

**EAST PITTSBURGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
October 15, 2019**

The October 15, 2019 meeting of the East Pittsburgh Borough Council was called to order by Dennis Simon at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Citizen Center located on Grandview Avenue.

Ms. Hartford took the roll:

Present:

Absent: None

Dennis Simon, Council President  
Mary Carol Kennedy, Council Vice-President  
Paul Borkowski, Council Member  
Stacy Simon, Council Member  
Joe Esposito, Council Member (Arrived 7:03 pm)  
Other:  
Seth Abrams, Borough Administrator  
Nick Evashavick, Solicitor  
Dave Gilliland, Engineer  
Denise Hartford, Secretary  
Lou Payne, Mayor

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Jim Koshinsky of DeBlasio & DeBlasio Associates presented the results of the Borough's 2018 DCED audit. The audit is unmodified with no material deficiencies. The audit showed normal journal adjustments. The Borough will continue to be unable to meet control requirements due to the small staff and the inability to separate all fiscal duties. Mr. Koshinsky explained this is common in small organizations. Council thanked Mr. Koshinsky for his report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Ms. Debra Clark**, a resident, introduced herself as the editor for the Shamrock Newsletter for the Borough. She explained that the first issue is due to be published on November 1<sup>st</sup>. She requested any articles and information from the Council and Mayor. Ms. Clark also explained that the alleyway behind her home is caving in and running into her yard. Mr. Esposito responded that he and public works would look at the situation on Wednesday.

**Patrick Geric** a resident of East Pittsburgh presented a suggestion that the Borough consider making S. Main St. a one-way street while the construction is occurring on Dooker's Hollow Bridge.

**ENGINEERS REPORT**

Mr. Gilliland reported that the CITF funded projects for paving and demolition cannot yet be advertised because the awarded funds have not been released by the County. This will delay any paving until the spring of 2020.

Mr. Gilliland also received the asbestos reports from CMI as awarded from the September 2019 Council meeting. Inspections and reports were completed for 7 properties in the Borough. The eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) property on the original bid had an inspection and report completed in 2014 by CMI.

The milling of Center Street from Draper St to the Borough line has occurred. Paving is set to begin on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

Mr. Gilliland presented Council with 3 resolutions to authorize the TVCOG to apply for CD 46 funds on behalf of the Borough.

- Ms. Kennedy made a motion to accept the resolution authorizing an application in the amount of \$96,000 for the demolition of blighted properties. Ms. Simon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Esposto made a motion to accept the resolution authorizing an application in the amount of \$57,000 for street paving. Mr. Borkowski seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Kennedy made a motion to accept the Slums and Blight resolution for CD46. Ms. Simon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gilliland explained the manhole collapse near Tri-Boro expressway and the Union RR tracks. Bids were sent out in September and two bids were received. Mr. Gilliland explained the scope of the project and recommended State Pipe be hired to perform the repair, as they are reputable and provided the lowest bid.

- Ms. Simon made a motion to accept the bid of \$105,600 from State Pipe to perform the repairs/restoration of the manhole. The motion was seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion passed unanimously.

### **SOLICITOR REPORT**

The contractual agreement between River's Edge Fire Department and the boroughs of Braddock, East Pittsburgh and Rankin is almost complete. The next step will be for all three boroughs to adopt an ordinance for recoupment of public service expenses.

The assessment appeal for the Holy Grail Garage was completed. The owner has been informed of the newly assessed value and will be paying the Borough for all back and current property taxes.

Mr. Evashavik explained that the estate of Antwon Rose had settled their lawsuit. The terms are confidential, but the Borough did not pay out any funds.

- Motion made by Paul Borkowski to ratify the telephone vote to settle the lawsuit filed by the estate of Antwon Rose. Motion was seconded by Mary Carol Kennedy.

**FIREMARSHALL REPORT** – the report is on file. Mr. Abrams noted a new section at the bottom of the report that details out the funds collected via permits, applications and fines.

### **POLICE REPORT**

Mayor Payne made note that there are two vehicles that appear to be parked illegally on Bluff St.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Payne requested that Mr. Abrams contact Ms. Khadija Thomas to set up a meeting with members of Council to obtain information to assist in Ms. Thomas's goal to renovate the playground located at 516 Bessemer Ave. The Mayor also requested that public works look at the dead tree on Bessemer to determine if the Borough is able to remove it or if an arborist is required. The owner will need to be notified in advance and requested to remove the tree before the Borough can take action.

The Food Bank is taking place on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor announced that New Day Ministries is giving out thanksgiving baskets and they have requested that the Borough submit 12-15 names of families in need to receive baskets.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan meeting was held in Braddock on 10/1/19. Approximately 60 people were in attendance, with a significant attendance from East Pittsburgh. The next meeting will be in March and will be hosted by East Pittsburgh.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT** – The activities report is on file. Mr. Abrams presented a draft of the 2020 budget to Council.

## **MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER MINUTES**

Ms. Simon made a motion to approve the September minutes. Seconded by Mr. Esposito. Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Borkowski abstained. Motion carried.

## **MOTION TO PAY BILLS**

Ms. Kennedy made the motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$83,191.31. Seconded by Ms. Simon. Motion carried.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Council requested Mr. Abrams to attend the Allegheny Together event on 11/8/19.

## **OLD BUSINESS** None

## **NEW BUSINESS Motions**

- a. Resolution 2019-4, APPROVING THE INTER-MUNICIPAL TRANSFER OF A LIQUOR LICENCE FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 527
  - i. Motion: Mr. Borkowski Second: Ms. Kennedy – Motion Passes
- b. Motion to accept the bid from RK Electric in the amount of \$27,000 for the 2005 Ford F550 dump truck
  - i. Motion: Mr. Esposito Second: Ms. Kennedy. – Motion Passes
- c. Ratify telephone vote to purchase 2019 Ford F550 truck outright for \$84,347 from Shults Ford under COSTARS pricing
  - i. Motion: Mr. Borkowski Second: Ms. Simon – Motion Passes
- d. Discussion: Bid – Plow. MCK – get a bid from Push and Pull and A&H Equipment. Item tabled for further investigation by Mr. Abrams
- e. Motion to advertise an ordinance for the creation of the office of borough manager
  - i. Motion: Ms. Simon Second: Ms. Kennedy – Motion Passes
- f. Ms. Simon requested that the planning commission convene for the purpose of reviewing and updating the current gas and oil ordinances. Mr. Simon will convene the commission.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Mr. Esposito made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Abrams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Seth Abrams  
Borough Administrator