

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 3, 2020

The Council of the Borough met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 pm, with President Chvala presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited. Due to the Governor’s directive to stay at home, the regular public meeting will take place in a virtual setting utilizing “Zoom” format for online meetings.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lenny Collini	Christine Wilson
Thomas Holmes	Karen McClarnon
John Uskuriatis	Casmier Maszgay
Kathy Chvala	

OTHER OFFICIALS:

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

MINUTES:

Corrections:

1. Page 3: Gas Co. will be responsible for only part of the sewer repair at 315 Cooper St.
2. Page 4: Mrs. Wilson abstained regarding apply for Multimodal Grant.
3. Page 8: Mrs. Chvala stated that comments were provided to Solicitor Generelli regarding a Shade Commission.

The minutes of the July 6, 2020 meeting were approved by motion of by Mr. Holmes, second by, Mrs. Wilson. Motion carried with corrections.

VISITORS:

A motion was made by Mrs.Wilson, second by Mr. Maszgay, to hear from visitors at this time. Motion carried.

Dennis Lewandoski requested Council's approval to organize a Holiday Town Extravaganza from December 4th , 5th, and 6th. (See Exhibit 2-A).

Dave Hill, 915 Howell Street, requested that Council move to provide a handicap ramp at the corner of Howell and 29th Streets. He also requested that something be done about the hole in this area of the streets.

Mrs. Wilson stated that there was no provision for a handicap ramp at this area during the past Sewer Separation Project. However, she stated that she will look into these matters.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Turiak again expressed her appreciation for the first responders in the area, especially the police officers. In recognition of the Vandergrift Police Officers, she issued certificates of appreciation to the following;

1. Chief Caporali
2. Sgt. DePanicis
3. Officer Gray
4. Officer Moore
5. Officer Lieu
6. Officer Regatti
7. Officer Disciscio
8. Officer Thompson
9. Officer Vega
10. Officer Weber

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Holmes, to accept the Mayor's Report. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary reported that he has received the following dividend checks from the Borough's insurance company, EMC Insurance:

1. \$15,113.35- Workmen's Compensation. (See page 2-A)
2. \$11,046.25-Commercial Insurance Package. (See page 2-B)

A motion was made by Mr. Maszgay, second by Mr. Uskuaritis, to accept the Secretary's Report. Motion carried.

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Mr. Young reported that he had sent 32 violation notices, attended 2 hearings, and issued 1 citation during the month of July, 2020.

Mr. Young stated that he has been giving certificates to home owners who have demonstrated superb maintenance of their properties.

Mr. Young suggested that Council consider instituting an "Adopt a Street" program. He stated that a plaque will be provided to the person willing to participated in the program. The cost of the plaque is approximately \$50.00. He recommended that the alleys be addressed first.

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

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

In regards to Exhibit #2 from Denise Lewandowski in her request to organize a Holiday Town Extravaganza, President Chvala turned this matter over to the Recreation Committee.

Exhibit 1-A: Jennefer Woodling, Westmoreland Planning Department.

Subject: 2021 CDBG applications due by Sept. 30, 2020.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Collini, to authorize the Borough Engineer to submit the aforementioned CDBG application. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining. Motion carried.

REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

None

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

None

Mrs. McClarnon questioned whether a committee is permitted to act on bids without bringing them back to Council or they must be brought before Council.

Mr. Holmes stated that bids received under \$11,000 do not need to be brought before Council, if only the proper funding was budgeted.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Lucien Bove presented and reviewed items contained in his written report. (See pages 4-A thru 4-C)

Mr. Collini questioned how long East Vandergrift Lane will be closed.

Mr. Bove stated that it will closed until mid September. He stated that the cause is due to PennDot correcting an underming problem.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Maszgay, to accep the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

No Report

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairman Holmes stated that Nicole Basile, 159 Jefferson, has submitted a Persons With Disability Handicap Parking Place Application. He stated that since Mrs. Basile meets the criteria set forth in this ordinance, it is being recommended that this application be granted.

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

Chief Caporali reported that during the month of July, the Department answered 468 calls, issued 8 traffice citations, issued 4 non-traffice citations, arrested 13 indivuals on criminal charges, and issued 7 ticketsfor illegally parking vehicles.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Maszgay, to accept the Police & Public Safety Report. Motion carried.

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Collini reported that the pier work at the garage bay of the Vandergrift No. 1 Fire Department has bee repaired at a cost of \$3600.00.

