

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL MEETING

October 7, 2024

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jody Sarno	Christine Wilson
Marilee Kessler	Rae Ann Bruner
Tom Holmes	Bryan Young
Daisha Clayton	

OTHER OFFICIALS:

Lenny Collini, Mayor	Stephen J. DelleDonne, Secretary
Shae Kraft, Solicitor	Theresa Geltz, Assistant Secretary
Lucian Bove, Engineer	

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the September 3, 2024 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Clayton. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

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

Tiffany Bucci, 504 Lowell Street, addressed Council about the deplorable condition of the properties located at 505 ½ and 503 ½ Emerson. She stated that there is trash in the alley and kids throwing garbage in the alley.

Velma Moore, 521 Longfellow Street, addressed Council of problem of watering entering on her property and eroding her driveway.

Mrs. Wilson suggested that Ms. Moore install a curb time barrier to channel the water away from her property.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Collini reported that the Halloween Parade will be held on October 12th, beginning at 4:00 pm, and will end with the Witching Hour Event.

Mayor Collini stated that "Trick or Treat" will be held on October 31st, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

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 40 notice violations, issued 3 citations, and attended 1 court hearing in September.

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

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Exhibit 1 & 2 A: Vandergrift No. 1 & Vandergrift No. 2 Fire Department.

Subject: Both fire departments are investigating a possible merger and are requesting the Borough to adopt a motion to have a feasibility study conducted by the Department of Community & Economic Development.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kessler, second by Ms. Bruner, to approve the aforementioned request. Motion carried.



**VANDERGRIFT
FIRE DEPARTMENT #2**

229 Emerson Street • Vandergrift, PA 15690

Exhibit 2-A

October 1, 2024

Vandergrift Borough Council
President Tom Holmes
109 Grant Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Dear President Holmes and council,

At the September 18 regular department meeting of the Vandergrift No. 2 Fire Department, a motion was made and passed for the department to investigate and pursue a possible merger with the George G. McMurtry Vandergrift Fire Department No. 1.

After several meetings between the officers of both fire departments we feel it is in the best interest of the citizens of Vandergrift and the fire departments to investigate the possibility of merging into one fire and rescue department serving the boroughs of Vandergrift and East Vandergrift.

The first step in this process would be to have a feasibility study performed by the Department of Community and Economic Development. We ask that the borough pass a motion and request this study from the DCED for the fire departments. We will work with this group providing the information they need to make their recommendations to the borough and fire departments. We may also need the expertise of the state to help with details we might be unaware of at this time.

We look forward to working on this project and thank you in advance for your assistance.

Respectfully,

Albert Wells, Chief

Thomas Henry, President

Vandergrift Fire Dept. No. 1
278 Franklin Ave., P.O. Box 6
Vandergrift, PA 15690
724-567-7171



Randy Dunmire, Chief

October 1, 2024

Vandergrift Borough Council
President Tom Holmes
109 Grant Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Dear President Holmes and council,

At the September 17 regular department meeting of the George G. McMurtry Vandergrift Fire Department No. 1, a motion was made and passed for the department to investigate and pursue a possible merger with the Vandergrift No. 2 Fire Department.

After several meetings between the officers of both fire departments we feel it is in the best interest of the citizens of Vandergrift and the fire departments to investigate the possibility of merging into one fire and rescue department serving the boroughs of Vandergrift and East Vandergrift.

The first step in this process would be to have a feasibility study performed by the Department of Community and Economic Development. We ask that the borough pass a motion and request this study from the DCED for the fire departments. We will work with this group providing the information they need to make their recommendations to the borough and fire departments. We may also need the expertise of the state to help with details we might be unaware of at this time.

We look forward to working on this project and thank you in advance for your assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Dunmire".

Randy Dunmire, Chief

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Reilly".

