

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT  
MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL  
REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 6, 2020

The Council of the Borough met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 pm, with Mayor Turiak presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

At this time administered the Oath of Office to the following newly elected to the Vandergrift Borough Council: Kathleen Chvala, Karen McClarnon, and John Uskuriatis.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lenny Collini	Christine Wilson
Karen McClarnon	Thomas Holmes
John Uskuriatis	Casimer Masgay
Kathy Chvala	

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Barbara Turiak, Mayor	Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Larry Loperfito, Solicitor	Joseph Caporali, Police Chief

Mayor proceeded with the election of officer of the Vandergrift Borough Council. She then opened the floor for nominations for President of Council.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Collini, to nominate Mrs. Chvala, to the position of President of Council.

A motion was made by Mrs. McClarnon, second by Mr. Uskuriatis, to nominate Mr. Maszgay to the position of President of Council.

The following Roll Call vote was taken on the aforementioned nominations:

Mr. Collini voted for Mrs. Chvala.  
Mr. Holmes voted for Mrs. Chvala  
Mr. Uskuraitis voted for Mr. Maszgay  
Mrs. McClarnon voted for Mr. Maszgay  
Mrs. Wilson voted for Mrs. Chvala  
Mr. Maszgay voted for himself  
Mrs. ~~Wilson~~ voted for Mrs. ~~Wilson~~

*Chvala*

*Chvala*

The Secretary announced that the roll call vote showed Mrs. Chvala receiving five (5)<sup>4</sup> votes and Mr. Maszgay receiving two (2) votes, therefore naming Mrs. Chvala as President of Council.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Holmes, to nominate Mr. Collini to the position of Vice President of Council.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mrs. McClarnon, to nominate Mr. Maszgay to the position of Vice President of Council.

The following Roll Call vote was taken on the aforementioned nominations:

Mrs. Chvala voted for Mr. Collini  
Mrs. Wilson voted for Mr. Collini  
Mrs. McClarnon voted for Mr. Maszgay  
Mr. Maszgay voted for himself  
Mr. Uskuraitis voted for Mr. Maszgay  
Mr. Holmes voted for Mr. Collini  
Mr. Collini voted for himself

The Secretary announced that the roll call vote showed Mr. Collini received five (5)<sup>4</sup> votes and Mr. Maszgay receiving two (2) votes, therefore naming M. Collini Mr. Collini as the Vice President of Council.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuriatis, second by Mrs. McClarnon, to nominate Mr. Maszgay as President Pro Tem to preside in the absence of both the Council President and Vice President. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Holmes, to nominate Peter Basile to the Vandergrift Vacancy Board Chair. Motion carried.

#### OTHER BOARD/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:

A motion was made by Mrs. McClarnon, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to table all appointments at this time.

The following Roll Call Vote was taken on the aforementioned motion; A yes vote indicates in favor of motion, and a no vote indicates to move forward.

Mrs. Wilson	No
Mrs. McClarnon	Yes
Mr. Maszgay	No
Mr. Uskuraitis	Yes
Mr. Holmes	No
Mr. Holmes	No

Mr. Collini            No

The Secretary stated that the motion of the floor failed with 5 votes cast in opposition to the motion and 2 votes cast in favor

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, to appoint Bove Engineering as the Borough Engineer.

The Secretary stated the aforementioned motion failed for a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, to appoint Emil Bove as the Borough's Sewage Enforcement Officer.

The Secretary stated the aforementioned motion failed for a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Wilson, to appoint Larry Loperfido as the Borough Solicitor. Motion carried with Mrs. McClarnon and Mr. Uskuaritis opposing.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Maszgay, to appoint James Favero as the Solicitor to the Vandergrift Zoning & Hearing Board. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second Mr. Uskuaritis, to appoint Sandra Shotts to a three year term to the Vandergrift Zoning & Hearing Board. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Holmes, to appoint Vernon Sciuolo as alternate to the Vandergrift Civil Service Commission. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Collini, to appoint the First Commonwealth Bank as the Borough's Treasurer. Motion carried

#### MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 2, 2019 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Holmes. Motion carried.

#### VISITORS:

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

Darla Held, 211 Holmes Street and a non-profit business owner 131 Columbia Avenue. She proceeded in reading a letter to Council. (See page 3-A

Rob Govern, representing the Vandergrift Ambulance, stated that they received the state of art Lucas Device which is used for CPR.

