076

Sincerely,

Ashleigh Hannigan
Ashleigh Hannigan
Assistant Treasurer

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Bove stated that a resolution is needed to be adopted whereby the president of Council is authorized to execute an Agreement with PennDot regarding the boring a line across the roadway between Lincoln & Washington Avenue for the purpose of running an electrical conduit line to provide electricity for the new light standards for the parking lot.

Solicitor Loperfito presented Resolution No. 5-2016 for adoption. (See pages 4-A)

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mr. Rametta, to adopt Resolution No. 5-2016. Motion carried.

Engineer Bove stated that PennDot is requiring a \$25,000 restoration and maintenance bond for this project.

Engineer Bove reported that the brick restoration work on Linden Street has begun today.

Engineer Bove stated that he will apply for a waiver to DEP regarding the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit.

Engineer Bove presented a picture showing a large amount of debris onto the property of Todd Fasano, located at the end of Florida Avenue. (See page 4-B) He stated that the installation of a rip wall and creating a swell may resolve this matter.

A motion was made by Mr. Moliterno, second by Mr. Sciallo, to direct the Engineer to obtain an estimate for resolving the aforementioned situation. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining. Motion carried.

Mr. Sciallo stated that the CD Street Reconstruction Project should have started on September 26th and may not begin until sometime in October.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the contractor must complete the work by October 26th or be subject to penalties of \$200.00 per day unless a property time extension is requested and approved by Council.

President Carricato directed the Engineer to notify the contractor about this matter and penalties to impose if not completed by October 26th.

Mrs. Wilson also requested the Engineer to notify PennDot about an erosion problem on Hancock Avenue near the former Medical Shop.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mr. Rametta, to accept the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.

4-A

RESOLUTION 5 OF 2016

BE IT RESOLVED, by authority of the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift
(Name of Municipality/Authority)

of Vandergrift Borough

(Name of Municipality if Authority)

Westmoreland

, County, and it is hereby

resolved by authority of the same, that the Brian Carricato

(designate official title)

of said Municipality/Authority be authorized and directed to sign the attached Agreement

on its behalf and that the Stephen J. DelleDonne, Borough Secretary, be authorized and
(designate official title)

directed to attest the same.

ATTEST:

(Borough of Vandergrift)

BY Brian Carricato

Stephen J. DelleDonne, Borough Secretary
Signature and Official Title

Brian Carricato
Signature and Official Title

(SEAL)

I, Stephen J. DelleDonne, Borough Secretary

(Name)

(Official Title)

of the Borough of Vandergrift

(Name of Governing Body and Municipality)

do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted

at a regular meeting of the Borough Council

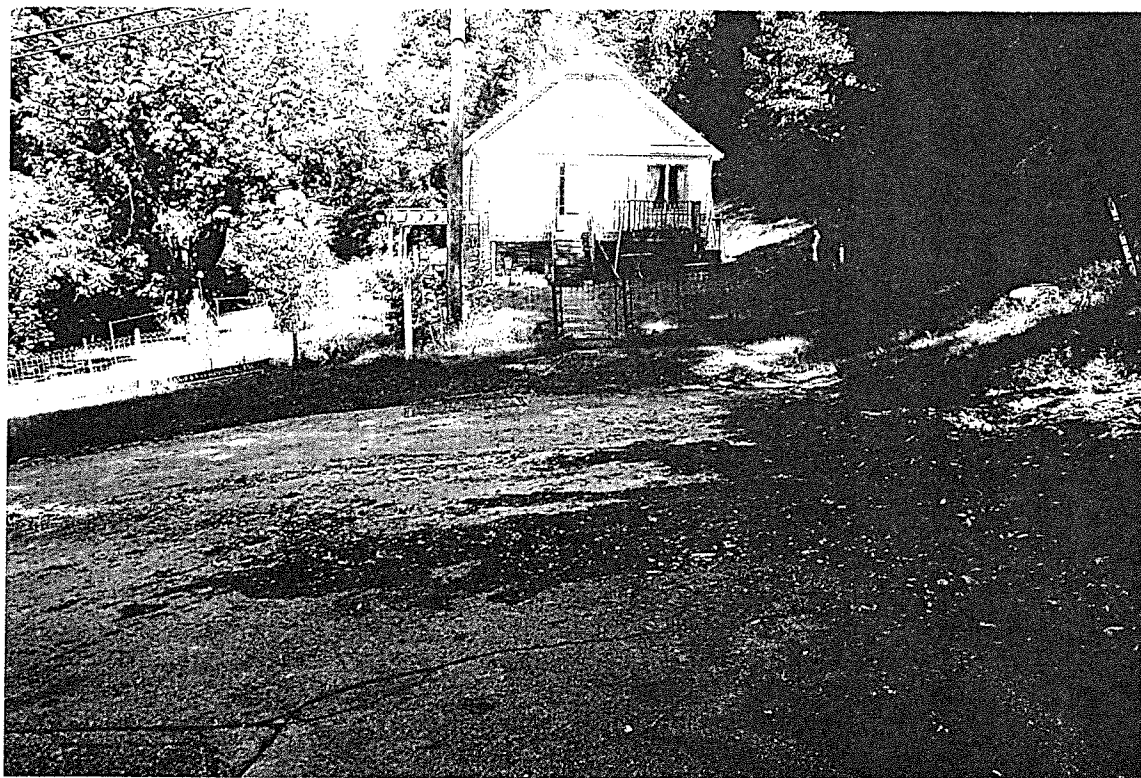
(Name of Governing Body)