Michael Reilly, President

REGULAR & STATED BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

None

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Chairperson Wilson informed Council that the winter hours for collection of garbage will return to the regular time of 7:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Mrs. Wilson reported that the recycling dumpsters (3) have been placed at the Borough Garage for the collection of recyclables.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Bove presented his report for the October meeting. (See page 3-A & B)

Item #1- Engineer Bove stated that the reconstruction of Grant Avenue will commence after the upcoming event

Item #2- Engineer Bove stated that he may be able to save on the Olmsted Commons Project by eliminating the steps.

Item #6-Engineer Bove stated that there is no update regarding the California Avenue Plan.

Item #12- Engineer Bove stated that the work on the building located 219-225 Grant Avenue is progressing slowly.

President Holmes requested the Borough Solicitor address this matter by sending a letter to the owner of the property about the delays in the restoration work.

Item #10- Engineer Bove reported that he is working on the MS4 Waiver Application to include a fee of \$500.00 to Commonwealth Pennsylvania.

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

Engineer agenda items for October 7, 2024

To Stephen DelleDonne <vgborosec@comcast.net> • Tom Holmes <tomholmes@vandergriftborough.com> Copy
 Larry Loperfido <ldl@gllawyers.com> • Shea M Kraft Esquire <smk@gllawyers.com> •
 Christine Wilson <christinewilson1782@gmail.com> • Marilee Kessler <marileekessler@vandergriftborough.com> •
 Daishaclayton <daishaclayton@vandergriftborough.com> • jodysarno@vandergriftborough.com •
 Lenny Collini <lennycollini@vandergriftborough.com> • raeannbruner@vandergriftborough.com •
 bryanyoung@vandergriftborough.com

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following are my requested agenda items for the Tuesday, October 7, 2024 Council meeting:

1. **Grant Avenue & McKinley Street Reconstruction** (CEAP Grant) Preconstruction meeting held 9-25-2024. Preconstruction minutes, agreements, required forms and documents submitted. Work to be completed either before 10-11 or after 10-14 due to the scheduled event on Grant Avenue.
2. **Olmsted Commons Park Development Project** – Contractor moving in this week. The car and millings need to be removed. We have 3 Options according to our new DCNR Project Manager, one of which will need to be selected. See Olmsted correspondence forthcoming.
3. **Casino Theater & Library Building Improvement Project – Phase 2** – ADA Parking spaces are not be feasible on the site as they would take up the entire area to meet ADA required slopes for the pad and access ramps and other parking spaces will be lost. Discussion with the CTRM indicate that their current drop-off method to accommodate ADA patrons and entertainers works well. For this reason, and also due to the reduced award amount from DCED, we are planning to omit the ADA parking. I am planning to meet with the Librarian regarding the plaster work which will be included along with the pointing, sealing and window replacements.
4. **Ninth Street Retaining Wall Replacement Project** (CEAP Grant) Site meeting to be scheduled with the Geotechnical Engineers to obtain cost and tech. proposals.
5. **Columbia Ave. Parking Lot Rain, Gardens & Tree Pits** – The WCD tentative schedule for the project to be advertised for bids is fall 2024 or winter. A PennDOT HOP still may be required to access the MH on Sherman which may affect the schedule.
6. **Subdivision Plan** – No update for the California Avenue Plan and the Legal documentation required for the Quiet Title.
7. **411/413 Linden** - (former Moose Lodge) Proposed Parking Lot, Driveways & Stormwater Management Plan. No update (Anticipate a ZHB Hearing Application).
8. **2024 CDBG Project** – County Planning has authorized advertising. Therefore, in order to avoid added costs and multiple bid addenda for constantly changing Davis Bacon Wage Rates, we need to know from Council **the Bid Opening date and anticipated Completion Date for the work** (i.e. Fall 2024 or spring 2025).
9. **2025 CDBG Application** – Submitted. Copy of submitted application will be presented during the meeting.
10. **MS4 Waiver Application** – Authorization for **signatures, \$500 fee to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania** and confirmation that the **NOI Contact names and numbers** are the same as those submitted for original waiver. (If possible, please have the check available at the meeting).
11. **DCED LSA Category 4 Grant Application** – Submitted. Copy of submitted application will be presented during the meeting.
12. **219 – 225 Grant Avenue Partial Building Collapse** – Progress slowly being made. 11th Street is open. Several items have yet to be accomplished.

