

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL MEETING

February 6, 2023

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.

At this time, Council held a moment of silence for Chief Justice McIntire.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jody Sarno	Thomas Holmes
Daisha Clayton	Kathleen Chvala
Marilee Kessler	

President Chvala requested a moment of silence for the fallen officer from McKeesport and his fellow officer that was also shot. To remember them and their family and friends in our prayers and also for the safety of our officers.

OTHER OFFICIALS:

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

Correction in Minutes: Moment of silence should read Chief Justin McIntire.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the January 3, 2023 meeting, as corrected, were approved by motion of Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Kessler. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to hear from visitors at this time. Motion carried.

Don Detar, 213 Lowell Street, requested Council to call West Penn Power regarding two street lights on Lowell Street.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to return to the regular order of business. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Collini stated that we are still in snow season and that we should be aware of our neighbors, especially the elderly. He also spoke on the quality of life in that people should get involved in making a better community in which to live.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary presented for adoption Resolution No. 2-2023 which sets the contribution rate for members of the Vandergrift Police Department to the Police Pension Plan at 6.23%. (See page2-A)

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to adopt Resolution No. 2-2023. Motion carried.

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

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Secretary stated the during the month of January the Code Officere issued 17 notice violations, issued 11 citations, and attended two hearings.

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

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary presented the following correspondence:

Exhibit No 1: Anthony Ferrante, Victorian Vandergrift Museum & Historical Society.

Subject: Permission to hold a car cruise June 19 on Grant Avenue.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Kessler, to approve the above

**RESOLUTION 2 of 2023**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT,  
COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND AND COMMONWEALTH OF  
PENNSYLVANIA SETTING THE POLICE CONTRIBUTION  
RATE TO THE POLICE PENSION PLAN FOR 2023.**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Vandergrift (the "Borough"), on January 6, 1958 established a retirement for certain of its employees known as the **Borough of Vandergrift Police Pension Plan** (the "Plan"), which was adopted pursuant to Act 600; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough received confirmation from the Plan's Actuary with respect to the Participant Contribution and the actuary soundness of the plan; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is satisfied that the conditions have been met in order to set the contribution rate to 6.23% of compensation for the 2023 Plan year;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council that, effective January 1, 2023 and continuing through and including December 31, 2023, the amount of the Participant Contributions shall be 6.23% of compensation.

**RESOLVED** this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023 at Vandergrift, Pennsylvania.

**BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT**

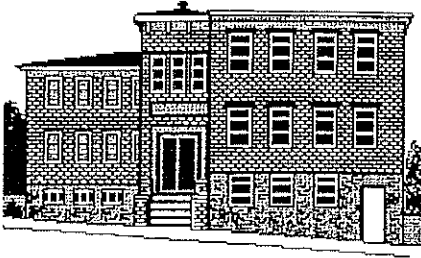
By Kathleen Chvala  
KATHLEEN CHVALA  
Council President

ATTEST:

Stephen J. DelleDonne (Seal)  
**Stephen J. DelleDonne,**  
**Borough Secretary**

APPROVED:

Lenny Collini  
**Lenny Collini,**  
**Mayor**



## **Victorian Vandergrift Museum & Historical Society, Inc.**

PO Box 86, Vandergrift, PA 15690

Telephone: 724-568-1990

Website: [vvhms.org](http://vvhms.org) E-Mail: [vvhms@comcast.net](mailto:vvhms@comcast.net)

January 27, 2023  
Vandergrift Borough Council  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, Pennsylvania 15690

Dear Council Members:

The Vandergrift Museum and Historical Society is asking for permission to hold a car cruise (as we have done for the last six years) on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> on Grant Avenue. The car cruises have been a huge success even with the pandemic. They have helped show off our town and allowed us to make a few dollars to help to continue operating the Museum.

We would like to close Grant Avenue to traffic from Washington Avenue to Columbia Avenue starting at 4 pm on that day and run to approximately 10 pm. This is what we have done in the past and it seemed to always go well. We are also requesting the use of Farragut Avenue, Sumner Avenue and Columbia Avenue from Grant to 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. These areas will be used if we run out of space on Grant Avenue for parking participants in the car cruise. We will make sure the police have access to their building since Grant Avenue would be closed from Sumner to Columbia Avenue.

We are requesting that street parking not be allowed after 4 p.m. on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the cars being displayed at the cruise. As was done last year, we will place no parking notices on cars throughout the week indicating that parking would not be allowed on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> after 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. on that day if approved by the Council.

Food will be sold as was done previously via food trucks on Columbia Avenue from 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 12<sup>th</sup> Street. A live band will also be set up on the corner of Grant and Farragut as has been done previously. Port-a-johns will be available for the public. We will also be contacting the local business owners and advising of this event if they wish to remain open.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our request.

Sincerely yours,

*Anthony Ferrante*

Anthony Ferrante  
President

request. Motion carried.

