

**EAST PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 17, 2020**

The November 17, 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	none
Stacy Simon, Council Vice-President	
Paul Borkowski, Council Member	
Earnest Frazier, Council Member	
Jonathan Reyes, Council Member (arrived 7:06 pm)	

Other:

Seth Abrams, Borough Manager
Nick Evashavik, Solicitor
Dave Gilliland, Engineer
David Miller, Code Enforcement Officer
Lou Payne, Mayor
Denise Hartford, Secretary

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Gilliland's report is on file. CD 46 is still awaiting grant agreements. Paving will occur in 2021, demolitions can occur as soon as approved.

Mr. Gilliland stated that he believed that the borough was not awarded the GTRP playground grant. Ms. Kennedy asked why we keep being asked to apply but are not awarded- 4 years in a row. Mr. Gilliland recommended that the borough contact Senator Brewster and to contact DCED to seek guidance to produce a better grant application. Mr. Abrams responded that he had reached out earlier in the day to DCED to request information but has not yet received a response.

Ms. Simon offered to have a meeting with Senator Brewster. Mr. Abrams will set up the meeting once we receive feedback from DCED.

Motion to accept the Engineer's report: Mr. Reyes, seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Simon made the motion to approve the October 20, 2020 Council Minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Reyes. Motion carried.

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

Mr. Reyes made the motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 99,184.01
Seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT – the report is on file. Mr. Miller noted that the apartments on the 600 block of Linden are in the process of being sold. Mr. Miller will be monitoring cars/parking by reviewing a block each week. Ms. Kennedy noted that Center Ave. looks much better. Mr. Miller noted that he originally wrote a dozen tags for vehicles on Center. After the one week waiting period 8 of those vehicles had been moved/issues resolved without further actions.

Ms. Kennedy questioned the fire at 522 Franklin St. Mr. Miller explained that it was a small trash fire in the garage and is under investigation by the State Police.

Motion to accept report by Mr. Reyes and seconded by Ms. Simon. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS – Our grant request to the USDA is in queue. The fund has temporarily been depleted.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Evashavik attended the Solicitor's meeting for the 3 River's Wet Weather/ALCOSAN/EPA Consent Decree. The municipalities did gain some concessions and ALCOSAN has added language about indemnification for the Transfer Agreement.

Mr. Evashavik noted that he will be sending some notes and submitting back to the manager for edits.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN- Ms. Kennedy updated Council on the recent discussions with evolve:EA involving some urban design and revitalization. The Core team continues to meet monthly. The final "Dinner with ben" is on hold due to the uptick in COVID-19

POLICE – no report

Zoning Hearing Board - No meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT – No Report

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

Mr. Abrams reported that borough finances continue to have the borough in a positive position with an overall fund balance of approximately 2/3 of the annual budget.

An update of the effectiveness of the "Parking Chair" ordinance has shown a significant decrease, with almost no cones or chairs in the street over the last 2 weeks. DPW removed one of the

basketball hoops that was encroaching into the alley after it was tagged for a week. Another owner moved their hoop after receiving notice.

DPW has patched the concrete steps between the Hollywood Show Bar and the upper section of the Linden Mall.

The Regional Police Workgroup met on 11/5/20, and now consists of Braddock, East Pittsburgh and Rankin. This group will be disbanding, as there was consensus to form the governing Police Commission to go into effect in early 2021. The design will be 2 members from each municipality, with each municipality having 1 vote.

Mr. Abrams presented the draft of the 2021 budget along with the 2021 Budget Message. Mr. Borkowski asked why street paving and demolition line items were being dropped to \$2,000 per line. Mr. Abrams explained that the funding for these two line items have been coming from the savings from the police department. Mayor Payne and Mr. Borkowski stated that some funds need to be in there to stay up on maintenance. It was recommended that \$10,000 be added to the demolition budget and \$38,000 to the paving budget.

Motion to accept the Manager's report made by Mr. Reyes and seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS –

1. Motion made by Mr. Reyes to accept the Tri-COG Land Bank acquisition of 609 Sunnyside Ave. Seconded by Ms. Simon. Motion Carried.
2. Motion made by Ms. Simon to approve the 5 year franchise fee agreement with Verizon Pennsylvania, LLC. Seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried.
3. Motion to accept Fee Schedule Resolution for 2021. – Motion to table by Mr. Reyes.
4. Motion made by Mr. Reyes to accept the 2021 Council meeting schedule. Seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION-

Discussion of a quality of life ordinance, which would allow for local ticketing instead of having all violations go to the magistrate. Mr. Borkowski questioned the language in section 4, which prohibits the keeping of appliances outside. Specifically, it was questioned if having a TV outside while watching a baseball game would be considered a violation of the ordinance. Tickets that are issued would gradually increase from \$25 to \$35 and eventually \$50 before going to the magistrate upon the 4th or 5th infraction/non-response.

ADJOURNMENT-

Ms. Simon made a motion to adjourn at 8:51 pm. Mr. Reyes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Seth Abrams
Borough Manager