

**EAST PITTSBURGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
September 15, 2020**

The September 15, 2020 meeting of the East Pittsburgh Borough Council was called to order by Mary Carol Kennedy at 7:02 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 7:13 pm)	

Other:

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

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**ENGINEERS REPORT**

Mr. Gilliland's report is on file. CD 47 pre-application was submitted. It included demolition and paving. We do not expect to receive funding for all requests. CD 46 paving provided for paving of Grandview from Howard to Maple. We are awaiting County contracts. Paving may not occur until 2021.

Mr. Abrams announced that the County is moving forward with the demolition part of the CD 46 grant by requesting asbestos testing. The Borough has already completed this testing and results have been submitted to Allegheny County.

Motion to accept the Engineer's report: Mr. Frazier, seconded by Ms. Simon. Motion passes.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES**

MR. Frazier made the motion to approve the August 18, 2020 Council Minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION TO PAY BILLS**

Ms. Simon made the motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 62,642.01  
Seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion passed unanimously.

**FIRE MARSHAL REPORT** – the report is on file. Ms. Kennedy asked about a recent event of the occupants at 312 Howard selling food from their home. The County Health Department was alerted and will be following up with this address and another location on the 300 block of Center that may also be selling food. Mr. Reyes asked a question about the fire response report from River’s edge due to 3 calls at the same address during August. Mr. Miller researched and discovered that all were unique incidents that were not related. All were minor and not considered to be an issue. Motion to accept report by Mr. Borkowski, and seconded by Ms. Simon. Motion passed unanimously

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Mr. Borkowski reported that the borough did purchase additional traps.

Mr. Abrams reported that the most recent hire to DPW, Mr. Nesbit has resigned due to finding better employment. The borough will be making an offer to a new candidate.

The speed monitoring/radar sign has arrived and will be installed by 523 Bessemer St. this week.

Ms. Kennedy announced that OVR now has a fall/winter program, and we should be receiving student workers in October.

**POLICE** – no report

**Zoning Hearing Board** - No meeting.

**SOLICITOR REPORT**

Mr. Evashavik reported all parties have submitted their findings of fact for the Merrion Oil and Gas appeal. Copies will be sent to Council. In another lawsuit matter Tom McGinnis, outside counsel informed the Borough that he will be requesting the case be moved to Federal Court. that the Borough maintain/replace the wall. It was determined that the property in question is unincorporated land and the Borough does not have any rights to this land. Mr. Abrams will draft a letter communicating this information and send it to Mr. Evashavik for review.

Motion to accept the Solicitor’s report made by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion passed unanimously.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Payne reported that he received an invitation from RIDC to attend a meeting looking at the redevelopment of the bank building on Braddock Ave. The food bank will be this Friday.

Motion to accept the Mayor’s report made by Mr. Borkowski and seconded by Mr. Reyes.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**MANAGER’S REPORT** – The activities report is on file.

Personnel: Margaret Huffman gave a verbal resignation of her position today via telephone. Motion to accept Ms. Huffman's resignation, effective immediately made by Mr. Reyes. Second by Mr. Frazier. Motion passes.

Mr. Abrams reported that he does not feel the need to fill the position at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Finances remain in a stable position. Details are in the report. Cash reserves, including restricted funds are at \$1,476,165.50

Mr. Abrams reported that Ms. Hartford has far surpassed any historical numbers on voluntary delinquent tax collection, with 2019 being at 48% of the original outstanding amount.

COMMUNICATIONS – on file

Ms. Kennedy mentioned the suggestion to have a “workshop” meeting to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. This would be a public meeting, but no actions would be taken. If approved, it would be advertised. Council will further consider and look at implementing for 2021.

Motion to accept the Manager's report made by Mr. Reyes and seconded by Ms. Simon. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS –

1. Motion to adopt the Ordinance TO APPROVE, ADOPT AND ENACT AN ORDINANCE CODIFICATION FOR THE BOROUGH OF EAST PITTSBURGH, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN LEGISLATION NOT INCLUDED THEREIN; TO SAVE FROM REPEAL CERTAIN OTHER LEGISLATION NOT INCLUDED THEREIN; AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR TAMPERING WITH THE CODE. Motion by Mr. Frazier, second by Ms. Simon. Motion passes.
2. Motion to adopt the Ordinance AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF EAST PITTSBURGH, CHAPTER 273; ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR USE AND RENTAL OF BOROUGH FACILITIES, PARKS AND PARKLETS ESTABLISHING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS; EFFECTIVE DATE. Motion by Mr. Reyes, Second by Ms. Simon. Motion passes.
3. Motion to adopt the Ordinance PROHIBITING THE PLACEMENT OF OBJECTS ON PUBLIC STREETS TO HOLD OR RESERVE PARKING SPACES ON PUBLIC ROADS; PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; EFFECTIVE DATE. Motion by Mr. Reyes, second by Mr. Borkowski. Motion passes.
4. Motion AUTHORIZING CREATION OF A REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION TO SERVE AS THE RECOGNIZED POLICE FORCE OF THE BOROUGH OF EAST PITTSBURGH. Motion by Mr. Reyes, second by Mr. Frazier. Motion passes.

5. Motion to allocate \$100 per month of the general fund to delinquent tax research through Accurant. Motion by Mr. Reyes, second by Ms. Simon. Motion passes.
6. Motion to ratify the full payment of wages to the crossing guards until such time as in-person schools/bussing resumes or December 31, 2020. Motion by Mr. Borkowski, second by Mr. Reyes.
7. Motion to ratify bonus pay for the Department of Public Works staff in the total amount of \$350.00. Motion by Mr. Reyes, second by Mr. Borkowski. Motion passes.
8. Ratify the hiring of Leax Gordon as full-time public works laborer at a rate of \$15/hour. Motion by Mr. Borkowski, second by Mr. Frazier. Motion passes.

**DISCUSSION-** none

**ADJOURNMENT-**

Mr. Reyes made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Mr. Frazier seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted

Seth Abrams  
Borough Manager