Exhibit No. 2: Sarah Buzzard, Vandergrift Library.

Subject: Request to hold an Easter Egg Hunt at Kennedy Park on April 1,2023.

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

Exhibit No. 3: Shannon Gourley-The Pride Planning Committee.

Subject: Permission to use Kennedy Park on June 24<sup>th</sup> for Pride in the Park in celebratingour LGBTQ + friends, family and neighbors.

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

Exhibit No. 4: Shannon Gourley-The Witching Hours Planning Committee.

Subject: Request to use Grant Avenue to Sumner Avenue on October 14<sup>th</sup> for The Second Annual Witching Hours Night Market Event.

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

REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

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

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

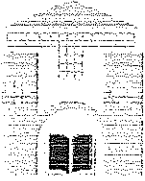
No Report

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

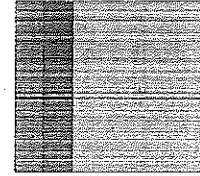
Engineer Bove submitted items for the meeting. (See page 3-A)

Engineer Bove requested Council to authorize the advertising of bids for the Olmsted Commons Project.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to authorize the Engineer to advertise for bids regarding the Olmsted Commons Project, once approval has been received from DCNR. Motion carried.



Vandergrift Public Library  
128C Washington Ave. Vandergrift, PA 15690  
724-568-2212 [sarah.buzzard@wlnonline.org](mailto:sarah.buzzard@wlnonline.org)  
[www.vandergriftpubliclibrary.org](http://www.vandergriftpubliclibrary.org)



Vandergrift Municipal Building  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

January 2, 2023

Dear Vandergrift Park and Recreation Committee,  
We appreciate the relationship that we have built with the borough in letting us use your local parks. We value your time and assistance on those scheduled days and we hope we can continue to strengthen that relationship as we work together to give the community educational and exciting programming. We seek to request space for one upcoming program:


**Location:** Kennedy Park

**Event:** Annual Easter Egg Hunt Sponsored by the Vandergrift Public Library

**Date Requested:** Saturday, April 1 at 1pm.

Please let me know if we are allowed to use the space for this event as soon as possible. This really is a very worthwhile community event-one that creates wonderful memories! We had to cancel last year's due to the pandemic but feel confident that we can still create a safe event for the community. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

  
Sarah Buzzard  
Library Director

To: Vandergrift Borough Council

Hello. We are requesting permission to use Kennedy Park on Saturday June 24 for Pride in the Park from the hours of 10am-8pm. Pride is celebrating our LGBTQ+ friends, family and neighbors. The event will be family friendly and also highlight the recreation areas we have available to us in Vandergrift. There will be softball, volleyball, and kickball games. Vendors, food trucks, non profit organizations and live performances.

We will have all required insurance as well as requiring vendors to have insurance. We will also be provided portapotties. We appreciate your consideration. Have a great night.

Sincerely,

Shannon Gourley and The Pride Planning Committee.

To: Vandergrift Borough Council

Hello. We are requesting permission to use Grant Avenue to Sumner Avenue on Saturday October 14, 2023 for the Second Annual Witching Hours Night Market event. We are requesting to close the street from 1-11pm. Witching Hours was a huge success last year bringing in people from all over Pennsylvania and neighboring states. The vendors were all highly impressed with the energy of our town.

We are working in partnership with the VIP and will have all required insurances as well as requiring vendors to have insurance. We will again provide portapotties as we did last year as well.

Thank you so much and have a great day.

Sincerely,

Shannon Gourley and  
The Witching Hours Planning Committee



boveengineering@comcast.net

1/31/2023 7:52 PM

## RE: Engineer agenda items

To Stephen DelleDonne <vgborosec@comcast.net> • kathychvala@vandergriftborough.com Copy  
Larry Loperfido <ldl@gllawyers.com> • Christine Wilson <christinewilson1782@gmail.com> •  
Tom Holmes <tomholmes@vandergriftborough.com> •  
Marilee Kessler <marileekessler@vandergriftborough.com> •  
Daishaclayton <daishaclayton@vandergriftborough.com> • johnuskuraitis@vandergriftborough.com •  
jodysarno@vandergriftborough.com • Anthony Bove <aboveengineering@comcast.net>

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My requested agenda items for the February 6th Council meeting are as follows:

1. Olmsted Commons – Requesting authorization to advertise the project upon approval from DCNR with the bid opening date to be determined. Request scheduling a daytime work session with Marilee Kessler (Volunteer Coordinator), Community Partners, key volunteers, staff and no more than 3 Council Members to review the volunteer effort & coordination.
2. Vandergrift Pool Sidewalls & Coping repairs – We need to file for a time extension as per the email from Brett Ennis. We will be meeting with Satira Brothers Concrete Company at the site asap to review the conditions and get a rough idea of the work and cost to repair the side walls and copings.
3. 2022 Wasteload Management Report – Prepared and submit report for 2022 to KVWPCA.
4. Street Excavation Permits – issued 3 permits to PNG, Hancock Ave. Phase 3 project, 117.5 Longfellow and 926 Wallace.
5. Unsafe Structure Conditions – Attended hearing for 704/706 Holland, Correspondence regarding chimney & Garage at 321 Hancock.
6. Unsafe Trees – Received a call from 418 Lowell regarding the poor condition of trees on adjacent vacant lot at 416 Lowell. This appears to be a private matter between property owners however, they reported that the owner of the property with the dying trees is deceased.

