

# EAST PITTSBURGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2023

The June 20,2023 meeting of the East Pittsburgh Council was called to order at 7:02 pm by Ms. Kennedy.

Ms. Hartford took the roll:

Mary Carol Kennedy, Council President  
Chad Nicholson, Council Member  
Mark Petri, Council Member

Absent:

Jonathan Reyes, Council Vice President  
Ed Ruane, Council Member, Excused

Other:

Markus Adams, Arrived Late  
Laura Branthoover, Engineer  
Nick Evashavik, Solicitor  
Denise Hartford, Borough Secretary

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Debbie Grass, Owner of Grass Roots, the company that is doing the Blight Study for East Pittsburgh.

Barb Ciampini, Consultant with Grass Roots.

The business was started in 2022 to develop a Blight Strategy.

A Blight Strategy Booklet was provided to all council members explaining step by step procedures for eliminating blight. Some recommendations from the study where:

- a. Form a Blight Committee to meet on a regular basis.
- b. Have regular Code Enforcement inspections of the properties.
- c. Take one property at a time to work on.
- d. Find properties in strong neighborhoods that would be worth rehabbing.
- e. Keep your website, maps, and newsletters updated.
- f. The Land Bank and the MVI are also available to help.

Motion to approve the Blight Committee Report was made by Mr. Nicholson.  
Seconded by Mr. Petri. Motion carried.

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY THE BILLS:**

Bill amounts were not available at this time.

Mr. Nicholson made a motion to pay the bills once amounts are included.

Seconded by Mr. Petri. Motion carried.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Engineer's report is on file.

Mr. Nicholson asked the Engineer when the bids for the Gym Demolition would be available. She replied that the bids would be available within 48 hours.

Mr. Petri made a motion to approve the Engineer's Report. Seconded by Mr. Nicholson. Motion carried.

**FIRE MARSHALL'S REPORT:**

Report is on file.

Mr. Petri made a motion to approve the Fire Marshall's Report. Seconded by Mr. Nicholson.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

No Report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

None.

**DPW REPORT:**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Mr. Nicholson made a motion to approve the May 9,2023 Council Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Mr. Petri. Motion carried.
- b. Mr. Petri made a motion to approve the use of the Quarry Field for the East Pittsburgh Basketball Clinic. Seconded by Mr. Nicholson. Motion carried.
- c. Motion to approve the Police Regionalization Ordinance 936 was tabled.

- d. Mr. Nicholson made a motion to approve the application for the 2023 Act 152 Funds. Seconded by Mr. Petri. Motion carried.
- e. Mr. Nicholson made a motion to ratify the Slums and Blight Resolution for the Act 152 Funds. Seconded by Mr. Mr. Petri. Motion carried.
- f. The date for the Community Day will be September 9,2023.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Mr. Nicholson made a motion to approve the quote of \$2,650.00 for the Playground Mulch. Seconded by Mr. Petri. Motion carried.
- b. Mr. Nicholson made a motion to approve the Grant Resolution for the Alcosan Grow Program for \$59,000 budget allocation. Seconded by Mr. Petri. Motion carried.
- c. Mr. Petri made a motion to hire Benjamin Walker as the new Borough Manager at an annual gross salary of \$50,000, subject to taxes and other statutory deductions. Seconded by Mr. Nicholson. Motion carried.
- d. Motion to vote on officials for the Eastern Regional Mon Valley Police Department Commission was tabled.
- e. Mr. Petri made a motion to approve the Disabled Parking Application for Thelma Holleran of 428 Ridge Ave. Seconded by Mr. Nicholson. Motion carried.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTIONS/DISCUSSIONS:**

- a. Council members and the workers from the OVR will be passing out the flyers for the Street Cleaning on June 22,2023.
- b. Our DPW and volunteers from US Steel will be painting the fence at the Trax Playground on Friday, June 30,2023.
- c. An Executive Session was held on May 30,2023.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Petri made a motion to recess to an Executive Session at 8:45 pm. Seconded by Mr. Nicholson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Hartford,  
Borough Secretary