

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA

DATE: April 3, 2023

The Council of the Borough of Vandergrift met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7:00 pm, with President Chvala presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

OTHER OFFICIALS:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approval of March 6, 2023 minutes.

VISITORS: (3 minute limitation per commenter)

OPENING OF BIDS:

1. Street Paving & Patching Project using Liquid Fuel Funds.
2. Pool renovation project using DCED GTRP and Borough Funds.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. Announcements.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

1. 2023 CDBG Street Project-\$155,012.
2. PA. Dept. of Community & Economic Development LSA Category Grant Award of \$447,443.

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

1. Issued 23 notice violations in March.
2. Attended 4 magistrate hearings.
3. County has razed 6 blighted properties to date.

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Deborah Moffatt-Request approval for an ECHO elder cottage at 302 Bryant Street.
2. Meghan Grantz-request to host a 5K Walk and Run Benefit Even in early hours of July 4th.

APPROVE REGULAR & STATED BILLS:

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

1. Report on road salt savings.
2. Attended PA. One Call meeting on March 22, 2023.
3. Borough workers removed fence & dugouts at Kennedy Park.
4. "Vandergrift Back When Holiday Extravaganza" donated 855.00 towards of purchase of Barricades for the Borough Street dept.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

1. See attached

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

1. Distribute monthly General Fund, Pool Fund, and State Aid budge reports.

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

1. Lisa Irwin, 1006 Cooper Street-Handicap parking space request.

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

- 1.

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

1. See attached.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

1. No Report

RECREATION REPORT:

1. Updates on Pool Project and other recreation matters.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

1. No Reort

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Project Solar-Developing a Renewable Energy Plan.
2. Blight Inventory-Westmoreland County Authority/Land Bank & Local Government Academy.

ADJOURNMENT:

Engineer report and agenda items

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

My report and requested agenda items for the April 3, 2023 Council meeting are as follows:

1. 2023 Paving & Patching Liquid Fuels Project – Plans, specifications and bid documents were prepared, the bid was advertised in the newspaper on 3/21 & 3/24. (See Action Item 1)
2. Vandergrift Pool Rejuvenation - DCED GTR Grant – Plans, specifications and bid documents were prepared, the bid was advertised in the newspaper on 3/21 & 3/24. On 3/23 we submitted a Scope Amendment Request to Brett Ennis of DCED for which we are anxiously awaiting a favorable reply. (See Action Item 2)
3. MAAT Act 537 Plan Update & Resolution – We have begun to review the Act 537 Plan and we have numerous questions. We've reached out to KLH to schedule a time to discuss the reimbursement of all Borough's costs, tap-in fees, transportation fees, sewer recovery fees and the need for an intermunicipal agreement before the Borough can pass the requested Resolution.
4. Unsafe Structures / Conditions – Notice issued regarding unsafe porch at 506 Hancock.
5. Columbia Avenue Parking Lot Stormwater Mitigation Project – PennDOT has finally approved the Stormwater Mitigation Agreement with the WCD and Vandergrift Borough. We anticipate engineering work will be needed in short order to prepare necessary items for the required DEP permit (all Borough costs to be reimbursed by PennDOT as per the agreement).
6. County Water & Sewer Grant – See correspondence dated March 14 regarding this matter. (See Action Item 3)
7. Train Station Parking Lot Property Line Survey – Began research of recorded documents, deeds, plans and adjoining properties and started field reconnaissance work.
8. DCED Local Share Category 4 Grant – \$419,593 was awarded by the Commonwealth Finance Agency for the Phase 2 - Casino Theater & Library Building Preservation Project. (See Action Item 4). The Multi-purpose Tractor was not awarded. Other awards include \$15,000 toward the Dump Truck Purchase, \$2,850 for Police FLR Safety Camera and \$10,000 for Fire Department Pagers.
9. DCED 2023 Multimodal Grant Program – This Grant program was announced in March. Applications are due July 31st. Action is required in order to apply for this grant, (See Action Item 5)

Action Items:

1. 2023 Paving & Patching Liquid Fuels Project – Open Bids and make awards if acceptable.
2. Vandergrift Pool Rejuvenation - DCED GTR Grant - Open Bids and make awards if acceptable.
3. County Water & Sewer Grant – Discuss possible matching funds commitment if the Council is interested in this grant program.
4. DCED Local Share Category 4 Grant – Official action to authorize signing the Grant Agreements.
5. DCED 2023 Multimodal Grant Application – Discuss any revisions to the Ninth St. Retaining Wall & Street Reconstruction Project and consider authorizing the application and required Resolution.

