

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 6, 2023

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jody Sarno	Thomas Holmes	Christine Wilson
Daisha Clayton	Marilee Kessler	

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Lenny Collini, Mayor	Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Larry Loperfido, Solicitor	Theresa Geltz, Asst. Secretary
Lucian Bove, Engineer	

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the February 6, 2023 meeting, as corrected, were approved by motion of Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Jody. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

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

Pete Basile, Old State Road, Apollo, expressed his appreciation for the razing of the former Brock Building on Washington Avenue. He stated that work needs to be done on the exterior of the Masonic Building and that he is willing to do the repairs if he is compensated.

Vice President Holmes stated that certain repairs have been assured by the County Planning Department, as part of demolition contract.

Shannon Gourley, 151 Grant Avenue, requested that Council open the playgrounds as soon as possible. She stated that these facilities provide a place for the youth to enjoy outside activities. She also stated that the her group would be willing to help get the playgrounds & parks ready to open.

The following individuals also spoke in favor of having the parks & playgrounds open:

1. Brianna Burd, 108 15<sup>th</sup> Street.
2. Misty Sproull, 311 Hancock Avenue.
3. Tagyan Caudle, 1255 Stitts Run Rd.
4. Zoey Wolfe, Leader of Park 100.

Don Detar, 213 Lowell Street, requested that something be done with his neighbor who continually leaves his trash can out all the time.

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

#### MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Collini thanked the visitors for attending the meeting and their concerns about opening the playgrounds.

Mayor Collini stated that an Annual Community Public Area Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2023. ( See page 2-A) He expressed his wish that the entire community work together to clean up the town. He also stated that we should look to the needs of our neighbors.

Mayor Collini reported that the Borough is currently working to address the blight problem in town and that several structures have been razed.

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

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

No Report

#### CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Secretary reported that the Code Officer issued 25 violation notices, filed 15 citations and attended 2 magistrate hearings during the month of February.

2-A



**2023  
ANNUAL  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC AREA CLEANUP  
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023**

**CALLING ALL COMMUNITY-MINDED GROUPS AND  
INDIVIDUALS TO JOIN OFFICER GRAY FOR THIS YEAR'S  
COMMUNITY DAY OF VOLUNTEERING TO CLEAN UP  
BOROUGH PUBLIC AREAS FOR SPRING.**

**It's that time of year to think spring..and summer just around the corner.**

**Let's get together once more to spiff up our community.**

**On Earth Day, April 22 , we ask that you clean up your yards and sidewalks, and  
come together as a community on April 29 to get our public areas  
ready for warm weather activities.**

**MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW SOON**

**If you would like to volunteer as an individual or with a group, please contact  
724-454-1625, or message Marilee Kessler on Facebook**

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

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Exhibit 1-A and Exhibit 2-A:

Due to both of the above letters were in regards to the opening of the parks, Vice President Holmes stated that this matter will be deferred to the Chairperson of the Recreation Committee.

Exhibit 3-A: Pastor Derek Evans, Until the Whole World Knows Ministry.

Subject: Permission to use Kennedy Park the forth Sunday of the month at 10:am, in May, for morning services.

A motion was made Ms. Clayton, second by Mr. Sarno, to approve this request contingent upon the date and time does not conflict with another granted use of the area and that certificates of insurance are provided to the Borough. Motion carried.

REGULAR & STATED BILLS:

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

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Chairperson Wilson requested that Council approve advertising for bids to resurface First Street, from the Vandergrift Bridge to Second Street, and repairing a section of Oak Street and sections of 37<sup>th</sup> Street.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Ms. Clayton, to authorize the advertisement of the aforementioned matter to be funded with Liquid Fuels Flunds. Motion carried

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Bove referred to his agenda for meeting. (See page 3-A)

Engineer Bove stated that the Westmoreland County Community Action is requesting what procedures are needed to place a cottage at 302 Bryant Street as part of a Elder Cottage Housing Opportunity (ECHO). (See page 3-B)

## Vandergrift Community Garden

### **Mission Statement**

The Vandergrift Community Garden's mission is to utilize our green spaces by sustaining the existing garden located at Franklin park for the benefit of Vandergrift children and their families.