Mr. Collini stated that calling a meeting of Building & Grounds Committeee to discuss matters regarding to the Borough properties.

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

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson McClarnon reported that her Committee will be obtaining bids for the trimming and/or removal of various trees in town.

Mrs. McClarnon stated that she has contacted Vic Capretto regarding two lights out at Kennedy Park.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Maszgay, to accept the Tree & Light Report. Motion carried.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

No Report

RECREATION REPORT:

Chairperson Uskuaritis reported that he 15 yards of mulch at Kennedy & Franklin Parks to comply with the insurance companies reques.

Mrs. McClarnon questioned who was the naked lady swimming in the pool. She stated that this incident is currently being investigating by the Allegheny Police Department.

Mrs. McClarnon questioned who is cleaning the parks to reduce the risk of COVID.

Mr. Uskuaritis stated that we are following the CDC guidelines. He also stated that the sunshine is also effective.

Mrs. McClarnon also questioned when the chairperson of the Recreation Committee will be calling any meetings.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Collini, to accept the Recreation Report. Motion carried.

Following a dircussion regarding enacting and setting policies for camera surveillance in the Borough, a motion was made by Mr. Maszgay, second by Mr. Holmes, to advertise an ordinance for adopt Ordinance No. 2-2020 at the September 8, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Holmes stated that once this ordinance is adopted, he stated that cameras should be installed at the pool facility.

Mrs. McClarnon stated that the video from the pool cameras should go to the Allegheny Police Department.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Generelli stated that all bids should come before Council and awarded at that time.

Mrs. Wilson stated that Committees never had to do this before.

Mr. Holmes stated that anything under \$11,000 did not have to comply, which was changed effective January, 2020.

In regards to the bids received on the repairs to the catch basin at Sherman & Hamilton, a motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Wilson, to award the bid to Winfall Energy, the low bid, at \$4,553.00. Motion carried.

In regards to the property at 110 Wahington, Solicitor Generelli stated that Council could file a nuisance action against the property. Due to the owner being deceased, they may be a lot of costs involved.

Mr. Bove stated that he has alerted the Land Bank regarding this property.

Solicitor Generelli stated that she is still reviewing the documents regarding the Olmstead Commons Project. She stated that the Borough Engineer is preparing an agreement regarding this project to effective as of August 3, 2020.

Solicitor Generelli stated that she as prepared Ordinance No. 3-2020 to establish rules and guidelines for the creation and installation of driveways was provided to members of Council.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Collini, to advertise Ordinance No. 3-2020 to be adopted at the September 8th meeting. Motion carried.

Solicitor Generelli stated that she has prepared a new Declaration of Disaster Emergency that will expire September 8, 2020.

A motion was made by Mrs. McClarnon, second by Mr. Maszgay, to renew the aforementioned emergency declaration. Motion carried.

Solicitor Generelli stated that she has prepared a draft ordinance regulating the use of open fires and burning in the Borough.

Mr. Holmes stated that the Police & Public Safety Committee would like to meet with the chiefs of both fire departments for the purpose of obtaining their input of an this matter prior to any adoption.

Solicitor Generelli stated that she has prepared Ordinance No. 4-2020 to prohibit parking on both sides of 23rd Street, from West Monroe to West Madison.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Maszgay, to advertise Ordinance No. 4-2020 for adoption at the September 8, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

In regards to the proposed select cutting of trees at Project 70, Solicitor Generelli stated that any agreement should contain the following: Borough reserves the right to reject any and all bids, one million insurance coverage and the cleanup on roadways. She also questioned the matter of the removal of high stumps and the topping from the trees cut.

Mr. Bove stated that the tree toppings are left on the ground for the purpose for the regrowth. He also stated that the forester obtaining must be certified by DCNR.

Mrs. McClarnon questioned which committee of Council handles this matter.

President Chvala stated that all contracts and/or agreements that the Borough enters into falls within the responsibility of the General Government.

Mr. Holmes recommended that a road bond be obtained prior to the awarding of a bid.

A motion was made by Mr. Maszgay, second by Mr. Collini, to accept the Solicitor's Report. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

At 8:46 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Holmes, to call an executive session of Council for the purpose of discussing the on-going contract negotiations with Vandergrift Police Bargaining Committee. Motion carried.

At 9:14pm, a motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Collini, to return to the regular order of business, and to state that no action was taken during the executive session. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Maszgay, second by Mr. Holmes, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

