

**EAST PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
September 17, 2019**

The September 17, 2019 meeting of the East Pittsburgh Borough Council was called to order by Dennis Simon at 7:02 p.m. at the Senior Citizen Center located on Grandview Avenue.

Ms. Hartford took the roll:

Present:

Dennis Simon, Council President
Joe Esposito, Council Member
Stacy Simon, Council Member

Absent:

Mary Carol Kennedy, Council Vice-President
Paul Borkowski, Council Member

Other:

Seth Abrams, Borough Administrator
Nick Evashavick, Solicitor
Dave Gilliland, Engineer
Denise Hartford, Secretary
David Miller, Fire Marshall
Lou Payne, Mayor

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Khadija Thomas, a resident, high school junior at WHHS and candidate for the Girl Scout Gold Award presented a request to lead a project to rehab the playground on Bessemer Avenue. Council asked if Ms. Thomas needed funding, or other assistance. Ms. Thomas stated that she was looking for general support and volunteers. Ms. Thomas is looking at grant funding opportunities to pay for the improvements. Council commended her taking on this project.

John Detwiler, a resident of Pittsburgh introduced himself as a retired engineer and addressed council about the concerns he has with natural gas development in the area including small financial return and larger safety/evacuation issues.

Edith Abeyta, a resident of North Braddock requested that Council review the oil and gas ordinances in the borough. She indicated interest due to the joint comprehensive plan that is being undertaken by the borough in partnership with Braddock and North Braddock. Ms. Abeyta expressed additional concerns about safety and the proximity of people with upcoming bridge construction.

Megan McDonough, on behalf of North Braddock Residents For Our Future, presented Council with a report and recommendations regarding the East Pittsburgh oil and gas zoning ordinance. Ms. Simon asked if Ms. McDonough would be available to assist the Borough if requested. Ms. McDonough stated that she or her associates with Food and Water Watch would make their services available.

Patrick Geric of East Pittsburgh presented suggestions for the Borough to place a camera at the bottom of South Main Street to discourage illegal dumping and noted that the weeds are

overgrown in that area. Mr. Geric suggested that Council be in touch with the County and State to request financial assistance to improve South Main Street. Mr. Geric would like to see additional streetlights at South Main as well. The Mayor and Mr. Geric have been in touch with Lt. Brown of the PSP. The Lt. is willing to have troopers sign off on the PA 952 in order to tow abandoned or illegally parked vehicles. Mr. Geric offered to provide the towing. Mr. Simon responded that the Borough already has a contracted tow company that would be utilized. Mr. Geric requested to know the salary and benefits of the administrator. Mr. Geric also voiced support for the demolition of 611 Sagua Alley and for the potential well pad and drilling in the area. Council and Mr. Abrams noted that all concerns have already been or are being addressed.

Markus Adams of East Pittsburgh asked if any council members did research before ratifying the oil and gas sections of the zoning ordinance. Mr. Simon responded affirmatively. Mr. Adams voiced serious concerns for the air quality and safety in the event of a blow out at the proposed well site. Ms. Simon added that the DEP does not look at specific geography and population when approving an application – they follow a larger set of guidelines and rely on municipalities to set the specific regulations.

Ernest Frazier of East Pittsburgh gave an update on the youth basketball league which has grown from 3 youths to over 25 youths participating on a weekly basis. The youths recently did a neighborhood cleanup day and plan to do another one on October 5th. Mr. Frazier thanked the community for their support. The Mayor praised the work of Mr. Frazier and the youth.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Gilliland reported that the CITF funded projects for paving and demolition will be advertised once the final agreements come through the TCVCOG. The Borough received 3 bids for the asbestos inspections, and Mr. Gilliland recommends CMI, Inc. for \$6,156. Mr. Simon asked if they were known to Mr. Gilliland. Mr. Gilliland responded that all the bidders were known and reputable.

- Ms. Simon made a motion to accept the bid from CMI in the amount of \$6,156.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Esposto. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gilliland will inform CMI of the award and will request that all reports be submitted prior to October 15, 2019.

Mr. Gilliland recommended accepting the bid of \$36,282.50 from McKee Asphalt for the paving of Center St. This amount is the lowest bid but is \$8,264.10 more than the grant award.