23 February 2023

TO: Vandergrift Council

FROM: Brianna Burd

RE: Franklin Park Garden

It is the Vandergrift Community Garden Committee's intent with your permission to open both Franklin park and Kennedy park to residents Saturday April 1st, 2023 for the season. The committee appreciates your assistance with this as we look forward to opening the garden for the community's enjoyment. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me by phone at 724.771.5969 or email [brianna.burd@hotmail.com](mailto:brianna.burd@hotmail.com).

Thank you in advance!

Brianna Burd

Vandergrift Community Garden Member

## Vandergrift Community Garden

### **Mission Statement**

The Vandergrift Community Garden's mission is to utilize our green spaces by sustaining the existing garden located at Franklin park for the benefit of Vandergrift children and their families.

23 February 2023

TO: Vandergrift Council

FROM: Brianna Burd

RE: Franklin Park Garden

It is the Vandergrift Community Garden Committee's intent with your permission to begin the garden clean up on Sunday March 19th, 2023. We request the park be unlocked at noon so we have ample time to perform our necessary clean up. The committee is grateful for your assistance with this as we look forward to preparing the garden for the community. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me by phone at 724.771.5969 or email [brianna.burd@hotmail.com](mailto:brianna.burd@hotmail.com).

Thank you in advance!

Brianna Burd

Vandergrift Community Garden Member

# UNTIL THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS MINISTRY

110 Grant Ave | 724-552-9290 | utwwk.ministry@gmail.com

**February 27, 2023**

Vandergrift Borough Council  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, Pa 15690

**Dear Vandergrift Borough Council:**

My name is Pastor Derek Evans, I am the Pastor of Until The Whole World Knows Ministry, located at 110 Grant Ave. Vandergrift, Pa. The reason for this letter is to get permission from the Council to be able to set up at Kennedy Park Every forth Sunday of the month, weather permitting, starting in May. We would have our morning service in the park starting at 10:00 AM, for whomever would like to attend. We would like to use the electricity that is in the Pavilion if that is possible. On occasions we will have a free meal, or snacks to offer the community while we are there. We thank you in advance for considering our request.

Sincerely,

**Until The Whole World Knows Ministry**

3-11

# RE: Engineer agenda items

To Stephen DelleDonne <vgborosec@comcast.net> • kathychvala@vandergriftborough.com Copy  
Larry Loperfito <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 •  
jodyarno@vandergriftborough.com • Anthony Bove <aboveengineering@comcast.net> •  
Lenny Collini <lennycollini@vandergriftborough.com>

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

1. Westmoreland County Community Action - ECHO Cottage Request (See Echo Letter) discuss procedure for variances, conditional use or special exception needed to place the unit on a vacant parcel adjacent to home of related individual.
2. 237 Sherman Avenue – Curb Cut Request for Wheelchair Access (See Request).
3. Vandergrift Pool DCED GTR Grant – Time Extension approved, Info, from Brett Ennis on Payment request 4, Coping Repair Work, etc. (See Action Items).
4. MAAT Act 537 Plan Update & Resolution – (See Action Items)
5. Olmsted Commons DCNR Park Development – Partner/Volunteer Coordination Meeting, Plans & Spec.s to be prepared and submitted to DCNR in March.
6. Unsafe Structures / Conditions – 110 Washington near Complete, 109 Washington in progress, Porch at 506 Hancock
7. Columbia Avenue Trees, Pits & Permeable Sidewalk – Maintenance required, trees growing into grates, permeable sidewalk.