held the 3rd _____ day of October _____, 2016 _____.

Date: October 3 , 2016

Stephen J. DelleDonne
(Stephen J. DelleDonne, Borough Secretary)

4-B



BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Chvala questioned if committee chairpersons have submitted their 2017 budget requests.

The Secretary stated that all have been received.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Rametta, to accept the Budget & Finance Report. Motion carried.

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Mrs. Chvala presented a request from the Vandergrift No. 2 Fire Department to make changes in their initial dispatch with 911. (See page 5-A)

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Sciuillo, to approve the aforementioned request. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mr. Sciuillo, to approve the Police & Public Safety Report. Motion carried.

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

No Report

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Wilson reported that Musser's Tree Nursery will be delivering trees that did not survive the planting in early spring.

Mrs. Wilson stated that she received notice that the \$1,000 grant application submitted from "Keep PA. Beautiful" was not approved. She stated that only 25 out of 100 applications were funded.

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

President Carricato reported that the Committee is still working on a renewal contract with the members of the Vandergrift Police Department.

Vandergrift Fire Department # 2

229 Emerson Street

Vandergrift Pa 15690

724-567-7211

October 3, 2016

To: Vandergrift Council

Subject: Fire Dispatch Run Cards

Dear Council,

Vandergrift # 2 is requesting council to make some changes on our initial dispatch with 911. These changes are being made to utilize resources and man power from other local municipalities. These changes will only be made on my dispatch first alarm for Fire.

Proposed Changes,

Fire: Vandergrift #2- Vandergrift #1

Hyde Park station 53-1, 53-2

Upper Burrell tanker 115

Parks Township Tanker 200

Rit: Lower Burrell station 69

Air: Station 95-2

Sincerely,

Steve Potoka

Chief 50

A motion was made by Mr. Sciuillo, second by Mr. Moliterno, to have the General Government meet with the board members of the Vandergrift Improvement Program. Motion carried.

RECREATION REPORT:

Mr. Rametta informed Council that the Committee has purchased a new one meter diving board with platform. He stated that a 4' x 8' hole will need to be excavated for the diving board the platform.

President Carricato stated that an application has been submitted to Senator Jim Brewster's office for a \$10,000 grant for improvements at the Vandergrift Pool.

President Carricato stated that he would like to have Council approve placing \$5,000 in the Borough's budget for the next four years (a total of \$25,000) for the purpose of funding the celebration of the Borough's 125 anniversary.

A motion was made by Mr. Moliterno, second by Mr. Sciuillo, to approve the aforementioned matter. Motion carried.

Mr. Sciuillo questioned when he can begin removing equipment, winterize, at the playgrounds.

President Carricato recommended delaying this for at least two weeks.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mrs. Wilson, to accept the Recreation Report. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Loperfido informed Council that a hearing was held at the magistrate's office on September 21st regarding the house located at 104 Hamilton Avenue. He stated that the owner, Gene Iagnemma, was found guilty and given ten (10) days to raze the structure.

Solicitor Loperfido stated that Mr. Iagnemma is now asking for an additional 1 to 2 weeks extension in order for him to obtain the proper insurances. He, therefore, recommended that Council give Mr. Iagnemma an extension until Friday, October 7th to have the structure razed.

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala, to grant Mr. Iagnemma an extension until October 7th to have the structure razed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciuillo, second by Mrs. Chvala, to accept the Solicitor's Report. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Secretary presented a letter from Julie Martin and Cynthia Contie regarding the energy program and savings at the Columbia Parking Lot. He stated that the V.I.P. is requesting Council to taking steps of reinvesting in additional LED lighting for the downtown. (See page 7-A)

President Carricato stated that this request will be considered by the Budget & Finance Committee.