13. PNG Gas Line Replacement Projects

- a. Franklin Avenue Project – On hold.
- b. Sherman Avenue Project Phase 2 (Sherman, 6 St. and 11th St.) Near Complete.
- c. Washington Avenue Project (Hancock, Custer, 16th, 15th and Washington) Complete.
- d. Fourth Street Project –Complete.
- e. Sherman Avenue Project Phase 1 – Near complete.
- f. Columbia Avenue Leak Project (11th Street) – According to PNG the revised start date is planned for November 29, 2024.
- g. Grant Ave. & McKinley Crossings Project –Complete.
- h. Longfellow Street Project – Planned for August 20, 2025 (Note - this street is to be paved under the 2024 CDBG project).
- i. LaBelle Vue Project – Under design. Please advise of any concerns or issues regarding the plans submitted. Anticipate an application being filed soon.
- j. 429 Franklin – Permit Pending.

14. MAAT Agreement for LaBelle Vue Road Sewer Connection – No update

15. Any Engineering-related Items added to the agenda

Items requiring board action are shown in **Bold** print. If anyone has any questions, or If any additional items are required, please let me know as soon as possible. I plan to attend the meeting and be available to answer any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lucien Bove, PE
Bove Engineering Company
8201 Route 819
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 925-9269



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BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Clayton stated that copies of the General Fund, Park & Pool Fund, and the State Aid budgets have been provided to members of Council.

With a balance of \$4,600.80 balance in the Park & Pool Fund, the Secretary requested that Council approve a transfer of \$6,000 from the Timber Fund to the Park & Pool Fund to cover forthcoming invoices.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mr. Young, to approve the aforementioned request. Motion carried.

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

A motion was made by Mrs. Kessler, second by Mr. Sarno, to hire Peter Forestieri as an extra police officer serving on a part-time basis for the Borough of Vandergrift from time to time on an hourly or daily basis as needed. Motion carried.

Chairperson Kessler stated that Diane Grady, 268 Sherman Avenue, has applied for a Persons With Disability Parking Place and has met all the eligibility requirements.

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Sarno requested an update on the delinquent refuse/sewer recovery letters. He stated that about 170 delinquent notices were sent and to have collected \$16,000.

He stated that the Borough Engineer has provided an update on the Olmsted Commons Project.

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

TREE & LIGHTS REPORT:

Chairperson Bruner reported that no street lights were reported out and there were some trees trimmed by the Borough Crew.

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

President Holmes stated the Vandergrift Civil Service needs to be activated for the purpose of hiring a full-time police officer.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Sarno, to notify the Vandergrift Civil Service Commission to prepare and provide list of eligibility candidates for the position of full-time police to the Vandergrift Council.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Clayton, to accept the General Government Report. Motion carried.

RECREATION REPORT:

Chairperson Young informed Council that the Borough has received a grant to provide a "Pickle Ball Court" at Kennedy Park.

Mr. Young reported that he has obtained materials for repairing the fence along Kennedy Park.

Mr. Young stated that pool has been winterized for the season and that a dead tree needs to be removed.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Bruner, to accept the Recreation Report. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mrs. Kessler reported that a location has been found for the installation of the Vandergrift Gateway Monument. She stated that the monument will be located at the Vandergrift end of the Vandergrift Bridge.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Clayton stated that things are moving with the ATP Grant and that consultant has been hired.

Ms. Clayton stated that a "Bike Bus" event will be held for children in Third & Fourth Grades who ride their bikes to school.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Bruner, to approve the aforementioned "Bike Bus" event. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