Action Items:

1. Vandergrift Pool DCED GTR Grant - Authorization to advertise or obtain quotations as required for repairs and identification of other work/items needed.
2. MAAT Act 537 Plan Update & Resolution – Authorization to review the Act 537 Plan Update, Sanitary Sewer Extension Plans and any engineering items needed to adopt the required resolution and intermunicipal agreement.

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**





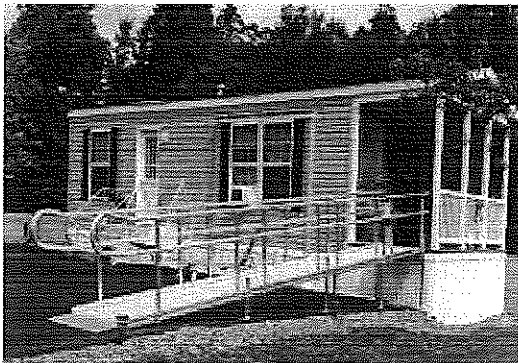
3-B

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www.westmorelandca.org  
info@westmorelandca.org

Dear Vandergrift Borough Council,

This letter is to communicate information about a statewide initiative called ECHO, and to ask for a variance related to this program that is, in part, being administered through Westmoreland Community Action (WCA). ECHO stands for Elder Cottage Housing Opportunity and is made available through the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) fund.

The ECHO cottage initiative is one designed to help families provide a safe, independent living arrangement for an elderly member of their family. They are to be placed on the property of a host family so that they are close to assist the elderly resident in a convenient way, while allowing them a space that is easy to maintain, live in, and private.



An example of an ECHO cottage in Wayne County

This program is done in partnership between WCA and the Westmoreland County Area Agency on Aging (AAA). AAA's responsibility is to identify a family, ensure they qualify for the program, and provide any case management support the family may need. WCA's responsibility is to coordinate the construction and placement of the cottage, and when the time comes, move the cottage to another family's property to be used by them. These cottages are designed to be temporary, moveable structures that are owned by WCA, where the host resident is required to pay rent and is responsible for the general upkeep and maintenance of the cottage. There are several examples of ECHO cottages in other parts of the Commonwealth and how well they've worked for families in

Wayne County, Fayette County, and Lackawanna County; just to name a few. This would be the first ECHO cottage placed in Westmoreland County, and to our knowledge, potentially the first ECHO cottage to be placed in municipality other than a township.

AAA has identified a family living at 302 Brant Street (37-01-13-0-007) with a side lot (37-01-13-0-006) next to it owned by the family, who qualify for the program, and would like to move forward. However, in order to do that with current zoning regulations, we are requesting conditional use of a variance in order to be able to place the cottage. The cottage is being constructed by Gary's Homes in Bedford, PA and the supplied dimensions of a one bedroom cottage are 39'-8" long and 13'-4" wide. The side lot in question is currently 85 feet long and 22 feet wide. Both lots are in the R-1 zoning district.

All costs associated with developing and placing this cottage will be paid for by WCA, and the only cost we expect the resident to shoulder is the rent, which is pre-determined in the eligibility guidelines by AAA. This would include piers for the cottage to be placed on, skirting, landscaping, utility hookup, etc. The host family has agreed to shoulder the utility costs for their family member. Thank you for your consideration and please contact me with any questions. Sincerely,

Alec Italiano, Economic Development Coordinator for WCA.

CC: Lucien Bove, Borough Engineer



Westmoreland Community Action connects individuals and families to opportunities and resources to improve their quality of life and help to reduce poverty in the community.



Solicitor Loperfito stated that this matter will require action by either the Zoning Hearing Board or the Planning Commission, and therefore, no action of Council can be made now.

Engineer Bove stated that will notify the County, by letter, to request detailed drawings and to acquire an application to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Engineer Bove reported that a time extension has been approved regarding the DCNR Grant for the Vandergrift Pool. He stated that there is approximately \$87,000 remaining in this grant. He addressed the work needed to be done make the necessary repairs to reattach the pool liner. He explained that Council can either address the 180 feet perimeter problem or address the entire two options to complete the entire perimeter of the pool. He stated that this work can be bid out with 3 options.

