

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT
MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 4, 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	Thomas Holmes
Daisha Clayton	Marilee Kessler
Christine Wilson	John Uskuraitis
Rae Ann Bruner	

OTHER OFFICIALS:

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

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the February 5, 2024 were approved by motion of Ms. Clayton, second by Mr.Sarno. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

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

David Hill, 915 Howell Street, addressed Council in regards to his yard sale items and that people are taking pictures to report this matter to the Code Officer. He also stated that he received notices from the Code Officer.

Don Detar, 213 Lowell Street, requested that a police car be stationed on Lowell Street in the morning to hear the constant barking of dogs. He questioned whether the owners could be required to put shock collars or muzzles on the dogs.

Debra Pugliese, 505 ½ Linden, complained about the structure located next to the former KVL Building and needs to be demolished.

President Holmes stated that this structure is scheduled to be razed.

Ms. Pugliese also complained about residents on Kennedy Way not putting their trash in can receptacles.

Josh Burrows, 273 Sherman Avenue, questioned if anything is going to be done on the lower end of Sherman Avenue when all the work is completed.

Mrs. Wilson stated that this section of Sherman Avenue is scheduled to be resurfaced by PennDot.

Mr. Burrows stated that the flaggers on Sherman are not paying attention to the traffic and that someone should talk to them.

Chief Caporali stated that he would talk to the flaggers.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Collini expressed his appreciation for the work performed by the School Crossing Guards on Franklin Avenue. He also stated that people traveling in the area need to be patient while the guards are performing their duties

Mayor Collini also stated that display a personal responsibility in the community.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

No Report

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT:

President Holmes reported that the Code Officer issued 33 notice violations and 2 citations during the month of February.

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mrs. Wilson, to accept the Code Officer's Report. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary presented the following correspondence to Council:

Exhibit 1-A: Anthony Ferrante, Victorian Vandergrift Museum & Historical Society.

Subject: Permissin to hold a car cruise on Grant Avenue on Friday, June 7th.

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

REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

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

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

Chairperson Wilson requested that Council take action on the hiring of Robert Fisher to the position of a full-time labor with the Street & Sanitation Department. She stated that Committee is making this recommendation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Sarno, to offer a condition of employment to Robert Fisher, subject that he meets a child clearance, satisfactory background check and drug and alcohol test. Motion carried.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Bove presented his February engineer's report and received no questions or comments from Council (See page 3-A)

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

Exhibit 1-A



Victorian Vandergrift Museum & Historical Society, Inc.

PO Box 86, Vandergrift, PA 15690

Telephone: 724-568-1990

Website: vvmhs.org E-Mail: vvmhs@comcast.net

January 27, 2023

2-27-2024

Vandergrift Borough Council
109 Grant Avenue
Vandergrift, Pennsylvania 15690

Dear Council Members:

7th

The Vandergrift Museum and Historical Society is asking for permission to hold a car cruise (as we have done for the last six years) on Friday, June 9th on Grant Avenue. The car cruises have been a huge success even with the pandemic. They have helped show off our town and allowed us to make a few dollars to help to continue operating the Museum.

We would like to close Grant Avenue to traffic from Washington Avenue to Columbia Avenue starting at 4 pm on that day and run to approximately 10 pm. This is what we have done in the past and it seemed to always go well. We are also requesting the use of Farragut Avenue, Sumner Avenue and Columbia Avenue from Grant to 11th Avenue. These areas will be used if we run out of space on Grant Avenue for parking participants in the car cruise. We will make sure the police have access to their building since Grant Avenue would be closed from Sumner to Columbia Avenue.

We are requesting that street parking not be allowed after 4 p.m. on Friday, June 9th to accommodate the cars being displayed at the cruise. As was done last year, we will place no parking notices on cars throughout the week indicating that parking would not be allowed on Friday, June 9th after 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. on that day if approved by the Council.

June 7th

Food will be sold as was done previously via food trucks on Columbia Avenue from 11th Avenue to 12th Street. A live band will also be set up on the corner of Grant and Farragut as has been done previously. Port-a-johns will be available for the public. We will also be contacting the local business owners and advising of this event if they wish to remain open.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our request.

