

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL MEETING

July 1, 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	

OTHER OFFICIALS:

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

MINUTES:

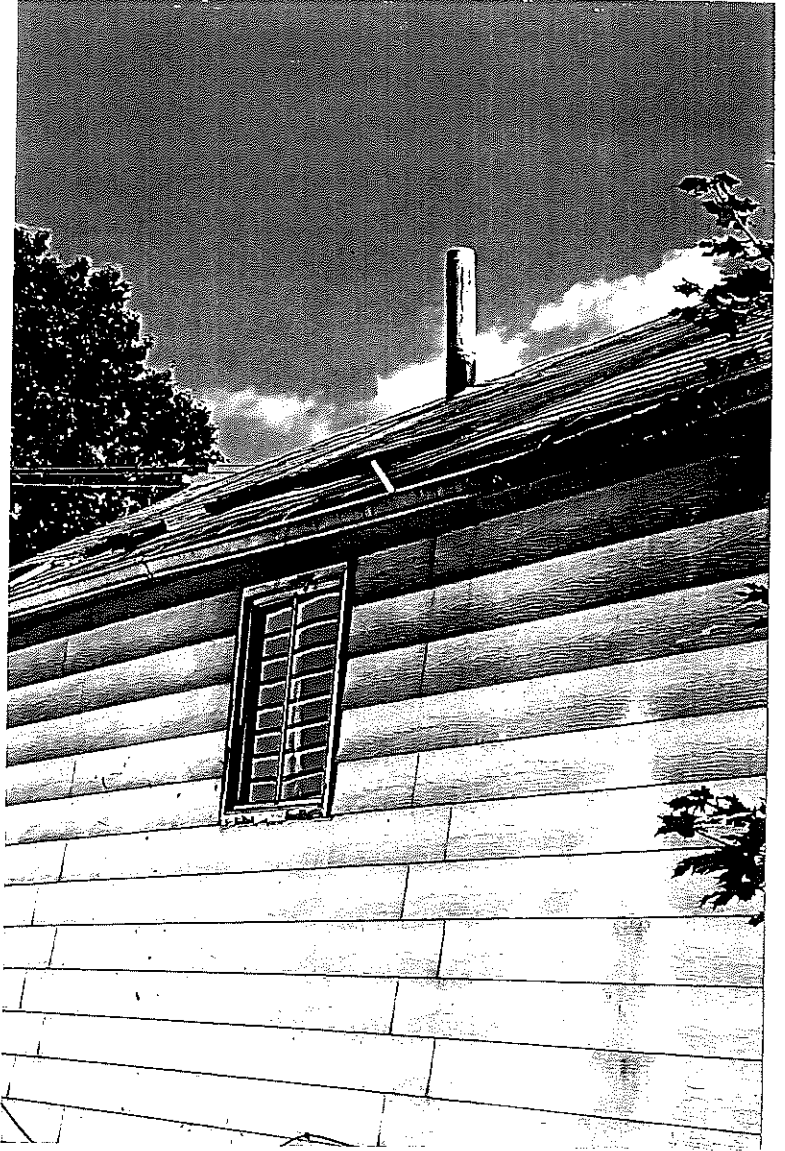
The Minutes of the May 6, 2024 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Wilson. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

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

Linda Raschatore, 1000 Wallace Street, addressed Council in regards to deplorable condition of the house next door at 1002 Wallace, owned by Earl Snair. (See attached pictures) She stated that this structure has been abandoned for over nine years and is requesting Council to resolve this issue.

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



OPENING OF BIDS:

At this time the Secretary opened bids received regarding the 2024 Street Patching Project using Liquid Fuel Funds. (See page 2: A-Bid Tabulation Sheet)

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mrs. Kessler, to award the bid to Holbein, Inc, to low bidder at \$28,356.90, contingent upon the review of bid by the Borough Engineer. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Collini stated that the "Gathering on Grant" will be held on Thursday, July 11th, and the Arts Festival will be held on Sunday, July 28th.