A motion was made by Mr.Sarno, second yby Ms. Clayton, to approve the advertisement of the afrometioned work at the pool with the 3 bid options. Motion carried.

Ms. Clayton stated that she is concerned that this work will delay the opening of the pool.

Engineer Bove referred to the Municipal Authority of Allegheny Twp's Act 537 Plan.

Solicitor Loperfito stated that more time and meetings with the Twp. is needed before any action can be taken by the Borough.

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

**BUDGET & FINACE REPORT:**

Chairperson Clayton provided copies of the General Fund, Pool Fund and State Aid Budgets for the month of February.

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

**POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:**

Chairperson Holmes presented a Persons With Disability Parking Place Application from Nancy Shaner, 322 Chestnut Street. He stated that this person meets the criteria set forth in the ordinance and therefore recommends approval of this request.

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

Mr. Holmes presented the following activity report of the Vandergrift Police for the month of February:

1. Responded to 190 calls.
2. Issued 21 traffic citations.
3. Made 16 criminal arrests.

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

No Report

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Kessler requested that Council consider instituting a non-emergency form for residents who wish to have a tree trimmed or removed.

Vice President Holmes requested that Mrs. Kessler bring back a sample form for Council to review.

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

No Report

RECREATION REPORT:

No Report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Loperfito presented Ordinance No. 2-2023 for adoption, of which, amends the fines and penalties, and create regulations for certain parking violations within the Borough.

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

Solicitor Loperfito presented Ordinance No. 3-2023 for adoption, of which, amends and clarifies the licensing fees and structure for certain amusement devices, including skill gaming terminals.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Clayton, to adopt Ordinance No. 3-2023. Motion carried.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Kessler distributed copies of "Property Conditions Assessment and Blight Plan Proposal" that she received while attending a Alle-Kiski Intergovernmental Council meeting. She stated that there are millions of dollars in grants available.

Mr. Sarno requested members of Council to read the packet provided by Mrs. Kessler.

Vice President requested that more information be provided at the next meeting and to address what costs there may be to the Borough.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm

## AGENDA ITEMS

MARCH, 2023

**-COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY "FIGHT BLIGHT" WORKSHOP THIS SPRING—PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING.** (Flyer will be emailed to everyone in advance of the meeting)

### **-Alle-Kiski Intergovernmental Council**

February meeting highlights included proposed cooperative effort among affected member municipalities to participate in a property evaluation conducted by the county. This would have properties identified using the same criteria across the region. This would be detailed and potentially result in some additional funding and help with municipality planning. It would also be the first multi community evaluation. A proposed regional fight blight outline was also provided and municipalities are requested to participate. Potential costs to the communities is included. (documents will be emailed to each council member)

Information about cooperative purchases between member communities was discussed.

A subcommittee of the IGC has begun to discuss the potential for shared code enforcement resources to help our current code enforcement officers. Arnold, Vandergrift, and East Vandergrift are represented in this group

**-Appalachian Regional Commission**—I attended a virtual meeting of eligible communities to learn about this resource as their grant application timeframe is occurring now. While it isn't feasible to come up with a grant application on such short notice, I believe that we should become familiar with this organization. There are some large grants available to communities that can demonstrate how funding would impact items such as economic development and quality of life .. They are particularly favorable of inter-community relationships in small adjoining towns.

### **PA GREENWAYS**

-Funding has been received for the installation of the PA Greenways sign discussed several months ago. Laura Hawkins has requested that we suggest some alternate high visibility sites at entrance points to Vandergrift in case PennDot will not grant permission for the requested spot on Lincoln Ave.

### **Events**

-Standardized Application forms and requirements for events to be held on borough property