

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL

JULY 2, 2018

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kathleen Chvala	Casimer Maszgay
Peter Basile	Vernon Sciallo
Lenny Collini	Christine Wilson
James Rametta	

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Barbara Turiak, Mayor	Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Larry Loperfido, Solicitor	Theresa Geltz, Asst. Secretary
Joseph Caporali, Police Chief	

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the June 4, 2018 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Sciallo, second by Mr. Collini. Motion carried.

President Chvala called for a moment of silence for the recent passing of Officer Robert Kirkland.

VISITORS:

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

Hailie Chatfield, Revitalization Coordinator of Westmoreland County, addressed Council on the on-going plans to demolish the blighted property on Washington Avenue. She explained that certain paperwork will need to be filed with the federal government for clearance to proceed with the demolition. She also addressed the plans to develop this area with a combination of parking and a green space, with a possible theme such as with the steel heritage of the Borough.

Jim Williams, 127 Oregon Avenue, stated that the potholes at the No. 1 Fire Department needs patched.

Jim Dunmire, 181 Sherman Avenue, questioned why the No. 1 Fire Department was required to put up a \$5,000.00 maintenance bond, and other organizations are not required.

Solicitor Loperfido stated that no other organization using the area incurs the type of damage from the carnival's large trucks.

The Secretary stated that no bond was ever delivered to him from the fire department.

Marilee Kesler, 426 Hancock Avenue, informed Council that the Community Watch will be having a clean-up day on July 28<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 to 1:00 pm.

Karen McClarnon, 520 Hancock Avenue, questioned who monitors calls to residential properties and the police calls. She stated that after 3 calls to a rental by the police it then goes to the code officer.

Solicitor Loperfido stated that the number of calls are handled by the police.

Following a discussion of this matter, Solicitor Loperfido recommended that Ms. McClarnon meet with the Chief of Police for the purpose of arriving at a solution to her concerns.

Bill McClarnon, 520 Hancock Avenue, recommended that Council look into the "We Dig Program".

John Uskuritis, 125 Sherman Avenue, stated that proper signage is need at the intersection of Farragut and 11<sup>th</sup> Street for the purpose of stopping cars from going the wrong way on Farragut.

Ashley Hannigan, Vandergrift No. 1 Fire Department, requested Council to approve an even to take place following the firemen's parade on August 11<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the event will held across from the No. 1 Fire Department and that Franklin Avenue will blocked from East Adams to Washington Avenue.

President Chvala stated that Ms. Hannigan needs to provide the Borough with the type of event to be held.

Bob Govern, Vandergrift No. 2 Fire Department Ambulance Service, stated that Service will be hosting a Town Meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, at the Borough Municipal Building to relate and explain the operations of the Ambulance Service and other related topics such as the opioid crisis.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Sciallo, to return to the regular order of business. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

No Report

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary presented an Activity Report for 2017 from the Vandergrift Civil Service Commission. (See page 3-A)

The Secretary stated that the Vandergrift Civil Service has met and has approved the revisions to the Vandergrift Police Civil Service Rules & Regulations. (See page 3-B) He explained that revisions include changing the qualifications from 3 years of experience to 1 year, and reduces the hour requirement annually to 1284 hours.

The Secretary presented a statement from the Westmoreland County Planning & Development, which shows the amount of money the Borough received from the CDBG program from 2009 to the present. (See page 3-C)

The Secretary stated that Nancy Berberich has submitted a letter of resignation from the Vandergrift Planning Commission. (See page 3-D)

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Rametta, to accept Ms. Berberich's letter of resignation. Motion carried.

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Mr. Young reported that he had issued over 40 violation letters regarding high grass, junk and 23 tv's. He also stated that 9 citations were filed at the magistrate's office.

Mr. Rametta requested that Mr. Young look into to the residence at 110 Monroe, who has indoor furniture on the porch.

Mr. Basile commended the new code officer for the work being done.

