

**EAST PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 20, 2021**

The April 20, 2021 meeting of the East Pittsburgh Borough Council was called to order by Mary Carol Kennedy at 7:04 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:

Absent:

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

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE ORDINANCE – no comments

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Gilliland's report is on file. The CITF application for the Linden Mall project was denied. It appears that fewer projects were awarded this year.

Eveready Contracting has received the demolition contract from the TCVCOG. The work has not been scheduled.

We will be applying for County Act 152 funding to demolish and redevelop the land at 516 Bessemer Ave. Resolutions are required to apply for these funds.

Mr. Reyes made a motion to apply to Allegheny County for \$200,000 for the demolition of the structures at 516 Bessemer Ave. Ms. Simon seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Reyes made a motion to certify the property at 516 Bessemer Ave as blighted. Ms. Simon seconded. Motion carried.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Reyes made a motion to accept the March 16, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Simon. Motion carried.

Mr. Frazier made a motion to accept the Agenda meeting minutes from April 13, 2020 with corrections. Seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried.

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

Mr. Frazier made the motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 189,397.25. Seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried.

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

Ms. Kennedy questioned the issue of trash being out in alleys the day after trash pickup – especially the bags that are not in cans, which poses an issue for vector control. Mr. Miller explained that mandating trash cans, especially with rental properties is difficult to enforce. Ms. Kennedy requested that the Borough trash ordinance be reviewed to ensure it is up to date and enforceable. Ms. Simon agreed. Mr. Miller follows the Property Maintenance Code for trash/rubbish issues and will cite residents as needed.

Mr. Miller updated Council that the owner of the garage on McKinley Alley was cited in October of 2020 and again on April 19, 2021. The owner has not responded, nor have the citations made it onto the magistrate's schedule. Mr. Gilliland will evaluate the structure on April 20, 2021 and send a letter determining the structural integrity of the structure. If structurally deficient, the owner will be notified that the structure will be razed by emergency demolition and the property lien for the costs.

Mr. Miller presented the Allegheny County Hazard Mitigation Plan for adoption.

Mr. Frazier made a motion to adopt the Allegheny County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion was seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried.

Motion to accept report by Mr. Reyes and seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS – The F-350 truck is down for maintenance repairs that are under warranty. The new lawn tractor had a belt break. It was picked up by the vendor and will be repaired.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Mr. Evashavik reported that oral arguments are scheduled for April 28, 2021 for the Merrion Oil/ZHB appeal.

Motion to accept solicitor's report by Mr. Reyes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Simon. Motion carried.

ZONING HEARING BOARD - No meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mr. Adams reported that the town hall meeting to discuss the Quarry Field/park will occur on Friday, April 30, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Mayor Adams is seeking assistance in passing out flyers door to door.

Motion to accept the Mayor's report by Mr. Reyes and seconded by Ms. Simon. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT – The report is on file. Additional communication has been received regarding initial availability of CDBG COVID-19 funding through Allegheny County. The allowable expenses are limited and have not yet been clarified.

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

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

- a. Mr. Reyes made a motion to approve the Quality of Life Ordinance as written. Ms. Simon seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Mr. Reyes made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to seek funding for the municipal building project through the issuance of a bond and/or other competitive loans. Motion was seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried

DISCUSSION-

Ms. Kennedy asked if Council would be in favor of signing on to support Pittsburghers for Public Transit proposal to increase transportation options through East Pittsburgh and the entire region. Mr. Reyes and Ms. Simon voiced support. Ms. Kennedy also requested that individual council members also sign on. Mr. Abrams will email PPT to show Borough support.

Mr. Abrams asked for questions regarding the model yard sale ordinance. Ms. Kennedy asked how flea markets fit in. Mr. Abrams stated he would need to research but would generally consider them to be a business when done for profit. Fundraisers would be considered to be a separate category. Additionally, there is no plan to charge a fee for standard yard sales, currently being considered to be defined as up to 3 consecutive days and up to 3 per year without any fee. Registration would be required to keep track.

Mr. Borkowski asked if people had signed up for the COVID vaccination at Auberle. Mr. Abrams reported that only 2 people have signed up thus far.

Mr. Frazier announced that the basketball clinic will again occur this year. It is slated to begin June 26, 2021. Mr. Abrams will place the flyer in May edition of The Shamrock.

ADJOURNMENT-

Mr. Reyes moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm. Motion was seconded by Ms. Simon.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Abrams
Borough Manager