

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL MEETING

October 3, 2022

The Council of the Borough met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 pm, with President Chvala presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jody Sarno	Tom Holmes
Christine Wilson	Daisha Clayton
Marilee Kessler	John Uskuraitis
Kathleen Chvala	

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Lenny Collini, Mayor	Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Larry Loperfito, Solicitor	Theresa Geltz, Asst. Secretary
Lucian Bove, Engineer	Joseph Caporali, Police Chief

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the September 6, 2022 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Ms. Clayton, to hear from visitors at this time. Motion carried.

Laura Ciuca, 327 Beech Street, thanked Council for their support in the on-going Gathering On Grant events. She questioned if any member of Council would be interest in joing this committee.

Laura Hawkins, PA DCNR, addressed Council in regards to approving the erection of a distinctive signage to let people know they are entering Vandergrift. (See page 2-A)

Mrs. Wilson stated that the proposed location may not be approved by PennDot.

Ms. Hawkins stated that PennDot has given the Borough a waiver on this project.

Julia Martine, V.I.P., stated that a parade will take place after Thanksgiving Day starting at 6:00 pm, in conjunction with the fire departments. She stated that Santa Claus will be at the former JC Penny's Building following the parade. She also stated that the Christmas Tree will be decorated with items from individuals as a "Sharing the Warmth Tree"

Betsy Fusillo, 501 Linden Street, questioned if any action will be taken regarding semi-trucks entering Linden Street from the 56 Bi-Pass.

Solicitor Loperfito stated that violators will be cited.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Uskuraitis, to return to the regular order of business. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Collini thanked the VBA for their efforts in hosting the "Octoberfest" event in town.

Mayor Collini informed Council that the Halloween Day Parade will be held on October 29th, beginning at 6:00 pm. He also stated that "Trick or Treat" will be held on Monday, October 31st, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. He thanked Ashley Hannigan for work in putting this event together.

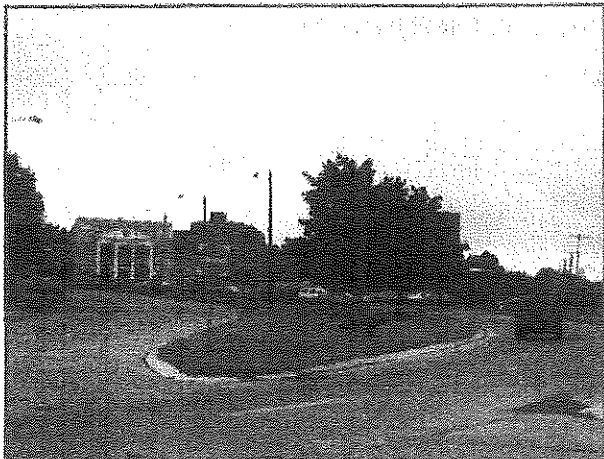
A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to accept the Mayor's Report. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary requested that all committee chairpersons turn in their 2023 budget forms as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Kessler, to accept the Secretary's Report. Motion carried.

PART 4: GATEWAYS, SIGNAGE & PUBLIC ART



EXISTING CONDITIONS

2-A

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS



CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Secretary reported that during the month of September, the Code Officer issued 33 notice violation, issued 2 citations, and attended 1 hearing at the magistrate's office.

A motio was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Kessler, to accept the Code Officer's Report. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Exhibit 1-A: Denise Brzezinski, 124 California Avenue.

Subject: Request to hold a block party for the residents of this area on Saturday, October 15th, starting at 5:30 pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to approve the aforementioned matter. Motion carried.

REGULAR & STATED BILLS:

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to pay all stated and approved bills. Motion carried.

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Chairperson Wilson informed Council that Seth VanHorn has resigned his position as a laborer on the Street & Sanitation Dept. She asked Council to authorize for a full-time and part-time laborers on the Department.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Wilson, to accept Mr. VanHorn's resignation effective 9/27/22. Motion carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to approve the aforementioned request. Motion carried.

Mrs. Wilson stated that Borough Crew will begin collecting leaves starting the 3rd week of October. She requested that residents are to bag the leaves and place them at the curb for collection.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Clayton, to accept the Street & Sanitation Report. Motion carried.

Exhibit 1-A

September 27, 2022

Greetings Mayor Collini and Borough Council,

My name is Denise Brzezinski and I reside at 124 California Avenue in West Vandergrift. A few neighbors and myself would like to host a Block Party for the Neighborhood including residence from Oregon Avenue on Saturday, October 15, 2022 starting around 5:30pm.

I am inquiring if it is possible to close the connecting street which is Center Street between the two Avenues. Borough member Christine Wilson would be familiar with the area I am inquiring about. The closing would be for a few hours. We would like to set up some canopies for shade and several tables for food.

