

**EAST PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
May 19, 2020**

The May 19, 2020 meeting of the East Pittsburgh Borough Council was called to order by Mary Carol Kennedy at 7:03 p.m. via video teleconference.

Mr. Abrams took the roll:

Present:

Absent:

Mary Carol Kennedy, Council President
Stacy Simon, Council Vice-President
Paul Borkowski, Council Member
Earnest Frazier, Council Member
Jonathan Reyes, Council Member

Other:

Seth Abrams, Borough Manager
Nick Evashavik, Solicitor
Dave Gilliland, Engineer
Denise Hartford, Secretary
Lou Payne, Mayor

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were solicited to be submitted via mail or email. No comments were received.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Gilliland report is on file.

Mr. Abrams brought up a question about possibly moving the short term step repairs that were awarded at the last meeting to be a part of the GEDTF grant that was applied for. Mr. Gilliland explained that even when the County or State set a grant minimum, there is no guarantee of funding at the minimum. They will often award for less than the minimum request. Mr. Gilliland cautioned that the amount of the grant awards could also decrease due to reduced revenues due to COVID-19. Determined to keep the application as is, and to proceed with short term repairs as voted on at the April Council meeting.

Satira Construction has reduced the quote to \$13,825 from the original \$15,825 by capping the steps between 548 Grandview and 700 Grandview.

1. Motion to approve the bid from Satira Construction in the amount of \$13,825 to cap/repair the steps beside 548/700 Grandview made by Mr. Borkowski. seconded by Stacey Simon. Roll call vote was unanimous in favor. Motion passed.

Manhole cover in front of 515 Ridge Avenue was loose. Frame and lid were replaced at a cost of \$1950 by Urban Construction.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Simon made the motion to approve the February 2020 Council Minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Roll call vote was unanimous in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Reyes made the motion to approve the March/April 2020 Council Minutes. It was seconded by Ms. Simon. Roll call vote was unanimous in favor. Motion passed.

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

Mr. Reyes made the motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$45,724.54. Seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion passed unanimously by roll call.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT – the report is on file.

Citations are now being issued, and the Magistrate's office is accepting them, but hearings will likely not take place until September due to backlogs. We also expect to be able to tow abandoned cars again.

PUBLIC WORKS – no report.

POLICE – no report

Zoning Hearing Board - no report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Payne asked about placing light pole banners to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Borough. There will not be any celebration planned for 2020. The hope is that local businesses would sponsor the anniversary banners. Mr. Abrams will obtain pricing and suggested that the Borough place additional banners that could be placed year-round, not only for the 125th that would be a one-time only use.

The Mayor also announced a funding cut from the program that has supplied the flowers at Braddock and Electric. This had been a continuous program for the past 28 years.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Evashavik reported that he has been attending various meetings recently, including one regarding borough budgeting in light of COVID-19, and that a 25% drop in revenues should be expected. Also reporting that the consent decree/plan by ALCOSAN was approved by the courts, so the transfer of sewer lines should move forward.

MANAGER'S REPORT – The activities report is on file.

Specific areas to note are the month to month/year comparison of revenues. Overall revenues are up in 2020 vs. 2019 and 2018. The list of projected revenue decreases shows the Borough with a potential loss of \$99,000, or 7% of the budget. This can be absorbed by the fund balance without

concern. Monitoring will continue to keep up with the changes in revenues. Ms. Simon asked why property taxes are doing better in 2020. Mr. Abrams stated that across the region that on-time collections are up. Delinquent tax collections are within a few hundred of the annual budget thanks to our new communication and collections plan.

The Borough's insurance was placed out for bid, and no new quotes were received. EMC presented an \$8,000 annual increase. Through discussions and a detailed review, we decreased it to a net increase of \$4,000, which is a reasonable increase based on claims history.

CD 46 was awarded in the amount of \$20,000. This was a \$57,000 application to pave Grandview from Franklin to Ridge. Glenn Engineering will help determine the area to be paved with the reduced funding.

COMMUNICATIONS – A letter/solicitation from the Pennsylvania Community Rights Association. One of their issue areas is fighting fracking and injection wells. Council requested that Mr. Abrams obtain additional information, and possibly invite to a Council meeting or informational session.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Ratification of the vote on 22 April 2020 to extend the 2% discount on property taxes until 31 August 2020 and to remove the penalty on property taxes until after 31 December 2020. Motion made by Mr. Frazier and seconded by Ms. Simon. Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor. Ratification passed.
3. Motion to approve the replacement of the manhole cover and frame by JL Urban Construction for \$1950 made by Mr. Reyes. Second by Mr. Frazier. Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor. Ratification passed.

NEW BUSINESS –

4. Council made a motion to table the vote on the adoption of the Rules of Order. Motion to table was made by Mr. Reyes and seconded by Ms. Simon.
5. Motion to approve a resolution to accept C&D Towing and Recovery as the authorized towing service.
 - a. Ms. Simon asked if the borough could have multiple contracts. Mr. Evashavik advised that this was not a contract, and that changes could be made at any time.
 - b. Ms. Simon made the motion to accept the resolution to authorize C&D Towing. Mr. Reyes provided the second. Roll Call vote was unanimous in favor. Resolutions passed.
 - c. Mayor Payne requested that a letter be sent to Allmor to thank them for their years of service to the borough.

Ms. Kennedy received a letter from the Steel Valley Authority stating Tom Michlovic and David Perala will continue to represent the region as board members unless objections are received.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Simon made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters of litigation at 8:26 pm.

Executive Session adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted



Seth Abrams
Borough Manager