- Mr. Esposto made a motion to accept the bid of \$36,282.50 with a Borough contribution of \$8,264.10 to the project. Ms. Simon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gilliland reported to council the status of a manhole and sewer issue at the Tri-boro expressway and the Union RR tracks. There is a plan to correct the issue and they hope to be bidding the job quickly. Mr. Simon asked about the status of the emergency demolition of 532 and 530 ½ Grandview. Mr. Gilliland reported that the County will absorb the cost of the asbestos testing, and that once that is done, he will obtain quotes or advertise for bids as required. Mr. Esposto inquired about utilizing borough funds to pay for additional demolitions. It was recommended that council wait for the asbestos report before identifying houses, as the presence of asbestos could increase the demolition costs significantly.

Mr. Gilliland reported that the pre-application for CD 46 was submitted to TCVCOG and included:

- a. Grandview Ave. Reconstruction (Howard to Ridge) \$57,000

- b. Demolition of Properties \$96,000
728 Grandview, 210 Bessemer, 524 Bessemer, 545 Bessemer, 611 Sagua, 315
Glosser, 534 Center, 543 Sunnyside

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Esposto will review the status of the catch basins in the borough to determine which can be repaired by DPW and which will need to be sent out for bid.

Mr. Esposto informed council that Mr. Eugene Berezanich from DPW would like to take the ACHD class to become certified to spray weed killers. Council expressed support. Mr. Abrams will investigate the timing of classes and register Mr. Berezanich.

SOLICITOR REPORT

The solicitor will need to meet with council in executive session after the regular meeting adjourns.

FIREMARSHALL REPORT – the report is on file.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mr. Payne announced the first public meeting of the Tri Boro Comprehensive Plan will occur on October 1, 2019 at 6 pm at 845 Talbot Ave., Braddock Ave. St. John’s Church will be celebrating their centennial in October. Mr. Payne requested for DPW to assist in cleaning up the street and area around it. Mr. Esposto will speak with DPW for their assistance.

The area churches will be having a prayer walk on October 14th at 11 am, and Manna on High will be conducting an outdoor service on September 22nd. The food bank will be open on September 20th from 1:30-2:30 pm.

POLICE REPORT

Mayor Payne reported that he recently spoke with the PSP again. He was made aware of a setback due a borough not submitting their paperwork. We should now expect a delay until at least the 4th quarter of 2020 for a regional department.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – On file

MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST MINUTES

Ms. Simon made a motion to approve the August minutes with a correction to a statement attribution during Mr. Geric’s comments. Statement should be attributed to Mr. Simon.
Seconded by Mr. Esposto. Motion carried.

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

Ms. Simon made the motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$129,878.
Seconded by Mr. Esposto. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS Motions

- a. Ratify the telephone vote to donate \$200 to the grand opening event for This Generation Connect
 - i. Motion: Ms. Simon Second: Mr. Esposito
Motion carries

- b. Ratify the telephone vote to increase Eddie Peake's hourly wage to \$15.00
 - i. Motion: Mr. Esposito Second: Ms. Simon
Motion carries

- c. Resolution to adopt the Municipal Records Manual Schedule of Disposition (2019-2)
 - i. Motion: Ms. Simon Second: Mr. Esposito
Motion carries

- d. Resolution for the Disposition of records (2019-3)
 - i. Motion: Ms. Simon Second: Mr. Esposito
Motion carries

- e. Motion to purchase a new dump truck from Shults Ford, a COSTARS participating dealer to be financed over 3 years or fewer for a purchase amount of \$84,347, with financing to be determined by Administrator.
 - i. Motion: Ms. Simon Second: Mr. Esposito
Motion carries

- f. DISCUSSION of properties to submit to Tri-COG Land Bank for consideration. Mr. Abrams recommended 609 Sunnyside Ave after consultation with the Tri-COG LB. The original recommendation of 102 Bessemer is no longer available.

- g. Motion to ratify the hiring of Seth Abrams as Borough Administrator with an annual salary of \$58,000, 6 holiday, 12 days of PTO. No other benefits are included.
 - i. Motion: Ms. Simon Second: Mr. Esposito
Motion carries

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Esposito made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. and immediately went into executive session.

Executive session adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Seth Abrams
Borough Administrator