

EAST PITTSBURGH AGENDA MEETING
April 13, 2021

The April 13, 2021 agenda setting meeting of the East Pittsburgh Borough Council was called to order by Mary Carol Kennedy at 6:03 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
Denise Hartford, Secretary
Markus Adams, Mayor

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2021 minutes were reviewed without corrections.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager's Report is on file and in the Council packet. Mr. Abrams reported that 2020 financial audit is almost complete. The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's Green Grocer program began on 4/1/21 and will occur again on 4/15/21. This occurs from 1:30 to 2:30 at 507 Bessemer Ave.

Borough finances were reported to have \$622,682.75 in the general fund and a total cash position of \$1,011,047.54.

Mr. Abrams reported that the USDA grant request for the skid steer was approved, and at this time we are waiting for the unit to be delivered. The Linden Mall project was not awarded the CITF funding we applied for. GEDTF grant is to go in front of the Commonwealth Financing Agency at the 25 May 2021 meeting.

A list of potential projects was presented that included paving, park/fencing repairs at Sunnyside Parklet and Quarry Field, upgrade of streetlights and funds for the construction of the community center portion of the new municipal building. Mr. Borkowski asked about the best way to repair

the walking track and suggested that the baseball aspects of the field – dugouts, backstop, etc. be torn down.

Ms. Kennedy asked if Keystone Commons would be willing to partner with the borough for the Linden Mall project. Mr. Abrams stated that direct finance from Keystone/RIDC does not appear to be an option, but that they would certainly support the efforts through a letter of support and continuing to find ways to complement each other between the development on both sides of the viaduct.

It was announced that Duquesne Light plans to replace all of the electrical poles on Bessemer Avenue this year. Peoples Gas will be replacing gas lines on the PennDOT roads of Main St. and Center Ave. The borough will receive sidewalk and some paving upgrades as a result of this project.

Mr. Abrams gave an update of the new municipal building. He has begun the process of exploring the issuance of a bond to pay for the building. Anthony Ditka has been recommended as bond counsel and PSC as the underwriter. They both have vast municipal and local experience. Based on very preliminary and conservative estimates, it appears that a 30 year debt service would have an annual cost of \$65,000. From that savings from rent and utilities would bring the annual increase in the budget down to \$52,000. This assumes a higher interest rate and 100% financing of the project. Mr. Abrams feels the budget will be able to handle the additional expense.

The announcement/Legal Notice of the Quality of Life Ordinance was posted on Facebook, the borough website and in the Valley Mirror on April 1, 2021

Mr. Abrams announced that he was interviewed by WTAE on 3/31/21 regarding the regional police, and the piece aired on 4/9/21.

Mr. Abrams also announced that Braddock and This Generation Connect are both planning vaccination clinics. Once dates are known the information will be disseminated via social media.

Motions that will be requested at the regular meeting on 20 April 2021 are

1. Adopt the Allegheny County Hazard Mitigation Plan
2. Motion to approve the of QoL Ordinance
3. Motion to authorize the Borough Manager to seek financing for the municipal building through the issuance of a bond and/or other competitive loans.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION –

Mr. Frazier asked if the manager had begun to engage with the local municipalities regarding the potential of a contract for police services. Ms. Simon stated that she is working on it by speaking with other elected officials through the political process. Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Simon reiterated that continuing with the State Police is a better option than trying to contract with either Braddock or North Braddock.

Mr. Borkowski asked if the borough had heard from OVR regarding summer work. Ms. Kennedy stated that she has not had any communication. She will reach out and will also give the information to the borough manager to follow up.

Mr. Borkowski asked how to handle the littering issue at Sunnyside parklet. Currently the gate is locked, but this is not a good long-term solution. It was suggested that a “No Littering” sign be placed in the park to at least make it clear that littering is not allowed and will not be tolerated. Unfortunately, the borough does not have the resources to have a full-time person to pick litter, which is an issue throughout the borough, but especially in the parks – Sunnyside and Quarry. Once the sign is erected the park will be reopened.

The idea of engaging the community, especially those who use the basketball courts was discussed with the suggestion that a town hall type event take place at the field. This would be an opportunity for the elected officials to engage with the users/potential users of the facilities to hear their wants, their concerns and to allow the borough to request resident assistance in keeping the facilities usable by being accountable for their own usage. Mayor Adams offered to facilitate. The date of April 30, 2021 at 6:30 pm was chosen. The borough office will create flyers and support the Mayor.

Ms. Kennedy announced that flower planting on the Tri-borough will again occur this year. The tentative date is the week of May 24th. The planting usually occurs during a couple of evenings and wrap up on the Saturday. All residents are invited to participate.

Ms. Kennedy suggested an ordinance to regulate yard sales. There are currently a couple of homes that are holding regular sales during weekdays that function more like a flea market. This also effects traffic flow on a regular basis. Ms. Simon asked if there was precedent from other municipalities. Mr. Abrams indicated that the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs has a model ordinance and that he has found a few others. Both a draft ordinance and additional information on current ordinances will be provided to council. There would not be a fee for the permit, but there could be a penalty. This is not designed to make money, but instead to prevent illegal home businesses.

ADJOURNMENT-

Motion to adjourn at 7:39 pm by Mr. Frazier. Seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted

Seth Abrams
Borough Manager