Our neighborhood committee would like to thank you for your time in considering our request. You may reach me at the number listed below if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Denise Brzezinski

124 California Avenue

(724) 567-5952

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

Engineer Bove stated that bases on his conversation with Rick Skovensky of PennDot, it is recommended that Council rescind the motion to approve the 2022 Street Paving & Patching Project.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to rescind that aformention motion providing the contractor will enter into a agreement to release any claim regarding this project. Motion carried.

Engineer Bove provided the Borough with a copy of the DCED Local Share Account Grant regarding the Casino/Library project requested in the amount of \$595,900.

Engineer Bove stated that he has submitted the 2023 CDBG Grant Application. He stated that the Borough will need to conduct income surveys for the purpose of qualifying the name streets in the project.

Mrs. Wilson requested that members of Council participate in obtaing the income surveys by dividing the streets to be surveyed.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to accept the Engineer’s Report . Motion carried.

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Clayton stated that copies of the General Fund, Pool Fund and State Aid Fund budgets have been provided to each member of Council.

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Kessler, to amend the agenda to allow Council to act on the letter of resignation of Anthony Mangee as a part-time officer of the Vandergrift Police Department, effectiveOctober 15, 2022. Motion carried.

A motion was made Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to accept Mr. Mangee’s resignation. Motion carried.

Chairperson Holmes stated the Donald Detar, 213 Lowell Street, has submitted a Persons with Disability Parking Place Application and it is being recommended that this request be approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to approve the aforementioned request. Motion carried.

Mr. Holmes stated that Hal Keller, 311 Elm Street, has submitted a Persons with Disability Parking Place Application and it is being recommended that this request be approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second Mr. Sarno, to approve the aforementioned request. Motion carried.

Mr. Holmes stated that Jarren Crosby, 315 Longfellow Street, has submitted a Persons with Disability Parking Place Application and it is being recommended that this request be approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the aforementioned request. Motion carried.

Mr. Holmes informed Council that Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mills is moving back into their home.

Chief Caporali reported on the following activity of the Vandergrift Police Department during the month of September-2022:

1. Responded to 277 calls.
2. Issued 5 traffic citations.
3. Issued 4 non-traffic citations.
4. Made 16 criminal arrests.
5. Issued 52 parking ticket violation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Ms. Clayton, to accept the Police & Public Safety Report. Motion carried.

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

No Report

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Kessler reported that the final trimming & cutting of trees will be completed by the end of October. She stated that bids are being obtained for the removal of 5 stumps.

Mrs. Kessler stated that new trees will be planted in November of this year.

Mrs. Kessler stated that she had attended Tree Tender class in New Kensington presented by the TreeVitalize arborists.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Jody Sarno, to accept the Tree & Light Committee Report. Motion carried

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

No Report

RECREATION REPORT;

No Report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

In regards to properties 122 Franklin Avenue, 1013 Poe Street and 411 Linden Street, Mr. Holmes recommended they be turned over to the Westmoreland Land Bank.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to approve the aforementioned recommendation. Motion carried.

Solicitor Loperfido stated that the owner of the basketball hoop at 1015 Poe Street has agreed to have said hoop removed.

Solicitor Loperfido stated that the Davis Field Lease Agreement between the Borough of Vandergrift and the Kisk Valley Lancers is ready for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Kessler, to enter a lease agreement for the Davis Field facilities between the Borough of Vandergrift and Kiski Valley Lancers. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to accept the Solicitor's Report. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mrs. Kessler, second by Mr. Holmes, to approve the request of the Arts Festival on July 30, 2023. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Kessler requested that Council act favorably on erecting a stone arch gateway sign for the Borough as presented by Laura Hawkins.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr.Sarno, to apply for a grant regarding the aforementioned sign and to approve the site location pending PennDot's approval. Motion carried.

Mrs. Kessler stated that she and Ms. Clayton attended the September meeting of the Alleghenese Intergovernment Council and that the main topic was code and ordinance enforcement.

Mrs. Kessler informed Council that Sarah Buzzard is the new Vandergrift Public Library director.

COMMENTS-QUESTIONS FROM VISITORS:

Tim Turner, 174 Franklin Avenue, requested that something be done regarding the speeding on Lafayette Avenue and not stopping at the stop sign.

Karen Cramer requested a clarification on the appropriate size of trash cans.

Mr. Holmes stated that the Borough will not enforce a 26 gal. can as stated in the ordinance. He stated that the main desire is that all trash put out for pick up be placed in a container.

Melissa Adams, 307 Jackson Avenue, stated that the traffic is wild at Davis Field during the KVL football games. She stated that there is no traffic control for kids and parents crossing the street.

Mr. Holmes stated that he will try to place pedestrian signs in the area.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