I will be available during the meeting to answer any questions. I will also be glad to assist with items duly added to the agenda during the meeting, emergencies and other items as allowed by Act 65 of 2021.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
**Lucien Bove, PE**  
Bove Engineering Company  
8201 Route 819  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
(724) 925-9269

Engineer Bove recommended that a work session be held, regarding the Olmsted Commons Project, with key organizations and businesses on Grant Avenue and Council.

Engineer Bove stated that the Borough will need to file another extension regarding the Pool Grant thru the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. He also stated that he will be meeting with a contractor to repair the side walls and copings and at what cost.

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

#### BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Clayton stated the members of Council have been copies of the General Fund, Pool Fund and the State Aid Budget for the month of January.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mr. Sarno, to accept the Budget & Finance Report. Motion carried.

#### POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairperson Holmes requested that Council advertise for the position of a Meter Enforcement Officer, working 12 hours per week.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Clayton, to advertise for the position of a Meter Enforcement Officer. Motion carried.

Chief Caporali presented the following activity of the Vandergrift Police for the month of January:

1. Responded to 211 911 calls.
2. Issued 6 non-traffic and 21 traffic citations.
3. Handled 10 criminal arrests.
4. Issued 8 tickets for illegal parking violations.

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

#### BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Sarno thanked Mrs. Wilson and Glen Rupert for work performed in replacing the flag pole at the Municipal Building. He stated that their work saved the Borough money.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to accept the Building & Grounds Report. Motion carried.

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Kessler that the last 3 trees scheduled for removal or trim in 2022 were not completd due to due to work to remove a tree at Project 70.

Mrs. Kessler stated she is compiling a list of trees for removal or trim to tree companies to get bids.

Mrs. Kessler stated that the owner at 1025 Poe Street is concerned about a tree that sits on the Borough's right of way and the rainy weather may cause some shifting in the gully area. She stated that the tree was evaluated in 2022 by arborist Davey Tree Service, of whom, provide a written opinion that the tree was sound. She also stated another assessment was done January 29, 2023, of which, agreed with the prior assessment.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to accept the Tree & Light Report. Motion carried.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

President Chvala stated that the Government Committee met to review the letters of interest from residents wishing to serve on the Vandergrift Zoning & Hearing Board. She stated that the Committee has selected David Shick, 201 Sherman Avenue, to fill the position.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs.Kessler, to appoint David Shick to fill the vacancy on the Vandergrift Zoning & Hearing Board, to expire December 31, 2023. Motion carried.

President Chvala stated the for years, Thursdays have been exempt from people from needing to pay to park. She stated that there was a time when Thursdays were very busy and stayed open into the evening. This has not existed for several years. The Government Committee has been approached on this topic from time to time and would like to propose that Thursdays, moving forward will the same as the other weekdays starting on February 16, 2023.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to approve the aforementioned recommendation of the General Government Committee. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mr. Holmes, to accept the General Government Report. Motion carried.

RECREATION REPORT:

No Report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Loperfito presented and reviewed the proposed Ordinance No. 2-2023, which amends the fines and penalties for certain parking violations within the Borough. It was also recommended that the ordinance also contain violations and penalties for vehicle crossing over sidewalks. (See pages 6-A thru 6-F)

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, to advertise Ordinance No. 2-2023 for adoption at the March 6, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Solicitor Loperfito presented and reviewe the proposed Ordinance No. 3-2023, which amends and clarifys the licensing fees and structure for certain amusement devices, including skill gaming terminals. (See pages 6-G thru 6-I)

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes, second by Ms. Clayton, advertise Ordinance No. 3-2023 for adoption at the March 6, 2023 meeting. Motion carried

In regards to the bidding of the trimming and removal trees, Solicitor Loperfito presented the following bidding thresholds:

1. Purchases below \$12,200 require no formal bidding.
2. Purchases between \$12,200 and \$22,500 require three written/telephonic quotations.
3. Purchase over \$22,500 require formal bidding.

Solicitor Loperfito stated that all events should require notices sent to the public and to the businesses in town.

Ms. Clayton suggested that the scheduled events could be placed on the Borough's website

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Holmes stated that the Westmoreland Land Bank is moving forward in reducing the blighted property in town.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.