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

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

None

# Borough of Vandergrift Civil Service Commission

109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

June 18, 2018

Vandergrift Borough  
Attn: Office of the Secretary  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Re: Vandergrift Borough Civil Service Commission Activity Report for 2017

Dear Steve,

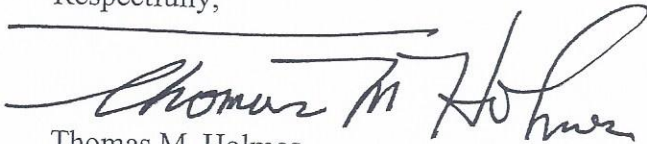
Please provide the Borough Council with our activity report for 2017

The Civil Service Commission met and reorganized.

The Civil Service Commission at the direction of council advertised for the position of Lieutenant within the Police Department. Applications were reviewed for qualifications after which the qualified applicants were tested. The Process was suspended after testing was completed.

The expenses incurred by the Civil Service Commission for 2017 were \$400.00.

Respectfully,



Thomas M. Holmes  
Secretary

3-B

## Borough of Vandergrift Civil Service Commission

109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

June 18, 2018

Vandergrift Borough  
Attn: Office of the Secretary  
109 Grant Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

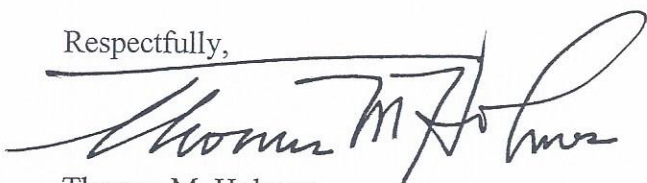
Re: Approval for adoption of the revisions to the Vandergrift Borough Police Civil Service Rules and Regulations

Dear Steve,

The Civil Service Commission met on June 18, 2018 and approved the revisions to the Vandergrift Borough Police Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

The Commission further recommends to the Borough Council the adoption of the revisions to the said rules and regulation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Holmes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T" and "H".

Thomas M. Holmes  
Secretary

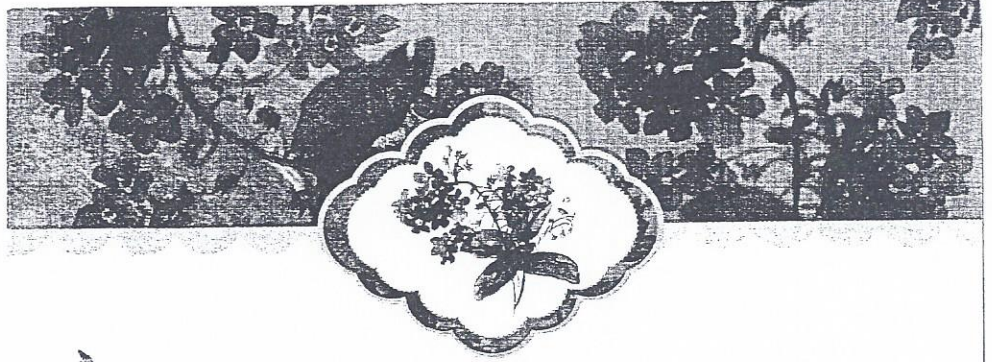
<i>Vandergrift Borough 3-Year Allocations</i>		<b>ACTUAL EXPENDITURES</b>	
2009-2011	\$ 115,048.95	\$ 667,600.96	(5.8 times)
2012-2014	\$ 153,436.68	\$ 382,199.51	(2.5 times)
2015-2017	\$ 206,442.49	\$ 595,135.57	(2.9 times)
2018-2020	\$ 194,158.14	\$ 197,500.00	(100% funded)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 669,086.26</b>	<b>\$ 1,842,436.04</b>	<b>(2.75 times)</b>

<i>Yearly Expenditures</i>	
2009	\$ 583,870.96
2010	\$ -
2011	\$ 83,730.00
2012	\$ 76,659.50
2013	\$ -
2014	\$ 305,540.01
2015	\$ 283,547.85
2016	\$ 311,587.72
2017	\$ -
2018 (proposed)	\$ 197,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,842,436.04</b>

