

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFF
MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFF COUNCIL

OCTOBER 6, 2014

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank Moliterno
Brian Carricato
James Rametta

Kathleen Chvala
Christine Wilson

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Louis Purificato, Mayor
Larry Loperfido, Solicitor
Michael & Lucien, Engineers

Stephen DelleDonne, Secretary
Theresa Geltz, Asst. Secretary
Joseph Caporali, Police Chief

MINUTES:

The minutes of the September 2, 2014 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Rametta, second by Mr. Moliterno. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

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

Todd Sherbondy, 297 vista Drive, Apollo, addressed Council in regards to his daughter suffering an injury on the steps of the waterslide at the pool facility. He questioned if the Borough will be covering the medical expenses.

The Secretary stated that he has turned this matter over to Mr. Collini, chairman of the Recreation Committee, for his review.

Jim Dunmire, 181 Sherman Ave., thanked the Chief and members of the Vandergrift Police for putting up with him in regards to drug house located at 175 Sherman Avenue. He stated that with the help of the police, most of the problems have be resolved. He also questioned if something could be done about the trash, etc. left behind from the parties that have vacated this property.

Chief Caporali requested that Mr. Dunmire call him in the morning and he will have the Ordinance Officer look into this matter.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

No Report

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

No Report

ORDINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

No Report

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary presented and reviewed the following correspondence received and distributed to members of Council:

Exhibit 1-A: Vandergrift Senior Citizen Members.

Subject: Notice that the Center will closing its doors due a lack of membership.

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:

The Secretary presented a request from Bove Engineering to approve the submission of a PennVest Payment Request No. 8 in the amount of \$722,893.25. He stated that this amount reflects 2A Construction Estimate No. 7 (Monzo) of \$306,740.62; 2B Construction Estimated No.

Council Members

We at the Vandergrift Senior Citizen Center would like to thank you for letting us use your building all these years. We have been getting poor attendance and chose to close our door. We will drop off the keys after cleaning up. Thank you for all you did for us.

Vandergrift Senior Center members

7 (Johnston) of \$353,790.82; Engineer Estimate No. 9 of \$61,320.00; and Interim Interest Estimate No. of \$1,041.91.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Rametta, to approve the aforementioned matter. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining.

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Mrs. Wilson stated that the street department will be collecting leaves on Fridays. She stated that residents can bag the leaves and place them at the curb for collection.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Lucien Bove reported that 32% of Phase 2A has been completed and 49% of Phase 2B regarding the sewer separation project.

Mr. Lucien stated that the street reconstruction project via Community Development Block Grant Funds has begun.

Engineer Michael Bove stated that the trees on Hancock Avenue, from Monroe to Walnut, will need to be removed during the sewer separation project.

Mrs. Chvala questioned if the catch basins at Emerson & Wallace Streets will be replaced.

Engineer Michael Bove stated they will be replaced.

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

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Chvala requested all committee chairperson submit their proposed budget requests for 2014 as soon as possible.

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

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairperson Moliterno presented and read a letter of resignation from Jason Varner, a part-time patrolman of the Vandergrift Police Department. (See page 3-A)

September 24, 2014

Chief Caporali
Vandergrift Police Department
109 Grant Ave
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Chief Caporali:

Please accept this letter of resignation from the position of Patrolman with Vandergrift Police Department, effective September 25, 2014.

I have accepted an offer with another department that will further my growth and development in my career. I have enjoyed working at Vandergrift Police Department. However, this new position will challenge my growth and further my career.

I wish you continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Varner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason Varner

A motion was made by Mr. Moliterno, second by Mrs. Chvala, to accept Mr. Varner's letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Mr. Moliterno stated that Eugene Tardivo, 118 Lafayette, has submitted a Persons with Disability Parking Place Application. He stated that Mr. Tardivo does meet the criteria set forth in the Ordinance and is recommended that this application be approved.

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

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Rametta reported that the parking lot along Lincoln and Washington Avenues has been repaved, lines painted and parking blocks installed. He stated that Derry Construction indicated that this work would cost the Borough about \$48,000.

Mr. Rametta stated that the Committee is considering not installing the parking meters at this time and allow parking free parking. However, he stated that the Committee is recommending that there be no overnight parking in the lot. Mr. Rametta requested that this matter be approved at this time, with an understanding that it will be readdressed in March of next year.

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

In regards to the Vandergrift Senior Citizen Building, a motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mr. Moliterno, to have the building appraised for the purpose of auctioning the sale of said building. Motion carried.

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

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Wilson reported that the trees along the drainage ditch in East Vandergrift Borough have been removed by Byers Trees Service at a cost of \$875.00. She stated that additional work is needed near the Lear residence on Franklin Avenue.

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

No Report

RECREATION REPORT:

President Carricato distributed a packet of specification regarding the installation of new playground equipment at the Jackson Avenue Playground. He stated that the total cost of this equipment will be \$91,220.00.

