

**EAST PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 19, 2019**

The November 19, 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:

Absent:

Dennis Simon, Council President
Mary Carol Kennedy, Council Vice-President
Paul Borkowski, Council Member
Joe Esposto, Council Member

Stacy Simon, Council Member

Other:

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

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lt. Erhardt, Pennsylvania State Police, provided the Mayor with a list of the calls from July-September 2019. The Lieutenant also informed Council that there will be 2 new troopers coming out of the Academy and a transfer trooper as well. The plan is to increase coverage once the troopers are trained. Mr. Simon thanked the PSP for their presence during trick or treating on Halloween. Mr. Simon also read a post from Cpl. Bonderanka has toys available for children in need.

Patrick Geric a resident of East Pittsburgh thanked Messrs. Simon and Esposto.

Earnest Frazier, a resident of East Pittsburgh noted that the end of year celebration for the youth basketball clinic will occur at 1 pm on November 23rd at Manna on High. They hope to begin the 2020 season in April.

Dennis Hamm, a property owner in the borough inquired about Council's ability to place speed humps along Bessemer Ave. to slow traffic. Ideas were also brought up to obtain one of the radar units showing your speed from a local legislator. Mr. Simon will check with Rep. Markosek. Mr. Evashavik recommended reviewing the PennDOT publication about traffic calming.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Gilliland reported that the CITF funded projects for paving and demolition will be advertised on 11/22 and bid opening will occur at the TCV COG on 1/7/20. Demolition bids for the emergency demolition on Grandview Ave will occur on 12/23/19.

The COG has advised against adding the Borough's discretionary demolitions to the CITF bid due to being locked into prevailing wage. It is recommended that the Borough separately bid the

homes once an approximate price is known. The paving on Center St. from CD 45 is complete. State Pipe is obtaining the railway permits required for the manhole repair project. This is not weather dependent, and will be underway soon.

Council asked Mr. Gilliland about the seismic testing that is being requested by Precision Geophysical to be done on Center St. Mr. Gilliland reported that he has not heard of any damages or issues, but that all testing has been done on private property. North Versailles Borough prohibited seismic testing on public roads. Mr. Simon added that Monroeville has also not given permission for seismic testing on public roads.

Motion to deny permission for Precision Geophysical to perform seismic testing on public roads.

Motion: Mr. Esposto, second by Mr. Borkowski. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

Ms. Kennedy made the motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$170,355.15.

Seconded by Mr. Borkowski.

Motion passed unanimously.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT – the report is on file. Mr. Miller noted that vehicles are being towed. The American Legion was re-inspected today and will be ready for opening on 11/23.

PUBLIC WORKS – there has been some difficulty with the salt spreader from being stored outdoors. Gene was able to get it working and has gone above and beyond. Recommended that Council look at a plastic hopper for 2021. The plow will be installed on 11/21. The F150 truck is in need of new Tires. Mr. Esposto has gotten a price for tires that will last us for another year.

A pallet of flake salt has been ordered and will be delivered within the week.

Concrete work on the Mall will need to be done. There was a question about who owns the various pieces of concrete. Mr. Miller will write a property maintenance letter to Brandywine.

Mr. Simon praised the work of the Public Works crew. Mr. Abrams has established himself as the primary call from the PSP for plowing needs and Mr. Yocca from DPW as the backup. Mr. Simon noted that TJ has again offered his services as a backup for plowing.

POLICE – Mayor Payne noted that the initial report from DCED on the regionalization is to be published around Thanksgiving.

PLANNING COMMISSION – The planning Commission met on 11/14/19 without a quorum. Discussion took place with Meghan McDonough from Food & Water Watch and North Braddock Residents for Our Future to discuss the Borough's current zoning Ordinance. Recommendations were made to review setbacks, placements near potential traffic choke points and where the multi-municipal comprehensive planning can be effective. Mr. Abrams will do further research and report to Council at a later date.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Evashavik stated that the legal clearances are completed for the CITF funded demolitions. Mr. Evashavik and Mr. Miller attended an appeal hearing regarding 510 Ridge Ave. Mr. Miller, Mr. Evashavik and the Judge all worked with the owner and tenant to help them understand the code requirements and the occupancy permit requirements. Mr. Miller will reinspect the property at the owner's request during the first week of December.

The contractual agreement between River's Edge Fire Department and the boroughs of Braddock, East Pittsburgh and Rankin is complete. All three Boroughs have identical ordinances to approve the service agreement, for the recoupment of public service expenses, false alarms and The next step will be for all three boroughs to adopt an ordinance for recoupment of public service expenses. East Pittsburgh will vote on these Ordinances at the December Council meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Payne updated Council on the American Legion grand opening ceremony, it will begin at 12:30 on 11/23 and proceed to the new building about 15 minutes later.

The Mayor noted an increase in feral cat activity. Ms. Kennedy is now the authorized administrator of the Animal Fund. There are attempts to conduct a TNR (trap neuter and return). There is now one scheduled for May 2020. Ms. Kennedy is feeding the cats, as this prevents them from feeding on the trash and other intrusive behaviors. Those involved will continue to trap and spay/neuter as able on an individual basis. Mr. Reyes indicated that he will reach out to a person he knows who works in Braddock for assistance with TNR.

The Christmas party will again occur at the Community Center on 12/9 @ 6:15 pm.

The future of the Community Center is still in limbo. DRS came to provide a damage estimate to repair the basement. Cost is approximately \$100k. This cost does not reflect the preventative repairs. The mayor recommended the building of a new building with the relocation of the playground to Trax Alley.

Mr. Abrams noted that the 2020 proposed budget includes funding for a revamped playground and that he will be requesting the appropriation of funds to engage a design/engineering firm to work towards a plan for the Bessemer St. property and to engage a landscape architect/design for the playground. Grants are available for playground through DCNR and others.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – The activities report is on file. Mr. Abrams presented a final draft of the 2020 budget to Council. Reviewed highlights of engagement with General Code to update our Code book, provide for repairs such as the concrete and to look at other potential deferred maintenance. The Shamrock is set to be mailed on 11/20/19. There is no proposed tax increase for 2020. Mr. Abrams presented a timeline and details on the legal review from General Code.

COMMUNICATIONS - in addition to the included communications Mr. Abrams handed out a handout about the basketball league final ceremony and the ALOM annual dinner on 12/12.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Public Hearing and vote to enact an Ordinance to establish the office of Borough Manager
 - i. Motion: Ms. Kennedy Second: Mr. Borkowski – Motion Passes unanimously
- b. Resolution to dispose of records in accordance with the State Municipal Records Manual
 - i. Motion: Mr. Esposito Second: Ms. Kennedy. – Motion Passes unanimously
- c. Resolution to appoint the Borough Manager as the Chief Administrative Officer and Trustee of the two Borough Pension Plans.
 - i. Motion: Ms. Kennedy Second: Mr. Borkowski – Motion Passes unanimously
- d. Ratify telephone vote to purchase a Western Pro Plus snowplow from Push n Pull inc. through COSTARS contract 025-227 in the amount of \$5,000.00
 - i. Motion: Mr. Esposito Second: Mr. Borkowski – Motion Passes unanimously

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Esposito made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Seth Abrams
Borough Manager