

**EAST PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
March 16, 2021**

The March 16, 2021 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 (arrived 7:17 pm)

Other:

Absent:

Markus Adams, Mayor
Seth Abrams, Borough Manager
Dave Gilliland, Engineer
Denise Hartford, Secretary

Nick Evashavik, Solicitor

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Gilliland's report is on file. CD 46 bids for demolition were opened on March 2, 2021. Eveready Contracting provided the low bid at \$68,190.

Mr. Frazier made a motion to accept the bid of \$68,190.00 for the demolition of 5 structures identified on the CD 46 application. Motion was seconded by Ms. Simon. Motion carried.

GTRP consideration for the playground project was delayed again until mid-May.

Ms. Kennedy asked about the limitations of each of the grant programs. Mr. Abrams was asked to put together a list of projects to be funded under each grant program.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Frazier made a motion to accept the March 9, 2021 agenda meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried.

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

Mr. Frazier made the motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 120,272.55. Seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT – Mr. Miller’s report is on file.

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

PUBLIC WORKS – No report.

SOLICITOR REPORT – No Report

ZONING HEARING BOARD - No meeting.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mr. Adams reported that the interview with WPXI he mentioned last meeting did occur March 12, 2021. Mr. Adams spoke on the need to rebrand East Pittsburgh and that we can only move upwards from here. The air date is unknown.

Motion to accept the Mayor’s report by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion carried.

MANAGER’S REPORT – The report is on file.

Communications: ALOM Spring Newsletter, and the announcement of the 2021 ALOM conference at Seven Springs.

American Recovery Plan Act – Mr. Abrams will be attending webinars as they become available to seek guidance on when and how the funds are to be spent.

Mr. Abrams presented a color rendering of the proposed municipal building. He also presented two (2) cost options, one as designed with a full sized recreation center/court and the other that would reduce the recreation area to a ½ basketball court or totally remove it and build a separate council chambers. Due to increases in materials the full option cost estimate is just over \$2,000,000. The ½ court or chambers only option is \$1,568,000.

Mr. Frazier made a motion to proceed with the full-court option at a cost estimate of just over \$2,000,000. Ms. Simon seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

- a. Mr. Borkowski made a motion to approve the TCLB acquisition of 375-P-282 and 375-P-281 aka 311-13 Glosser. Mr. Reyes seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Mr. Frazier made a motion to approve the Municipal Fraud, Waste and Abuse policy. Seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried.
- c. Ms. Simon made a motion to approve the Municipal Reserves and Investments policy. Seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried

DISCUSSION-

Ms. Kennedy asked if there was a way to address the need of East Pittsburgh residents wanting to get vaccinated. Mr. Miller reminded council that if you don't have access to a computer, call 211. Ms. Kennedy asked if the Borough could advertise the '211' phone number. Mr. Abrams responded that if we haven't posted it already – we will. Further discussion of the Borough's role in trying to take a lead versus the county and state Health Departments.

The ben comprehensive plan is available on-line now at www.bencompplan.org. All residents are encouraged to review and comment where needed. East Pittsburgh has had the strongest voice thus far, and we should continue to make sure the plan reflects our collective voice.

Regional Police -Mr. Abrams reported that Braddock Borough withdrew from the regional police agreement last week during their meeting. Braddock's withdrawal effectively killed the plan as it is designed. Rankin and East Pittsburgh are still interested. Mr. Abrams recommended that Council and the Mayor keep an eye on the May primary elections in Braddock and North Braddock for a possible shift in view based on the election winners.

Ms. Simon voiced concern that continuing to wait for others to join/rejoin the regional police will cause a delay of at least 2 years. She asked that the borough consider exploring a short term contract with one of our neighboring communities such as Turtle Creek or North Versailles. Ms. Simon made it clear that there is no interest in contracting with North Braddock.

Mr. Reyes stated that he is in favor of approaching North Versailles or Forest Hills or others to discuss potential contractual policing for 2022.

Ms. Simon made a motion to direct the borough manager to explore contracting options with neighboring municipalities. Mr. Frazier seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with one abstention.

ADJOURNMENT-

Mr. Reyes moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm. Motion was seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Seth Abrams
Borough Manager