President Carricato stated that he has obtained financing for this project at an interest rate of 4.99%, with an annual payment of \$20,653 for a five (5) years. He explained that the financing of this loan will come from the Community Development Fund recently enacted by Council, whereby \$3.00 per month is aside from the Sewer Recovery Bills.

President Carricato stated that the Community Development Fund should generate about \$75,600 per year, and with the payment of \$20,653 for playground equipment, there will be about \$54,000 balance remaining. He also equated the funding of this project to cost the residents of town about \$0.82 per month.

President Carricato stated that no action on this matter is requested to be taken at this meeting. He requested that members of Council to take the time to review this matter for the November meeting.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Loperfito requested authorization to amend the sidewalk ordinance enacted in 2013 to indicate a thickness of 4 inches and a width of 4 feet. (See pages 5-A thru 5-C)

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mrs. Wilson, to direct the Solicitor to advertise Ordinance No. 7-2014 for adoption at the November 3, 2014 meeting. Motion carried.

Solicitor Loperfito stated that he will be proposing a resolution that will regulate the use of Borough properties. He stated that interested party/parties will be required to complete an application, assume all associated expenses, etc. He stated that copy of this resolution will be provided to each member of Council.

Solicitor Loperfito is proposing an amendment to an existing Ordinance 9 of 2012, regarding roof drains, whereby said roof drains will be prohibited to be directed to an abutting property.

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFF**ORDINANCE NO. 7 OF 2014****AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFF, COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND, AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING CHAPTER XXI, PART 2, SIDEWALKS, SECTION 31, PROPERTY OWNERS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SIDEWALKS; WIDTH AND THICKNESS**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Vandergriff has recognized the responsibility of the owner of a lot, piece or parcel of land in the Borough of Vandergriff as being responsible for the installation, maintenance and repair of sidewalks fronting on said property; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Vandergriff deems that uniformity of sidewalks in the blocks, as laid out in the original plan of the Borough of Vandergriff are important for the continuity of the blocks and for the maintenance and appearance of the streets of the Borough of Vandergriff; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough deems that the maintenance of the sidewalks is an important issue affecting the health, safety and welfare of the public, traversing on said sidewalks;

NOW THEREFORE, the Borough of Vandergriff does hereby **ORDAIN AND ENACT** as follows:

The provision of Chapter XXI, Part 2, Sidewalks, Section A, Construction and Repair of Sidewalks, Subsection 31. Property Owner's Responsibility for Sidewalks; Width and Thickness, is hereby repealed and replaced, in full, as follows:

Section 31 – Property Owner's Responsibility for Sidewalks; Width and Thickness.

The owner or owners of a lot or lots in the said Borough of Vandergrift shall hereafter be responsible to maintain, pave, repave, and repair sidewalk or sidewalks fronting on his, her or their lot or lots including a portion of the sidewalk extending to the curb of the street, with concrete, said sidewalk to be established at least five (5) feet wide or four (4) feet wide, in continuity with the balance of the block where said lot, piece or parcel of land is situate and shall be at least four (4) inches in thickness and installed in an manner which conforms to any and all specifications as established by the Borough Engineer of the Borough of Vandergrift as may be amended from time to time hereafter and shall be placed on file with the Office of the Borough Secretary of the Borough of Vandergrift to be submitted to the landowner upon the issuance of a permit for the repair, replacement, or construction of the sidewalk or sidewalks fronting on his, her or their lot or lots.

SEVERABILITY: If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such holding shall not affect the other provisions or application of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, provisions of this Ordinance are declared severable.

REPEALER: Ordinances or parts of Ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This ordinance shall effective immediately upon enactment by the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED INTO LAW THIS 3rd DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2014, BY
THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFF VOTING AT VANDERGRIFF,
WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFF

BY: _____
BRIAN J. CARRICATO,
Council President

ATTEST:

STEPHEN J. DELLEDONNE,
Borough Secretary

APPROVED:

LOUIS E. PURIFICATO, Mayor

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Rametta, to advertise for the amending of Ordinance #9-2012. Motion carried.

Solicitor Loperfito requested that Council call an executive session for the purpose of discussing a contractual issue and an active litigation matter.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Wilson informed Council that the Street & Sanitation Committee has prepared a list of streets for reconstruction of which will be funding via Community Development Block Grant program. She stated that the Borough Engineer must submit this list to the County Planning Department of Westmoreland by the end of October.

President Carricato stated that 12th Street is currently being repaved. He stated that the funding is an add-on to the current CD street reconstruction program.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chvala, second by Mr. Rametta, to approve the paving of 12th Street. Motion carried with Mrs. Wilson abstaining.

At 7:42 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala, to call an executive of session for the purpose of discussing a contractual and an on-litigation matter. Motion carried.

At 8:21 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Rametta, second by Mrs. Chvala, to return to the regular order of business, and to state that no action was taken during the executive session of Council. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