Darla Held - homeowner of 211 Holmes Street

non profit business owner 131 Columbia Avenue

2020 brings another chance at a fresh start, a few new council members as well as some great previous members and hopefully much needed change for our wonderful town. Change can be scary, exciting and overwhelming! In July 2018 I became the proud owner of Tiny's For Family Shop after enjoying a few years "off" as a stay at home mother of 3 boys with no prior experience of managing a business let alone owning my own business. At that time our Tiny Cause dog rescue was transforming from Tiny Cause who to Tiny Cause located down from GiGi's restaurant! Opening our full dog grooming shop allowed us the opportunity to become a PA licensed dog rescue and we've proudly saved the lives of over 300+ dogs/cats since. We bring people to Vandergrift from all over, including out of state and even one out of the country supporter! We happily ~~recommend~~ recommend in town restaurants, businesses and activities going on during their visit. The personal differences of a few people associated with "improving Vandergrift" have gone above and beyond in recommending out of town groomers, excluding Tiny Cause from events and wishing us to fail which is as disappointing as it is inspiring. Our motto is to be kind to all kinds. The values Tiny Cause and our supporters stand for is honesty, equality, kindness, compassion and treating others the way we would want to be treated as well as helping those in need (no matter if they have 2 or 4 legs). To me those are traditional values and if all parts of Vandergrift worked together vs having pissing battles in the wind imagine what the possibilities could be! Our last mayor asked our 9 year old son (at the time) to not attend future council meetings. That spoke volumes to our family, crushed Vandergrift's Finest Jr. Police Officer and made us take a step back. Our youth is our future which is why our rescue includes all ages. The end to my point is the result of kindness is that it draws people to you and we only have what we can give. Vandergrift has TONS to give and that can't will do better if we can support each other and bring kind to ALL kinds!

Paul Levy, 420 Longfellow Street, requested that an agenda of Council be available for every meeting. He questioned why the visitors are not allowed to voice their opinions during the meeting.

Bill McClarnon, 520 Hancock Avenue, questioned why there is no agenda available to the public, why visitors are not able to comment prior to an action of Council. He also questioned why there is no available orientation for newly elected officials.

Jim Dunmire, 181 Sherman Avenue, stated that he recently lost a 7 week nephew. He requested that action needs to be taken to provide a quicker response time by the ambulance service. He also requested that the Police & Public Safety Committee meet in order to resolve this problem.

Jim Caporali, No 2 Fire Dept. Ambulance, stated that the EMS is in a major crisis through the country due to the diminishing of ambulance services. He stated that our ambulance service had 400 calls outside the coverage area. He stated that the service has 24/7 coverage but is unable to have two crews, which is attributed to a lack of qualified individuals. He stated that a 8 hour shift costs \$138,000 per year. He concluded that he would be glad to work with Council.

Don Detar, 213 Lowell Avenue, stated that something needs to be done about the two Junk yards coming into town, one at the end of the Vandergrift Bridge and the other at Detar's Auto Electric.

Jodi Sarno, 227 Whittier Street, commented that there needs to be some trust between the Council and the concern citizens of the Borough. He concluded in saying that TRUST is the word I leave you with.

Ashley Hanningan, 188 Washington Avenue, questioned whether school crossing guards have background certifications.

Chief Caporali stated that applications regarding this matter have been mailed out to each school crossing guard and will mailed to the State when they are returned.

James Held, 211 Holmes, requested the Borough to take care of an on-going ice condition. He stated the cause is coming from the neighbor's roof drainage flowing on the street and developing conditions.

Karen Cramer, 910 Holland Street, questioned why the Borough Crew collect large trash items.

Jim Williams stated that the Borough Crew do a fantastic at collecting the types of trash.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Turiak stated that this year the Borough will be celebrating 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that all should begin to work together to make this year a productive one.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary presented the Notice of Regular Meetings of the Vandergrift Council for calendar year 2020. (See page (5))

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Collini, to advertise the notice of monthly meetings of Council for the year 2020. Motion carried.

The Secretary presented Resolution No. 1-2020 for adoption which sets forth the contribution rate to 6.23% of compensation for the police offers for 2020. (see page 5-B)

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

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Mr. Young reported that during 2019 403 violation notices were issued, 43 citations issued, and attended 20 magistrate hearings.

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

CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS:

Exhibit 1-A: Jim Putignano, President, Festa Italiana di Vandergrift.

