

BOROUGH OF EAST PITTSBURGH
MINUTES FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16 - 7:00 PM

1. The January 16, 2024, meeting of the East Pittsburgh Council was called to order at 7:04 PM. by Ms. Kennedy

2. Mr. Walker took roll call:

Present:
Mary Carol Kennedy, Council President
Ahmonique Washington, Council Member
Mark Petri, Council Member
Ed Ruane, Council Member

Absent:
Markus Adams, Mayor
Chad Nicholson, Council Vice President
David Miller, Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshal

Other:
Benjamin D. Walker, Borough Manager
Denise Hartford, Borough Secretary
Laura Branthoover, Borough Engineer
Nick Evashavik, Borough Solicitor

3. Pledge of Allegiance Ms. Kennedy

4. Agenda:

a. A motion was made by Petri and seconded by Ruane to approve the agenda as presented.

-All Present Were in Favor.

-Ahmonique Washington absent at the time.

5. Meeting Minutes:

a. A motion was made by Petri and seconded by Ruane to approve the December 12, 2023 Agenda Meeting Minutes.

-All Present Were in Favor.

-Ahmonique Washington absent at the time.

b. A motion was made by Ruane and seconded by Petri to approve the December 19, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes.

-All Present Were in Favor.

-Ahmonique Washington absent at the time.

6. Public Comment –

- a. Patrick Geric, the East Pittsburgh Borough Tax Collector, made a recommendation to Council regarding Jordan Tax Service’s preparation of delinquent tax statements sent to undeliverable addresses. He suggested that, in the event that these statements are returned undeliverable , the Borough should request that the statements should not be generated for subsequent billing cycles. He estimated a \$3.50 fee for each generated bill and indicated that the Borough could save significant funds from acting on this recommendation.

7. Authorization to Pay Bills -

Ms. Kennedy

General Fund Expenditures	\$39,325.34
Payroll Expenditures	\$26,626.39
Sewage Fund Expenditures	\$105,586.54
Liquid Fuels Expenditures	\$3,493.40
Total Expenditures	\$175,031.67

A motion was made by Ruane and seconded by Petri to approve payment of the bills.

-All Present Were in Favor.

8. Reports

a. Manager’s Report

Mr. Walker

Mr. Walker clarified that the most equitable option for healthcare is through Paychex Flex, and a proposal was sent to Council via email.

Mr. Walker also gave some presentation sheets for Council to review for the motions pertaining to a sanitation partnership with North Braddock Borough, and Council discussed tabling the motions until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Petri and seconded by Ruane to approve the Manager’s Report.

-All Present Were in Favor.

b. Engineer’s Report

Mrs. Branthoover

Ms. Branthoover read the Engineer’s Report and discussed grants and opportunities for funding. Mr. Walker received a document for the Small Water and Sewer Grant, and he is to send the document when completed.

A motion was made by Ruane and seconded by Petri to approve the Engineer’s Report.

-All Present Were in Favor.

c. Fire Marshal/Code Enforcement

Mr. Miller

Ms. Kennedy asked about some of the items on the report and inquired as to a program to provide smoke detectors. Ms. Hartford was to ask Mr. Miller about a possible program.

A motion was made by Ruane and seconded by Petri to approve the Fire Marshal/Code Enforcement Report.

-All Present Were in Favor.

d. Solicitor's Report

Mr. Evashavik

Mr. Evashavik discussed the current Borough Offices and that he has requested the deeds from Mr. Walker, who will be emailing them to him as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Petri and seconded by Ruane to approve the Solicitor's Report.

-All Present Were in Favor.

e. Mayor's Report

Mr. Adams

Absent: No report submitted.

f. DPW Report

Mr. Yocca

No report submitted. New hire HR items going well.

9. Old Business

None at this time.

10. New Business

a. A motion was made by Ruane and seconded by Petri to table the following motions:

- i. A motion to appoint _____ to a committee to form an agreement with the Borough of North Braddock for joint sanitation services.
- ii. A motion to appoint _____ to a committee to form an agreement with the Borough of North Braddock for joint sanitation services.

-All Present Were in Favor.

b. A motion was made by Ruane and seconded by Petri to approve an agreement with Paychex Flex to provide healthcare, dental, and vision benefits to the Borough Employees for the 2024 Calendar Year.

-All Present Were in Favor.

c. A motion was made by Ruane and seconded by Petri to conduct the second reading of and adopt Ordinance 937

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF EAST PITTSBURGH, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA RECOGNIZING THE AUTHORITY OF THE EASTERN REGIONAL MON VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE BOROUGH.

-All Present Were in Favor.

d. A motion was made by Petri and seconded by Washington to hire Eddie Peake as a Full-Time Department of Public Works Laborer with a start date of Monday, January 22, 2024, pending successful completion of a background investigation and drug screening.

-All Present Were in Favor.

-Mr. Ruane Abstained

11. Committee Actions/Discussions

- a. Mr. Petri suggested a Meet the Candidate Event for the Borough, and Council discussed the requirements to avoid favoritism in elections.
- b. Mary Carol Kennedy discussed a call from George Newsome requesting a meeting to go over plans for the new Borough Building.

12. Adjournment:

- i. A motion was made by Petri and seconded by Ruane to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM.

-All Present Were in Favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin D. Walker
Borough Manager

DRAFT