Mayor Collini recognized Nicole Dunmire, the Pool Manager, for the great job being done at the Vandergrift Pool.

Mayor Collini stated that there is an increase in vandalism at Kenndy Park, especially at the stage area. He stated that residents of the town need to report these activitie to the police.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary presenedt an e-mail from John Uskuraitis indicating that he is resigning as a member of the Vandergrift Council, effective June 30, 2024. (See page 2-B)

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Ms. Bruner, to accept Mr. Uskuraitis's resignation from Council Motion carried.

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

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

No Report

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Exhibit 1-A: Stephen Jurovic, 135 Farragut Avenue.

Subject: Safety concerns at Farragut & Sherman Avenues.

2-A

Estimated Cost: \$30,000

VANDERGRIFT BOROUGH
2024
STREET PATCHING PROJECT
Using Liquid Fuel Funds

ALL BIDS DUE: Monday, July 1, 2024 by 3:30 p.m.

BIDDERS LIST

	CONTRACTOR	BID BOND	REF.S	PWEV FORM	NON-COL. AFFIDAVIT	BID AMOUNT
1	NAGY CONSTRUCTION & ASPHALT PAVING Pittsburgh, PA 15239					\$ 31,731.22
2	UNITED PAVING LLC Latrobe, PA 15650					\$ No Bid
3	HOLBEIN, INC. Freeport, PA 16229					\$ 28,386.90
4	DANIELS EXCAVATING Greensburg, PA 15601					\$ 35,627.00
5	DUN RITE CONSTRUCTION & PAVING LLC New Kensington, PA 15068					\$ 31,280.92
6	MELE & MELE & SONS LLC Rankin, PA 15104					\$ 34,575.00
7						\$
8						\$
9						\$
10						\$

D-B

John Uskuraitis <johnuskuraitis@vandergriftborough.com>

6/19/2024 10:35 AM

Resignation

To vgborosec@comcast.net

Please consider this my official letter of resignation, as of June 8th 2024 I no longer live in the borough. I will continue to assist with my responsibilities until a new member is appointed to take over my prior obligations.

Thank you all,

John J. Uskuraitis
Vandergrift Council
Parks and Recreation Chairman

exh. b. f 1-A

Potential severe accidents at bridge

Stephen Jurovic <qualityprollc@hotmail.com>

Wed 6/12/2024 2:13 PM

To: Stephen Jurovic <qualityprollc@hotmail.com>

To the Vandergrift council

Some of you know I live at 135 Farragut ave Vandergrift PA. The intersection at Farragut ave & the bridge (although it has been dangerous) is more dangerous currently than any previous time. Traffic has increased at that intersection exponentially. Either a three way stop sign or a red-light is necessary to lessen the chance of a severe accident. The Traffic at that intersection will only increase. I believe the state & county would agree to any solution approved by Vandergrift borough. Please consider some resolution before we all look back at a tragedy saying this shouldn't have happened.

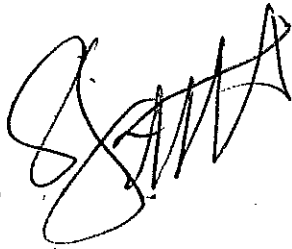
Thank you

Steve jurovic

135 Farragut ave Vandergrift PA

Phone 724.571.7907

Text 412.610.5133

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jurovic', written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

No action was taken by Council.

Exhibit 2-A: Minister Dunaun McFadden, UTWWK.

Subject: Requesting use of Kennedy Park with access to the stage on Saturday, August 31 2024, to host a praise and worship concert.

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

REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Bruner, to pay all stated and approved bills. Motion carried.