*Municipalities receiving highest funding levels  
2009-2018*

Vandergrift Borough	\$ 1,842,435.19
Hempfield Township	\$ 1,635,934.02
Ligonier Township	\$ 1,048,911.74
East Vandergrift Borough	\$ 1,012,954.82
Sewickley Township	\$ 833,707.12

The above represents the allocation received  
by the Borough in CDBG Funding



To the members of Council,  
Please accept my resignation effective  
immediately. It was an honor to  
serve with you all.

Sincerely,

Nancy Berberich

June 27, 2018

Vandenberg Hill, PA  
15690



REGULAR & STATED BILLS:

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

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Chairperson Sciuлло stated that the line painting has been completed on Beech and Sycamore Streets. He also state that about 9 tons of cold patch was applied to the potholes on 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mrs. Wilson stated that following a meeting with Jason Rigone, Westmoreland Planning Department, it appears that Oregon Avenue may receive funding from the Community Development Block Grant Program for storm drainage work and paving. She also stated that an income survey was contacted by Mr. Maszgay, of which, indicated that Oregon qualified.

Mr. Basile questioned if the water company has completed the water taps to the residents. He stated that streets effective by the water line project are in need of resurfacing.

Mr. Sciuлло stated that the paving will begin as soon as the water company removes the old water line taps.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Wilson stated that the drainage problem on Delaware Avenue due to a high flow volume. She stated that Engineer Lucien Bove estimates the cost to camera the line and perform the cleaning of the line to be approximated \$5,500.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciuлло, second by Mr. Maszgay, to approve the spending of up to \$5,500 for the aforementioned project. Motion carried.

Mrs. Wilson stated that parts of Pennsylvania Avenue needs resurfacing (4 areas) at a cost of approximately \$12,000.00. She recommended that the top section be resurfaced at this time at a cost of about \$7,000.00

The Secretary stated that project can be funded out of the Liquid Fuel Fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciuлло, second by Mr. Basile, to accept the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.



POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairperson Collini presented the following matters to be acted upon.

A motion was made by Mr. Sciallo, second by Mr. Collini, to accept the resignation of James Maines from the position of part-time police officer effective 7/2/18. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Sciallo, to accept the resignation of Joseph Albaugh from his position of part-time police officer effective 7/2/18. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mrs. Wilson, to hire Ben Michaels as a part-time police for the Vandergrift Police Department. Motion carried.

Mr. Collini stated that Randall Spillers, 163-A Hamilton Avenue, has submitted a persons with disability parking place application. He stated that Mr. Spillers does meet the criteria set forth in the ordinance, and therefore, recommends that his application be approved.

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

Mr. Collini stated that due to the recent increase of handicap parking requests and taking into consideration the limited amount of parking spaces in town, it is felt that a moratorium should be placed on these requests until the ordinance can be reviewed and studied.

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

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

No Report

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Mazgay reported that M & Tree Service has begun trimming and removing of trees as per schedule.

A motion was made by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Rametta, to accept the Tree & Light Report. Motion carried.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

President Chvala requested that Council take action of the proposed revised amendment to the Vandergrift Civil Service Rules & Regulation as approved by the Vandergrift Civil Service Commission. (See Secretary's Report)

Solicitor Loperfито presented Resolution No. 4-2018, adopting the revisions of the Police Civil Service Rules & Regulations. (See page 6-A)

A motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mr. Sciallo, to adopt Resolution No. 4-2018. Motion carried.

RECREATION REPORT:

Chairperson Basile that the new swing set for the Franklin Playground will be installed by the end of this week. He stated that a additional \$800 was spend to include an ADA approved mulch material.

Mr. Basile questioned how to handle the matter of having a skate park in the Borough.

