

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFF
MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFF COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2, 2017 , 2017

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kathleen Chvala	James Rametta
Brian Carricato	Christine Wilson
Lenny Collini	Frank Moliterno

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Louis Purificato, Mayor	Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Larry Loperfido, Solicitor	Theresa Geltz- Asst. Secretary
Lucian Bove, Engineer	Joseph Caporali, Police Chief

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the September 5, 2017 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Rametta second by Mrs. Chvala. Motion carried.

At this time State Senator Jim Brewster presented the Chief of Police with a \$2,500 grant on behalf of Anheuser-Busch Companies. He stated that the money is to be used for the Vandergriff Police Department.

VISITORS:

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

Don Detar, 213 Lowell Street, stated that it is posted on facebook that children are prohibited from playing in the street.

President Carricato stated that what is stated on facebook is not true, and that there is no ordinance prohibiting children regarding this matter.

Mr. Detar questioned why the street sweeper has not being used.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the sweeper has been down due to repairs.

Mr. Detar questioned why action is not being taken about people parking on sidewalks.

Chief Caporali stated that Mr. Detar should call the police when he sees this type of violation.

James Williams, Oregon Avenue, thanked Mrs. Wilson for repair the roadway in front of his residence.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mrs. Wilson, to return to the regular order of business. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

No Report

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary presented a renewal agreement from the Westmoreland County Transit Authority for the fiscal years 2017-2018. He stated that Borough's fee would go from \$1215.00 to \$1275.75, an increase of \$60.75.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Collini, to approve the execution of the aforementioned agreement. Motion carried.

The Secretary presented a renewal agreement from Hoffman Kennels regarding dog enforcement for the year 2018. He stated that the fee would go from \$170.00 per month to \$175.00 per month.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mrs. Chvala, to approve the execution of the aforementioned agreement. Motion carried.

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

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

President Carricato reported that the Code Officer issued 36 violation letters, issued 10 citations and attending 3 court hearings during the month of September.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Rametta, to accept the Code Officer's Report. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary presented the following correspondence received:

Exhibit 1-A: Julia Martin, Chairwoman of the V.I.P.

Subject: Request permission to sponsor this year's "Ligh-up Vandergrift Christmas Parade & Party Festivities on Friday, November 24th.

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

Exhibit 2-A: Wesley & Jonelle Harris, Iann's Pizzeria on Grant Avenue.

Subject: Request to rent a space in the parking lot for the purpose of placing their waste dumpster.

Following a discussion of this request, the Police Chief and the Borough Secretary indicated that they would talk to the owner of the Pugliese Flower Shop as to whether he would be willing to allow Ianni's Pizzeria to place a waste dumpster behind their shop.

REGULAR & STATED BILLS:

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala, to pay all stated and approved bills. Motion carried.

SPECIAL BILLS:

None

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Mrs. Wilson stated that residents can bag the leaves and place them at the curb of the street for pickup. She stated that bags would normally be picked up of Fridays of each week.

Vandergrift Improvement Program, Inc.

P.O. Box 77, Vandergrift, PA 15690

Phone: 724-567-5286 / Fax: 724-567-7295

Email: vip15690@comcast.net

A 501©3 non-profit organization

September 30, 2017

Vandergrift Borough
109 Grant Ave.
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Re: Light-Up Vandergrift Christmas Parade & Party Event

Dear Council,

The Vandergrift Improvement Program is beginning the preparations for the annual Christmas celebration and parade. The 'Light-up Vandergrift Christmas Parade & Party' festivities will be on Friday, November 24th. We would like your permission to use the regular parade route (Walnut, Longfellow, Franklin and Grant) and to close the Walnut and Longfellow streets staging area before the parade starts to form at 5:00pm. Parade participants will gather on Walnut and the area near Ferrante Motors. Participating emergency vehicles will line up along Longfellow.

Vendors will begin to set up on the sidewalks on Grant Avenue at 3:00pm, at which time we will need to close Grant to through traffic. Entertainment will start on Grant Avenue at 5:00pm, and the parade will begin at 6:00pm from Walnut Street and end at the Casino Theater.

We would like to put the community Christmas tree up on the corner of Farragut near Ianni's the same as in the past and also would like to have the Vandergrift Police lead the parade and assist with crowd control on Grant Ave.

Any council members wishing to participate in the parade please let me know by Friday, November 10th, so that I can put you on the list for the MC. A reminder to those who participate in the parade: For the safety of spectators along the parade route (especially Grant Ave.) throwing of candy/treats from moving vehicles is not permitted. Please have 'elves' (helpers) walk alongside of vehicle/float to distribute treats. Your cooperation and help in keeping this a safe event is greatly appreciated!

Santa will be in the Penney's Building following the parade and will return the next day Saturday the 25th for Small Business Saturday. There will be activities for children as an incentive to get families back in town to visit/shop our local merchants.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 724-567-6762 (work) or by email julie@byerstaxiandbusing.com

Thank you,
Julia Martin, Chairwoman

Exhibit 2-A

JULY 14, 2017

IANNI'S PIZZERIA OF VANDERGRIFT, LLC

133 GRANT AVE

VANDERGRIFT, PA 15690

RE: LOCATION OF OUR WASTE DUMPSTER

DEAR COUNCIL OF VANDERGRIFT BOROUGH:

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION TO A MATTER OF GARBAGE DISPOSAL FOR OUR BUSINESS.