VANDERGRIFT BOROUGH TREE COMMITTEE

DRAFT

Borough Tree Information

The Borough of Vandergrift provides tree maintenance service for trees located along the streets in Borough right-of-way, usually between the sidewalk and the curb. Trees located on private property do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Borough. Pruning and maintenance costs are assumed entirely by the Borough.

TREE REMOVAL REQUESTS:

The Borough will only remove trees if they are diseased, dying or dead, or if they pose a threat to public health and safety. If the tree in question falls under these circumstances, AS DETERMINED BY ARBORIST, Trees can be removed only by borough tree committee-approved professional tree services.. Tree services must provide proof of liability insurance. **Please note:** Only emergency situations will be handled directly via phone call _all non-emergency requests should be submitted in writing by completing the **Request for Tree Services** form and either mailing it or dropping it off at the Borough office. You can email your form directly to the CHAIRMAN OF TREE COMMITTEE AT (*email address*)

After inspection by Arborist named by the Tree Committee, a Member will contact you to discuss their findings. If the Tree Committee agrees the tree should be removed, the tree will be placed on a removal list and removed by the Borough.

TREE TRIMMING:

If you notice a Borough Tree near your property that needs to be trimmed, or appears to pose a safety hazard, please use the Request for Tree Services form to report the problem and submit to the Borough Office. Tree trimming requests will be responded to within 10 working days by the Tree Committee. If pruning is necessary, the tree will be placed on a pruning list, unless it is an immediate danger and safety risk. If you feel the tree is an immediate danger contact the Borough Office or chairman of the Tree Committee (INSERT PHONE #'S).

TREE PLANTING:

A property owner can request that a Borough Tree be planted in front of their house. After receiving your written request, a Tree Committee member will inspect the location to determine whether it is an appropriate and safe location for a tree to be planted. The Tree Committee member will discuss with you which species of tree is best suited for the location. After the site inspection is done, an Inspection Request form will be turned into the Borough Office for our records. The location is then placed on a planting list. Residents, themselves, are not permitted to plant, prune or remove trees in Borough right-of-way without the approval of the Tree Committee .If approved, the Resident is responsible for all costs.

SUBMIT COMPLETED FORMS TO:

Vandergrift Borough
Tree Committee
109 Grant Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690
Fax: 412-828-3479

E-mail:

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT
TREE COMMITTEE
109 Grant Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690
724-567-7818



REQUEST FOR TREE SERVICES

(01/2023)

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ **PHONE:** _____

ADDITIONAL INFO: _____

TREE LOCATION

ADDRESS: _____

LOCATION: (CORNER, ETC) _____

TYPE OF TREE, IF KNOWN _____

TREE CONDITION

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low/Dead Branches | <input type="checkbox"/> Pest Infestation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diseased | <input type="checkbox"/> Visibility Hazard | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dead | <input type="checkbox"/> Street Sign Clearance | |

SERVICE REQUESTED

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trim | <input type="checkbox"/> Remove |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect/Advise | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant |

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date Submitted _____

FOR BOROUGH USE ONLY TREE COMMITTEE INSPECTION REMARKS (DATE _____)

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate Action | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Removal | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pruning/Shaping | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Action | _____ |

April 2023 Borough Council meeting

New Business Item

Alle-Kiski Intergovernmental Council”

Minutes and reports mailed to each council member in advance of council meeting. Please Review, as a vote will be requested to include Vandergrift as a participating community in the regional county blight plan.

BLIGHT INVENTORY

Briefly, a blight inventory and property marketing plan for 3-5 properties will be conducted by collaboration between the community, the county Redevelopment Authority/Planning Commission, and the Local Government Academy. This is an important step forward in revitalization efforts as it is being conducted with a focus on marketing the properties and the community. Vandergrift is asked to commit to the approx. \$5200 cost, which can be spread over 2 budget years. A response is requested by Wednesday, April 5. Please note, as reported in the attached minutes of the Feb. AKIGC meeting, that both the Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority and the Local Government Academy are absorbing approximately 50% of the cost that would otherwise be borne by the community. The Local Government Academy offers free training to local officials, including commission members, such as Planning /Zoning board members.

SHARED CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

A subcommittee has been formed to assess the community need for support to existing Code Enforcement personnel and to determine how the sharing of an additional regional COE would work.

JOINT PURCHASING PROGRAM

The list of potential jointly purchased and used equipment and supplies was provided and Vandergrift is asked to add any items that would potentially be used by member communities.

Attachments:

March AKIGC meeting agenda

February AKIGC minutes detailing joint blight inventory and marketing project

Local Government Academy proposal for marketing component of Blight Remediation Plan

Local Government Academy draft agreement for Technical Assistance Program membership