STREET AND SANITATION REPORT:

Chairperson Wilson reported on the following activity:

1. PennDot made a mechanical patch on Longfellow Street.
2. A buried man-hole was discovered on Sherman Avenue and one on 12th Street. She stated that the man-hole on Sherman may provide access from the Columbia Parking Lot Project.
3. The Department will start painting of crosswalk, curbing and street markings.
4. Completed the cleaning and repairs to the Vandergrift Memorial Park by the bridge.
5. Mrs. Wilson stated the recycling truck will not pass inspection due to its current condition, of which may cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 to be passable. She stated the Department may look into alternative methods of collecting recyclables. She also stated that she will check Muncibid for used vehicles.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Bove presented and reviewed his report for the month of July. (See page 3)

Engineer Bove stated that he has received the plans regarding subdivision on California Avenue.

Engineer Bove requested permission to advertise for bids regarding the reconstruction of Grant Avenue and McKinley Avenue and ADA Ramp Reconstruction.

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

Exhibit 2-A



110 Grant Ave.

Vandergrift, PA 15690

(878)302-4913

Greetings Vandergrift Council,

My name is Dunaun McFadden, I am a minister at **Until The Whole World Knows Ministry** (UTWWK Ministry) of Grant Ave. I am writing to request the reservation of Kennedy Park with access to the stage on Saturday, August 31, 2024. Our plan is to host a praise and worship concert that will be free for all members of the community to attend. The event is scheduled to begin promptly at 3pm and conclude around 6pm. We will need access to the park after 12pm on the day of the event for sound equipment setup and require electricity to be turned on at the stage.

We are excited about this opportunity to bring our community together in celebration and worship. Your assistance in making this event possible would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Minister Dunaun McFadden
(UTWWK Ministry Minister)

Pastor: Derek Evans * www.utwwkministry.org * utwwk.ministry@gmail.com

Engineer agenda items for July 1, 2024

To Stephen DelleDonne <vgborosec@comcast.net> • Tom Holmes <tomholmes@vandergriftborough.com> Copy
 Larry Loperfito <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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please see my requested agenda items below for the Monday, July 1, 2024 Council meeting:

1. **Olmsted Commons Park Development Project** –Awarding and Rejecting Bids (see award recommendation report)
2. **2024 Liquid Fuel Patching Project** - Open Bids, Accept / Award
3. **Grant Avenue & McKinley Street & ADA Ramp Reconstruction** (DCED Grant) Received Contract. Invoice Submitted. DD Enrollment. Engineering commenced. **Auth. Adv.**
4. **Ninth Street Retaining Wall Replacement Project** (DCED Grant) Preliminary Engineering commenced
5. **Columbia Avenue Parking Lot Rain, Gardens & Tree Pits** – MH Uncovered. Good condition for conn. & access for sewer insp.
6. **Subdivision Plan** – California Avenue Proposed Vacation Subdivision Plan (received 6-26-24)
7. **411/413 Linden** - (former Moose Lodge) Proposed Parking Lot, Plan Review, Driveways, Stormwater Management, ZHB Hearing
8. **2024 CDBG Project** – Plans, Specifications, Engineering commenced
9. **Casino Theater Phase 2** - Plans, Specifications, Engineering commenced
10. **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) Near Complete
 - d. Fourth Street Project – Near Complete
 - e. Sherman Avenue Project Phase 1 - this year
 - f. Columbia Avenue (11th Street) Project - September
 - g. Grant Ave. & McKinley Crossings Project – Under construction
 - h. Longfellow Street Project 2025 (CDBG)
 - i. Indiana Ave. - Spot (grass)
 - j. Longfellow Street - 2 Spot Repairs (grass)
 - k. LaBelle Vue Project –Under design
11. **MAAT Agreement for LaBelle Vue Road Sewer Connection**
12. **Parking Pad** – 118 Homles
13. **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 will be available to answer any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lucien Bove, PE

Engineer Bove stated that he will review the plans for a parking lot at 411-413 Linden Street. He also stated that this matter will need to go before the Vandergrift Zoning Board.