WE, AT IANNI'S PIZZERIA ARE ASKING FOR THE APPROVAL OF COUNCIL AND THE CITIZENS TO RENT A PARKING SPACE IN THE LOCAL CITY PARKING LOT FOR OUR WASTE DUMPSTER.

WE DO UNDERSTAND THE SPACES ARE PRIMARILY MADE AVAILABLE FOR CARS AND TRUCKS, BUT WITH THE DILEMMA OF HAVING A PIE SHAPED BUILDING WITH NO ALLEY WAY IN THE REAR LEAVES US HARD PRESSED FOR THE SPACE FOR OUR DUMPSTER.

WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IN THIS MATTER AND AWAIT YOUR DECISION.

AND MAY I ADD, ANY OTHER SUGGESTION YOU MAY HAVE WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

SINCERELY,

WILLIAM & PAULA JOHNS

WESLEY & JONELLE HARRIS

OWNERS AND OPERATORS

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Collini, to accept the Street & Sanitation Report. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Bove provide original copies of the 2018-2020 CDBG Program: First & Second priority –Street Reconstruction Projects; Third priority-Ninth Street Retaining Wall Project; and Fourth Priority-Georgie Avenue MS4 Stormwater System Reconstruction and Emerson Street Spring Flow.

Engineer Bove provide a cost estimate of installing approximately 2600 sq. feet of rubber roofing at the Borough's maintenance building and the removal of a parapet at a total cost of \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Engineer Bove reported that work has been done on the sewer cleaning on Walnut, Wallace and Longfellow Streets. He stated that there is no need to install a backflow device at 102 Longfellow Street. However, he recommended that backflow devices be installed at 305 ½ Walnut Street and at 315 Walnut Street at a total cost of \$4,320.00.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Rametta, to approve that aforementioned work at the cost of \$4,320.00. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining.

Engineer Bove stated that Council needs to consider replacing all the terra cotta laterals in town.

Mrs. Wilson informed Council that the 6" cleanout caps at the residents affected by the sewer separation project are being broken or cut off. She stated it is the owners responsibility to maintain and/or replace these caps.

President Carricato stated that the code officer should be notified about these matters in order for action to be taken.

Engineer Bove reported that a bid was received from in the amount \$3,800.00 from Vince Makowski to replace the steps at 124 East Adams Avenue.

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala, to approve the spending of up to \$3,800.00 regarding the aforementioned project. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining and a no vote from Mr. Collini.

Engineer Bove recommended that Council plan on cleaning all sewer lines in areas included in the sewer separation project, at a cost of \$10,000.00 per month.

Engineer Bove stated that Vic Capretto has agreed to install drainage pipe along his property if the Borough provides the necessary piping. He estimated the piping to cost around \$900.00.

President Carricato recommended that a right of entry agreement be prepared before any action can be taken on this matter.

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

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Chvala stated that the Committee will begin meeting on the 2018 budget this week.

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

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairperson Moliterno informed Council that he, Mr. Carricato, and the Borough Secretary met with April Kopas of the Westmoreland County Landbank in regards to the structures on Washington Avenue.

President Carricato stated that he is 95% sure that the Landbank will acquire the Casino properties to and including Petrosky building, and also the lot in the rear of said properties. He stated that the properties should be razed by early December. He also said that Mrs. Kopas is willing to work with the Borough in developing this area.

President Carricato stated that the Vandergrift No. 2 Fire Department is requesting that Council approval of ambulance backup to Lower Kiski as the #1 backup, and changing Freeport as the No. 2 backup to Murrys ville, of whom has a hub in Washington Twp.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Collini, to approve the aforementioned matter. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Rametta, to accept the Police & Public Safety Report. Motion carried.

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Rametta informed Council that flag at Cooper Street has been removed for repairs. He also stated that he plans to have the flag pole redone next year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Collini, to accept the Building & Grounds Report. Motion carried.

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

No Report

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

President Carricato stated that the State has adopted Act 152, which provides a \$15.00 fee for all real estate closings to provide funding to demo blighted properties. He stated that Westmoreland County has not adopted this legislation to date, of which, could bring in about \$400,000 that could be filtered through the County Landbank. He stated that only one, of the three county commissioners is in favor of the act.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mrs. Chvala, to accept the General Government Report. Motion carried.

RECREATION REPORT:

Chairperson Collini recommend the support of the October 13th, "Friday on Franklin" fundraiser by the Vandergrift No. 1 Fire Department.

Mr. Collini stated that Sam Hess will begin the scheduled repairs at the Tennis Courts this Wednesday.

Mr. Collini stated that the bonfire last Saturday night was a bid success.

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala, to accept the Recreation Report. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Collini questioned if addition stop signs can be installed, especially at the intersection of Jackson & Walnut.

Chief Caporali stated that there is no problem in this area that will cause any safety concerns. He also stated that there have been no accidents at this area.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Carricato requested that Council recess this meeting until October 23rd, beginning at 7:00 pm, for the purpose of resolving unfinished business.

RECESS:

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Collini, to recess the meeting until October 23, 2017, beginning at 7:00 pm. Motion carried.

The meeting was recessed at 8:00 pm.