The Secretary presented a letter from Laura Hawkins in which she discusses the possibility of installing a Kiski Valley Greenway Gateway stone arch sign at cost of \$6,500.00. He stated that a site for this sign is proposed at the small island new the entrance to the mill plant. (See pages 7-B & 7-C)

President Carricato stated that he is concerned as to whether the island falls within PennDot's right-a-way, and therefore would need their approval. He also was concerned about line-of-sight for traffic and of any liability to the Borough if a vehicle struck this sign.

Solicitor Loperfido suggested that the Engineer determine as to whether this area falls within PennDot's right-a-way.

Mrs. Christine questioned if the Borough is liable as to Norfolk Southern Railroad breaking into a large pipe that carries water from a watershed located on the railroad property.

Solicitor Loperfido stated that this situation does fall within the Borough property. He requested a contact person at Norfolk Southern so that he may discuss this matter with him,

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Vandergrift Improvement Program, Inc.

P.O. Box 77, Vandergrift, PA 15690

Phone: 724-567-5286 Email: vip15690@comcast.net

A 501©3 non-profit organization

Mission Statement

The Vandergrift Improvement Program's (VIP) mission is to protect, preserve and restore the historic commercial district and improve the quality of life in Vandergrift.

Dear Vandergrift Mayor and Council,

Thank you again for your collaboration on the funded purchase of LED lighting for the Columbia parking lot. We are confident that one main reason we were able to secure funding was the close collaboration between VIP and the Borough, as well as enthusiastic support of the Casino board and area business owners. Another strength of our application was the longer term vision to reinvest the savings we realize with the new LED lighting in additional energy-efficient lighting in Vandergrift. The consultant who we engaged for the program has projected significant savings, which we will continue to follow-up to measure and confirm as part of the program's final report. Here are the preliminary projections:

Energy Program Initial Projected Annual Savings are:

- 13,400 kWh saved annually (63% reduction)
- \$1,030 in annual electricity cost savings
- \$1340 in annualized cost savings including avoided lamp replacements
- 10.5 year payback

We are writing now with a request and recommendation that the Borough include this thinking in the budget planning for 2017, and make room for next steps of reinvesting in additional LED lighting for the downtown. Per an excerpt from the grant application:

"Receiving this grant will help to jumpstart what we hope to be the first spark inspiring a broader community awareness of the importance of energy conservation. We anticipate that with the dollar savings realized, the Vandergrift borough will be in a position to reinvest in additional energy saving products and technologies, reaching more community members as a result, and in turn realizing more energy, dollar and environmental savings across the community. Some examples may be continuing to upgrade old lighting with LED lights for borough-owned buildings and properties such as the Library, or our other key downtown parking area positioned in front of the historic Casino Theatre."

VIP stands ready to support such budget planning upon request. Please let us know how we can be of further assistance.

Best Regards,

Julie Martin, Chair, Vandergrift Improvement Program

Cynthia Contie, VIP Board Member

7-6



Cynthia Contie <cynthiacontie@gmail.com>

gateway sign option

Laura Hawkins <lhawkins32@zoominternet.net>
To: Cindy Contie <cynthiacontie@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 21, 2016 at 12:41 PM

Hi Cindy

I wanted to start discussions with Vandergrift regarding the possibility of installing a Kiski Valley Greenway gateway sign as proposed in the Kiski Valley Greenway Plan. We have a small grant to do at least one of the stone arch signs and I am trying to figure out where it is most feasible to get one done. I have cost estimates from a stone mason that he can do the stone work for around \$6500, and I'd hope to get that amount down some by asking local community members to try to get some donation of stone (with the understanding that we would purchase some from the same company that would donate some) and possibly some of the ground prep work (digging a ditch for the base).

We do not yet have a final design for the actual sign that would go into the stone arch base. I am working with a design to hopefully get a design that all communities along the river would want to share because even though the stone arch was vetted and everyone we proposed it to at the time approved it, some folks are looking at doing a different base. If that is the case then I'm hoping communities will at least be able to share the design of the sign.


As a Kiski Valley Greenway Team member, can you share this information with the borough council, mayor, and whomever is in charge of these kinds of street projects to see if Vandergrift is even interested, if there are any possibilities for seeking donated stone (I will provide a description of the type and size needed), if there are any permitting or other issues we need to address for the proposed location (see attached), and/or any other questions we should ask or answer to try to move this forward. Please understand that I can probably only do one sign in this round of funding, and I am just trying to assess who is most interested and ready at this point. I'd love to get a sign completed before the end of November if at all possible.

Thanks very much – I look forward to hearing from whomever else I need to talk to.

Laura Hawkins

(724)858-0463

2 attachments

 Vandergrift gateway location.pdf
490K

PART 4: GATEWAYS, SIGNAGE & PUBLIC ART



EXISTING CONDITIONS

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS



