

**BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**DATE: October 4, 2021**

The Council of the Borough of Vandergrift met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 pm, with President Chvala presiding.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:**

**ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lenny Collini	Thomas Holmes
Christine Wilson	Karen McClarnon
Kathleen Chvala	John Uskuraitis
Casimer Maszgay	

**OTHER OFFICIALS:**

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF VALOR AWARDS TO POLICE & FIREMEN**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- 1. September 7, 2021.

**VISITORS: (3 minute llimitation per commenter)**

**OPENING OF BIDS:**

- 1.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- 1. No Report

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

- 1. No Report

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPON:

- 1. Vandergrift No. 1 Fire Department-Halloween Celebration Oct. 29th & Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 2. American Red Cross –Seeking to canvas homes for the purpose of installing Free Smoke Alarms.
- 3. Lower Burrell-Chief of Police’s gratitude for response to shooting at Kinloch Firehall.

APPROVE REGULAR & STATED BILLS:

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

- 1. Starting October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Borough Crew will begin picking up leaves. Residents need to rack the leaves out to the curb.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

- 1. See attached.

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

- 1. Monthly budget report.

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

- 1. Discussion of setting a bench on the traffic device island at Washington & Franklin.
- 2. Request an executive session of Council regarding a personnel issue.
- 3. Police Activity Report.

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

- 1.

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

- 1.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

- 1. No Report

RECREATION REPORT:

1. Explanation of pending pool grant-Greenways, Trails & Recreation Grant.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

1. Delibration/Official action regarding chickens in the Borogh.
2. Resolution No. 4-2021-ATI Plan Upgrades

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Mrs. McClarnon-Questions for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMENTS -QUESTIONS FROM VISITORS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Michael Bove, PE, PLS, SEO, STPO  
President Emeritus & Founder

Emil Bove, PLS, SEO, EIT  
President

Lucien Bove, PE, CBSI  
Secretary / Treasurer



*Providing Civil Engineering and  
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## **BOVE ENGINEERING COMPANY**

ARMBRUST PROFESSIONAL CENTER

8201 ROUTE 819

GREENSBURG, PA 15601

724-925-9269

FAX: 724-925-1216

September 29, 2021

Vandergrift Borough Council  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, Pennsylvania 15690

Attention: Stephan DellaDonne, Borough Secretary  
Reference: Engineer's Report for October 4, 2021 Council Meeting

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report summarizes activities, projects, and work performed during the past month in addition to the preparation for and attendance of regular and scheduled meetings:

### **2021 CDBG Street Reconstruction Project – Sherman Ave., LaFayette Ave. & 7<sup>th</sup> Street**

Bids were advertised 8-16 & 8-19 and opened at the September 7 Council meeting. Unfortunately, the bid from Tresco Paving Corp. came with conditions which are not permitted by the bid specifications and must be rejected. We have received the authorization from the County that the Borough may award the project. Please see previously submitted bid rejection and award recommendation letter.

### **2021 Casino Theater and Library Building Improvement Project**

After checking the references for the low and only bidder for the Roof Replacement portion of this project and verification that the cost is not unreasonable, we would like Council to consider awarding the Roof Replacement work to the low bidder.

### **ATI Proposed Plant Upgrades Stormwater Management "No-Harm Evaluation" Application 2021-02**

We reviewed and recommended that Council approve this SWM No-Harm Evaluation (See letter dated 9-17-2021).

### **MAWC Proposed Emerson Street Pressure Reducing Vault "No-Harm Evaluation" Application 2021-03**

We reviewed and recommended that Council approve this SWM No-Harm Evaluation (See letter dated 9-23-2021).

### **ATI Proposed Plant Upgrades**

Reviewed revised preliminary and final Site Plan and Stormwater Management Plan submittals, prepared and submitted Initial and Final Engineer's Plan Review Report (copies submitted previously), attended the Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting and assembled sets of plans and supplemental documents for approval in accordance with the conditions set forth by the Planning Commission.

### **Timber Harvest**

The Forester Consultant, Dave O'Barto has defined the Tree Harvest and Preventative Spraying areas within the property and is in the process of marking the trees to be harvested.

### **DCED Multimodal Grant Application**

We have received a response from DCED that the application and all required documentation was received and that they will let us know if any additional information is needed.

### **Street Excavation and Driveway Permits**

We issued several Street Excavation and Driveway Permits.

### **407A Jackson Avenue Sewer Connection Violation**

The time extension for the correction of the violation expired on 8-6-2021. As far as we know, the required work has not been done by the owner. I believe this item was deferred to the October Meeting for action, if necessary.

**337 1/2 & 326 Longfellow Unsafe Structures**

We conducted required interior and asbestos inspections along with the County's asbestos and hazardous material consultant and numerous correspondences with the County and Borough Solicitor.

**Columbia Avenue Sidewalk/Parking Lot Off-Site Stormwater Management (Salina Bridge Replacement)**

Made the Preliminary Design Pa. One Call to request maps and have the underground utilities marked on site.

**2022 CDBG Application**

We worked on the application and all required documentation and attachments. See attached revised list of streets. Please note that 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street were removed from the list as requested by the County. Center Street was also removed due to indications that the income surveys would not qualify. Therefore, 28<sup>th</sup> Street from 28<sup>th</sup> to Lowell St., 29<sup>th</sup> Street from Howell St. to Irving St. and Bryant Street from Wallace St. to Cooper St. were added to the list.

**109 and 111 Washington Avenue - County Demolition Applications**

We conducted required interior and asbestos inspections along with the County's asbestos and hazardous material consultant and numerous correspondences with the County and Borough Solicitor.

**Triangle on Washington Avenue at Franklin Avenue**

I attended the Safety review investigation with Tom Holmes and Vandergrift Police Officer Nathan Rigatti to determine if locating a park-type bench within the grass area behind the sidewalk, located 10 feet behind the curb, would create a sight obstruction for motorists entering Franklin Avenue. Based upon our review, the bench could create a sight obstruction if 1 or more persons are seated on the bench. It was reported that there is a high occurrence of vehicles running over the curb and into the triangle at this location and evidence of this exists in the form of tire marks and impacts with the curb. Due to the location of the island in the middle of the street where vehicles must turn to the left or the right, signage, along with advanced signage and pavement markings may be warranted along Washington Avenue to help reduce the occurrence of vehicles running into or over the 8" high curb.

**REQUESTED AGENDA ITEMS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION OR DISCUSSION****2021 CDBG Street Reconstruction Project – Sherman Ave., LaFayette Ave. & 7<sup>th</sup> St.**

- a) Consideration to reject the bid from Tresco Paving Corp. due to conditions stipulated within the bid which are not permitted by the bid specifications.
- b) Consideration to award this project to the confirmed low bidder A. Folno Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$106,024.75. (CDBG funding allocation: \$107,060 ).

**2021 Casino Theater and Library Building Improvement Project**

- a) Consideration to award Bid 1 Option A - Flat Roofs Black EDPM to the low, and only bidder Fuller Home Building, Inc. of Meadville, PA in the amount of \$69,411.00.
- b) Consideration to award Bid 2 Option A - Shingled Roofs to the low, and only bidder Fuller Home Building, Inc. of Meadville, PA in the amount of \$36,537.00.

**ATI Proposed Plant Upgrades Stormwater Management "No-Harm Evaluation" Application 2021-02**

Consideration to approve the ATI Plant Upgrade Stormwater Management "No-Harm Evaluation" Plan contingent upon payment of fee.

**MAWC Proposed Emerson Street Pressure Reducing Vault "No-Harm Evaluation" Application 2021-03**

Consideration to approve the MAWC Emerson Street Pressure Reducing Vault Stormwater Management "No-Harm Evaluation" Plan (fee paid).

**ATI Proposed Plant Upgrades Site Development Plan**

Consideration to approve the ATI Plant Upgrade Site Development Plan in accordance with the conditions established by the Planning Commission and per the Resolution prepared by the Solicitor.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lucien Bove, P.E.

**2022 - CDBG STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

**Street Name » From Street to Street**

**Pennsylvania Ave – LaBell Vue to Delaware Ave.**

**Pennsylvania Ave - Delaware to North end of Indiana Ave.**

**Pennsylvania Ave - Near Virginia Ave. to Sharp Bend**

**13th Street - 13th St. to Washington Ave. & 13th St. to 13th St.**

**13th Street - Custer Ave. to 13th St. & 13th to Wash. Ave.**

**11th Street - Sumner Ave. to 3rd St.**

**11th Street - Columbia Ave. to 5th St.**

**5th Street - Sherman Ave. to 11th St.**

**28th Street - 28th St. to Lowell St.**

**29th Street - Howell St. to Irving St.**

**Bryant Street - Wallace to Cooper**

September 29, 2021

### **Councilwoman McClarnon's October Agenda Items**

Since no agenda meetings take place in the Vandergrift Borough, and most committee meetings are conducted at voting/public council meetings, I am submitting questions that are to be placed on the October 2021 agenda.

I am left out of all committee activities, decision making and correspondences, therefore, I do not know what my committees are bringing up for a vote before council on any given month. I am not given an opportunity to comment as agendas are already developed and questions are not entertained. If committee chairpersons have no reports, how is a committee member to know what happened that month prior to the public meeting? How is one to govern and represent constituents when no information is provided?

Given these circumstances, how does a council person put questions on an agenda after the agenda is finalized and distributed on the Friday prior to a Monday voting meeting?

As per our solicitor's correspondence on September 8, 2021, he is advising all questions to be brought up at a council meeting be put on the agenda prior to the monthly meeting.

I would like the following questions to be put on the October 2021 agenda for discussion at our monthly meeting.

### **Mayor's Report Questions:**

- How does the mayor oversee the police department? Are there weekly reports given to the mayor? How are these reports disseminated to the rest of the council? Why are there no reports on the agendas?

### **Secretary's Report Questions:**

- Who decided on the pool manager and assistant manager salaries for 2021? How will this be determined in the future?
- How is it that there is no report on a monthly basis?

### **Street and Sanitation Questions:**

- How often does this committee meet?
- Who sat on the last rounds of job interviews for this department?

**Engineers Report Questions:**

- Did you provide oversight for the pool grant when a minimum of 3 bids were not received for the pool heater? If yes, why were bidding protocols not followed? If not, who conducted oversight at that time?

**Budget and Finance Report Questions:**

- How often does this committee meet?
- If the president of council and the secretary of the borough were grantees of the pool grant, how was one bid overlooked?
- What checks and balances are in place to ensure grant procedures/stipulations are in place?

**Police and Public Safety Report Questions:**

- How often does this committee meet?
- Has this committee begun the process of discussing hiring of a new police chief once the retirement of our current chief takes place?
- Where is this committee's report concerning the bench that is in question at the intersection of Washington and Franklin?
- Representative Sylvis, in September, indicated that his office had received complaints from members of the community regarding noise and other distractions at the motorcycle shop on Sherman. Have Mr. Silvis's concerns been addressed? Have neighbors been contacted by the police with the noise concerns?

**Buildings and Ground Report Questions:**

- How often have members of this committee met in the last 2 years?
- How do items that are discussed at the voting meeting get developed?
- Why hasn't Karen McClarnon been contacted since she was elected concerning this committee that she sits on?
- Who decided that Lucian Bove would be the contact person for Karen McClarnon?
- Why didn't members of this committee know where the funds were coming from for the Casino Theater renovations/upgrades?
- Mr. Collini reported at the September meeting that a meeting would be called once bids for roof were received. Were they received and when will this meeting take place?

**Tree and Light Report**

Trees have been trimmed and some scheduled to be cut down. This committee met with the solicitor's office to discuss a tree ordinance/guidelines that have never taken place in this borough. The notes to that meeting will be passed out at council meeting.



**General Governance Report Questions:**

- How often does this committee meet?
- Why is there not a report from this committee on a monthly basis?
- Can the Borough Institute a scheduled Agenda Meeting prior to the monthly Public/Voting meeting so that an agenda can be developed with the public present?
- On whose advise did Mrs. Chvala take when writing to Karen McClarnon and stating she would gavel her if councilwoman McClarnon asks questions not on the agenda? Who explained Senate Bill 554 to our president?
- New Business/Old Business...are council members permitted to ask questions during this phase of the monthly meeting?

**Recreation Report Questions:**

- How often does this committee meet?
- Why hasn't Karen McClarnon been contacted for any issues/events/decision making concerning this committee?
- Who on this committee provided the decision making and organizing of the park benches?
- Who sat on the hiring of Daisha Clayton and her assistant? Who decided their salaries? How will their replacements be selected and who all will be involved in the process?
- When there were safety issues at the pool and police were called, who on this committee were contacted?
- When deciding on issues that are of importance on recreation issues, who makes these decisions and are all committee members contacted for input?

**Solicitors Report Questions:**

- Who was contacted for legal input concerning Senate Bill 554?
- Were other municipalities contacted for input on Senate Bill 554?
- Now that Senate Bill 554 has been codified and a guidance has been issued, what are the criteria for asking a question during a council meeting? Will the public be notified of these changes to council proceedings as a result of this new law?
- Please provide criteria for what questions can be asked during the New Business section of the agenda.
- If I am not privy to communications from within the committees that I serve on, and a "No Report" is issued by the committee, am I permitted to ask a question at a public meeting regarding topics pertinent to a given committee?

**Unfinished Business/New Business**

- Per the solicitor's guidance, if it is necessary, please adjust the placement of my agenda questions from the individual report sections to the category of Unfinished/New Business.