Subject: Use of Kennedy Park for their 2020 Festival on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT  
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020**

**NOTICE**, in compliance with the Sunshine Act (Act of October 15, 1998, P.L., 729, No. 93), as amended by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is hereby given that the regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift, for calendar year 2019 will be held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building, 109 Grant Avenue, Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, beginning at 7:00 p.m., prevailing time, on the following dates:

January 6, 2020  
February 3, 2020  
March 2, 2020  
April 6, 2020  
May 4, 2020  
June 1, 2020  
July 6, 2020  
August 3, 2020  
September 8, 2020  
October 5, 2020  
November 2, 2020  
December 7, 2020

Stephen J. DelleDonne,  
Borough Secretary

Exhibit 2-A: Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary-DCED.

Subject: Notice of grant award of \$151,000.00 for the development of Olmstead Commons on Washington Avenue.

REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Wilson, to authorize the Secretary to contact Berkheimer in regards to obtaining their service in collecting the Borough's Occupation & Per Capita Taxes. Motion carried.

Mrs. McClarnon recommended that the Council provide a detailed agenda for future Council meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Uskuaritis, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm



5-6

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

RESOLUTION   1   2020

Resolution of the Borough of Vandergrift, County of Westmoreland, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania setting the Police Contribution Rate to the Police Pension Plan for 2020.

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Vandergrift (the "Borough"), on January 6, 1958 established a retirement for certain of its employees known as the **Borough of Vandergrift Police Pension Plan** (the "Plan"), which was adopted pursuant to Act 600; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough received confirmation from the Plan's Actuary with respect to the Participant Contribution and the actuary soundness of the plan; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is satisfied that the conditions have been met in order to set the contribution rate to 6.23% of compensation for the 2020 Plan year;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council that, effective January 1, 2020 and continuing through and including December 31, 2020, the amount of the Participant Contributions shall be 6.23% of compensation.

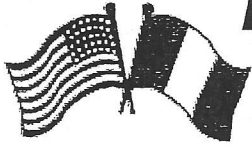
**RESOLVED** at Vandergrift, Pennsylvania this  6<sup>th</sup>  day of January, 2020.

**BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT**

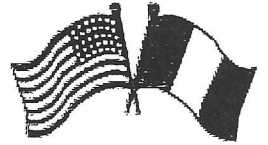
By \_\_\_\_\_  
**Council President**

Attest :

\_\_\_\_\_(Seal)  
**Stephen J. DelleDonne,**  
**Borough Secretary**



# Festa Italiana di Vandergrift



Post Office Box 115—Vandergrift, PA 15690

[www.Festaitaliana.us](http://www.Festaitaliana.us)

Exhibit 1-A

December 18, 2019

Borough of Vandergrift Council  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Dear Council,

**Re: 2020 Festa**

The Festa Italiana di Vandergrift committee is requesting the use of Kennedy Park for our Festival on Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

We request the use of the field from Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup> for setup and cleanup.

We are also requesting Jackson Avenue to be turned into a one-way street from 24<sup>th</sup> Street to Walnut Street and Kennedy Drive one way from Walnut Street to 24<sup>th</sup> Street on the day of the Festa.

This is the same as we have requested for past Festas.

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

Thanks so much for your help!

Sincerely,



Jim Putignano  
President, Festa Italiana di Vandergrift 2020  
[jim@putignano.us](mailto:jim@putignano.us)

cc: Kiski Valley Lancers Football  
413 Linden Street  
Vandergrift Pa 15690



# pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Exhibit 2-17

December 23, 2019

Mrs. Kathleen Chvala  
Council President  
Vandergrift Borough  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

RE: Vandergrift Borough (Westmoreland)  
Olmsted Commons- Development

Dear Mrs. Chvala:

On behalf of Governor Tom Wolf, I am writing to congratulate you on a grant award in the amount of \$151,000 from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Funding for these types of projects comes from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (Key 93), the Environmental Stewardship Fund (Growing Greener) and federal funding sources.

The Department is committed to building community conservation partnerships with local governments and nonprofit organizations to protect critical natural areas and open space, develop greenways and trails, provide quality park, recreation and conservation opportunities, and to improve the quality of life in Pennsylvania's communities.

Your DCNR grant award is a recognition of outstanding recreation and conservation work that should be shared with your community. DCNR staff will be in contact with your project coordinator to finalize the grant agreement and to provide additional information on our grant procedures.

I wish you much success in implementing this project, which will contribute to the quality of life for many Commonwealth citizens. If you have any questions, please contact DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation at 717-783-2658, or via email at [DCNR-Grants@pa.gov](mailto:DCNR-Grants@pa.gov) for assistance.

Sincerely,

Cindy Adams Dunn  
Secretary