

**EAST PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 19, 2021**

The October 19,2021 meeting of the East Pittsburgh Borough Council was called to order by Mary Carol Kennedy at 7:04 p.m.

Ms. Hartford took the roll:

Present:

Mary Carol Kennedy, Council President
Paul Borkowski, Council Member
Earnest Frazier, Council Member
Jonathan Reyes, Council Member (arrived 7:06 pm)

Absent:

Stacy Simon, Council Vice-President

Other:

Markus Adams, Mayor
Seth Abrams, Borough Manager
Nick Evashavik, Solicitor
Dave Gilliland, Engineer
Denise Hartford, Secretary
David Miller, Code Officer (via teleconference)

Absent:

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patrick Geric, Main St. requested updates from items he brought up at the last meeting. Concerns were raised about the proposed construction of the new borough building and the new contract for solid waste collection.

Eileen Navish, Maple St. spoke to voice concerns about the proposed solid waste contract. Ms. Navish also asked questions about the borough fund balance and why tax millage has not decreased due to no police expense. Ms. Kennedy responded that the borough will be explaining all of the costs and the decision process behind the change in the solid waste process. Mr. Abrams explained the borough fund balance, which is held in accordance with DCED recommendations.

Gwen Sewell, Grandview Ave. asked for update on the regional police force and noted the tow truck that is parked on the 800 block of Grandview Ave. Mr. Abrams stated that he is actively dealing with the tow truck concern. Ms. Kennedy explained that 3 municipalities are needed to make the regional police department work. There is hope that the new elections will provide the support for this effort. Mr. Reyes also voiced optimism.

Michelle Chapkis, Plum, County Council candidate came to introduce herself.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Gilliland's report is on file.

- a. Motion to adopt the Concurring Resolution to request \$240,000 from RAAC for the Linden Mall Green project. Motion made by Mr. Reyes, seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion carried
- b. Motion to adopt the Slums & Blight Resolution. . Motion made by Mr. Frazier and seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried
- c. Motion to adopt the Concurring resolution to designate the TCV-COG apply for CDBG grant to improve Quarry Field. Motion made by Mr. Reyes, seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion carried
- d. Motion to adopt the Concurring resolution to designate the TCV-COG apply for CDBG grant to demolish the out building at 537 Linden Ave. Motion made by Mr. Reyes, seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion carried.
- e. Motion to adopt the Concurring resolution to designate the TCV-COG apply for CDBG grant to pave roads in the Borough. Motion made by Mr. Frazier, seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried

Mr. Borkowski made a motion to accept the engineers report. Mr. Frazier seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Borkowski made a motion to accept the August 17, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Reyes. Motion carried.

Ms. Kennedy requested corrections to the October 12, 2021 agenda meeting minutes to reflect the Manager's memo and discussion of the solid waste bid and fee options. Mr. Reyes made a motion to accept the Agenda meeting minutes from August 10, 2021, with corrections. Seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried.

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

Mr. Reyes made the motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 109,399.27. Seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion carried.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT – Mr. Miller's report is on file. Ms. Kennedy asked about the rental license income and delinquent units. Mr. Abrams showed that income is greater than any prior years and that we continue to pursue landlords that do not pay/register their properties. Collection is approximately 90%. Mr. Reyes asked for clarification on the code used from the fire department to a call.

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

PUBLIC WORKS – Mr. Abrams reported that the department is still short a staff. An offer was made to a candidate, but he did not accept. Interviews will continue.

SOLICITOR REPORT – The most recent consent order and agreement with the PA Department of Environmental Protection is completed and recommended for approval by Council.

- a. Mr. Reyes made a motion to accept the Consent Order and Agreement. Mr. Frazier seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Reyes made a motion to accept the Solicitor's report. Seconded by Mr. Borkowski.

ZONING HEARING BOARD - No meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Adams stated that progress within the Borough may seem slow, but change is coming. The decline did not occur quickly, and the fix will not be repaired quickly. The Borough is now in a solid financial situation. The Borough will continue to work on the regional police force, and believes that the residents will be more appreciative of what we will have.

Mr. Frazier made a motion to accept the Mayor's report. Seconded by Mr. Reyes.

MANAGER'S REPORT – The report is on file and was discussed at the agenda meeting on the October 12th.

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

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

- a. Ratification of telephone votes:
 - i. Vote made on September 24, 2021 via email to approve a reallocation of \$10,000 from the Blight Remediation appropriation and an additional appropriation of \$30,000 from the General Fund to fund the construction of the Trax Alley Playground project. Original vote 4-0. Motion to ratify made by Mr. Reyes and seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion Carried
 - ii. Vote made on October 1, 2021 via email to approve the rejection of all bids received and opened on September 21, 2021 for the Municipal Building project. Original vote 5-0. Motion to ratify made by Mr. Reyes and seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion carried.
 - iii. Vote made on September 21, 2021 to approve Disabled Parking 520 Maple –Original vote 3-0. Motion to ratify by Mr. Reyes and seconded by Mr. Borkowski. Motion carried
- b. Motion to Approve the bid from Republic Services for Solid Waste and Recycling services as submitted, with a first year cost of \$187,112.64, with service to commence on 1/1/2022. Motion made by Mr. Reyes and seconded by Mr. Frazier.

DISCUSSION-

Mr. Reyes complimented the public works staff for quickly cleaning up the graffiti on the side of the gym.

ADJOURNMENT-

Mr. Reyes moved to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Motion was seconded by Mr. Frazier. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Abrams
Borough Manager