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

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

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

No Report

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairperson Kessler stated that she would like to make a motion, second by Mrs. Wilson, to extend a conditional offer of employment to Vincent Zottola 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. She stated that this offer is contingent upon Mr. Zottola successfully passing the Municipal Police Officer's Education and Training Commission certification examination and also all applicable background checks and interviews. Motion carried.

Mrs. Kessler informed Council that Officer Bethany Allera has submitted a letter of resignation as a full-time police officer for the Borough of Vandergrift.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kessler, second by Mrs. Wilson, to accept Bethany Allera's resignation and to thank her for her service while working for the Borough Police Department. Motion carried.

Mrs. Kessler stated that Gina Gibson, 185 Sherman Avenue, has submitted a Persons With Disability Parking Place Application. She stated that Mrs. Gibson does meet the criteria set forth in the ordinance and that suitable off-street parking is not available, and therefore, is being recommended for approval.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kessler, second by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the aforementioned parking application. Motion carried.

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Sarno reported that the door to the police station has been painted; the old Vandergrift Borough sign is in the process of being repainted and the graffiti on the stage at Kennedy Park has been painted, with paint supplied by the parents.

In regards to bids received for the Olmsted Commons Project, Mr. Sarno stated that the Engineer is recommending that Council award the Bid "A" to Murin & Murin, Inc. the low bidder at \$178,380.00.

A motion was made Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the aforementioned bid award to Murin & Murin, Inc. the low bidder at \$178,380.00 Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Kessler, to transfer \$14,100 from the Act 13 Fund, to the Olmsted Commons Fund, to provide the additional monies needed to fund this project. Motion carried.

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

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Bruner presented and reviewed the following Tree Report. (See page 5-A)

Ms. Bruner thanked Mrs. Wilson, with assistant of the Borough Crew to help with trimming of low hanging trees through out the town.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

President Holmes stated that Council will need to act on the resignation of John Uskuraitis from the Borough Council.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Wilson, to accept the resignation of Mr. Uskuraitis from Borough Council. Motion carried.

President Holms entertained a motion to appoint Bryan Young to fill the vacancy on Council left by John Uskuraitis.

Solicitor Kraft presented Resolution No. 6-2-2024, whereby Council acts on the appointment of Bryan Young to fill the aforementioned vacancy of Council.

The Secretary stated that no action was taken to adopt Resolution No. 6-2024.

June 2024 Tree and Light Report

To Vandergrift Borough Secretary <vgborosec@comcast.net>

Lights:

239 Sherman- 3rd report still out
Kennedy Drive- 3rd Report still broke
218 Franklin
102 E Adam's
311 Elm

Trees:

112 Sumner removed
Multiple tees trimmed throughout borough by borough workers

Mr. Sarno recommended that Council allow other individuals the opportunity to present a letter of interest to serve on Borough Council.

Following a discussion of this matter, a motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Ms. Bruner, to allow residents to file a letter of interest regarding this matter within seven (7) days, and to reconvene this meeting until July 16th, beginning at 6:30 p.m., for the purpose of only appointing someone to fill the vacancy on Council. Motion carried.

RECREATION REPORT:

No Report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Kraft presented for adoption, a one-year lease agreement between the Borough of Vandergrift and the Kiski Valley Lancers for the use of Davis Field, said lease expiring June 30, 2025.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr.Sarno, to adopt the aforementioned Davis Field Lease. Motion carried.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Wilson reported that there is a dead tree on railroad property which is causing problems. She requested the Solicitor to contact North Folk Southern to resolve this matter.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mrs.Kessler, to direct the Solicitor to contact North Folk Southern, by letter, of the aforementioned matter. Motion carried.

RECESS:

A motion was made by Ms. Bruner, second by Mr. Sarno, to recess the meeting until Tuesday, July 16, 2024, beginning at 6:30 pm. Motion carried.

The meeting was recessed at 8:15 pm.