Solicitor Loperfито stated that is an opinion of the Borough Engineer that the surface of the area within the tennis courts needs major repairs, and is reason the courts have been closed. He recommended that the structures be removed before someone gets hurt.

Mr. Rametta stated that the individuals using this courts are trespassing.

Solicitor Loperfито stated that the insurance companies request that the structures be designed by a professional skate builder, along with other requirements in order to liability risks to the Borough.

As far as the Pool, Mr. Basile stated that everything is running smoothly. He stated that the change in the operation of the Kitchen is having some growing pains.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Loperfито stated that he would like Council to call an executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel and litigation matter.

Solicitor Loperfито presented for Council's consideration Ordinance No. 1 -2018, which amends Chapter 317, Occupancy Permits, to allow the sale to go through on foreclosure properties. He supplied each member with a copy for their review for the August meeting.

RESOLUTION 4 OF 2018

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT, COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING POLICE CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

WHEREAS, the Borough of Vandergrift deems the creation of new and amended Civil Service Rules is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare and important for compliance with all laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as applicable; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift has determined that the prior rules required updates and revisions therefore, the Civil Service Rules which are the subject of this resolution shall repeal any prior Civil Service Rules and shall replace the same with those attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth herein at length;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift does RESOLVE as follows:

RESOLVED, that Council of the Borough of Vandergrift on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2018 repeals all prior Civil Service Rules in conflict with the Civil Service Rules adopted by the Civil Service Commission at a public meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018 and formally resolves to enact the same Civil Service Rules as approved by the Civil Service Commission as the official Civil Service Rules and Regulations of the Borough of Vandergrift effective this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2018.

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

By: Kathleen Chvala  
KATHLEEN CHVALA, Council President

ATTEST:

Stephen J. DelleDonne (SEAL)  
STEPHEN J. DELLEDONNE,  
Borough Secretary

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

At 8:13 pm, a motion was made, by Mr. Collini, second by Mr. Sciullo, to call an executive session of Council for the purpose of discussing a personnel and a litigation matter. Motion carried.

At 8:50 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Maszgay, second by Mr. Rametta, to return to the regular order of business and to state that no action of Council was taken during the executive session. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mr. Sciullo, second by Mr. Maszgay, to direct the Secretary to notify the Vandergrift Civil Service Commission that the Borough Council is requesting the Commission to provide an "Eligibility List" for the position of two (2) full-time patrolmen. Motion carried.

Mr. Basile presented a letter from the Vandergrift Ministerium, Unity Day Committee. (See page 7-A)

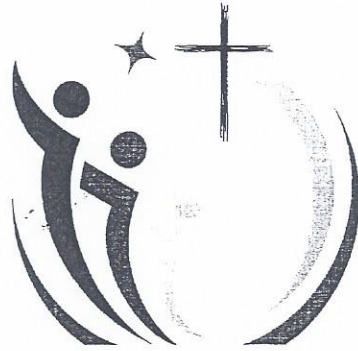
A motion was made by Mr. Sciullo, second by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the aforementioned request. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.

7-A



*Vandergrift Ministerium*

**Vandergrift Presbyterian Church**

**195 Washington Ave, Vandergrift, PA 15690**

**PHONE: 724-568-2917**

**Rev. Richard Smith**

**Rev. Neal Galley**

**Rev. John Jackson**

**724-681-1948**

**724-980-7480**

**412-736-8872**

July 1, 2018

Dear Vandergrift Council,

The Vandergrift Ministerium is planning a Unity Day on August 25 of this year, and would like permission from the council to use Kennedy Park as our location. The time for the event would be from Noon-5:00 PM.

We are planning to have food vendors, music, “sharing” of testimonies of encouragement to the youth and families. More things may be added as the time goes by. Flyers will be made up and passed out to encourage everyone to attend and have a great time together as a community.

We thank you in advance for your consideration, and we hope to see all of you on Unity Day, August 25th.

Thank you,

Vandergrift Ministerium

Unity Day Committee