Sincerely yours,

Anthony Ferrante

Anthony Ferrante
President

Engineer report and agenda items for March 4, 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> • Johnuskuraitis@vandergriftborough.com •
 jodyarno@vandergriftborough.com • Lenny Collini <lennycollini@vandergriftborough.com> •
 raeannbruner@vandergriftborough.com

Ladies and Gentlemen,

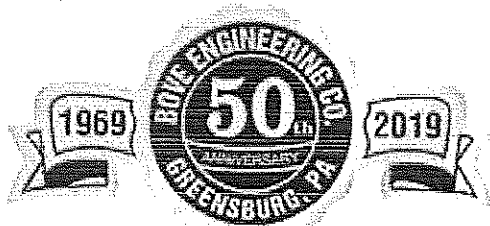
Please see my requested agenda items below for the Monday, March 4, 2024 Council meeting:

1. 2024 CDBG Application – Awaiting official response from the County Planning Department.
2. Olmsted Park Development – Request for committed cash donations from contributing organizations. Budget being amended accordingly.
3. Columbia Avenue Parking Lot Rain Gardens & Tree Pits – Preliminary schedule discussions with PennDOT and WCD anticipate bid letting this summer/fall with construction in the spring of 2025. Discussion of tree grate maintenance needs for trees installed in Phase 1.
4. 2022 CDBG Project Contractor DP Case 31250 – This case is not on the March 12, 2024 DPC meeting agenda. According to the DP Specialist regarding this case, Vandergrift Borough has no violations.
5. Vandergrift Casino Theater and Library Building Improvement Project - Phase 2 – Under design. Anticipate advertising this spring.
6. PNG Line replacements – Please be advised of the PNG gas line replacement projects which have been started, or are pending: Sherman Avenue Project Phase 2 (started), _Washington Avenue Project (pending), **Fourth Street Project** (pending). Please advise of any concerns. *Met 9/10/24*
7. MAAT Upper West Vandergrift Sanitary Sewer Connection – We received revised plans 2-27-2024, comments pending. Intermunicipal agreement pending.

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



BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Clayton presented copies of the General Fund, Park & Pool and the State Aid Budgets regarding activity for the month of February, 2024.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kessler, second by Ms. Clayton, to accept the Budget & Finance Report. Motion carried.

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

No Report

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Sarno reported that a new man-door was installed to the entrance to the Police Station at a total cost of \$2404.00. He also reported that 8 electrical outlets and covers were installed in Police lounge.

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

TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Bruner reported that the tree at 185 Sherman was removed by the Street Department.

Ms. Bruner stated that the following street lights have been fixed:

1. 327 Beech in 43rd Alley.
2. Linden & Custer.
3. Corner of Burns and Holland Street.

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

President Holmes announced that Joseph Caporali has give notice of his retirement from the Vandergrift Police Department effective March 4, 2024.

President Holmes presented a contract Agreement between the Borough of Vandergrift and Joseph Caporali for employment as the Chief of Police for Vandergrift Borough. He explained that said Agreement is for a period of one year, whereby Mr. Caporali will be limited to 20 hours per week, from 9:00 AM through 1:PM, Monday through Friday.

A motion was made Mr. Holmes, second by Mrs. Kessler, to approve the aforementioned Agreement between the Vandergrift Borough and Joseph Caporali. Motion carried

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

RECREATION REPORT:

No Report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Kraft stated that action needs to be taken in the appointment of Vacancy Board Chair.

A motion was made by Mr.Sarno, second by Ms. Bruner, to appointment Nick Morgan as the Vacancy Board Chairman of the Vandergrift Borough. Motion carried.

Solicitor Kraft presented Resolution No. 3-2024 for adoption, whereby authorizing the submission of a grant application to the PA. Dept. of Health and Downtown Center of Walkworks Program. (See page 5-A)

A motion was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Mrs. Kessler, to adopt Resolution No. 3-2024 Motion carried.

Solicior Kraft presented for adoption Resolution No. 4-2024, recognizing April-2024 as "Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month". (See page 5-B)

A month was made by Mr. Uskuraitis, second by Ms. Clayton, to adopt Resolution No. 4-2024. Motion carried.

Solicitor Kraft reported that work is being completed with the MAAT/Vandergrift Intergovernmental Municipal Agreement regarding the propose LaBellvue Road sewer expansion project.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

**BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT
WESTMORELAND, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION 3 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT, WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND PENNSYLVANIA DOWNTOWN CENTER WALKWORKS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity, collaborates with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center to increase opportunities for physical activity through improvements to the built environment; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Health provides grant funding, through the WalkWorks Program, to support the preparation of Active Transportation Plans to help municipalities envision and implement projects to increase opportunities for physical activity and improved public health; and

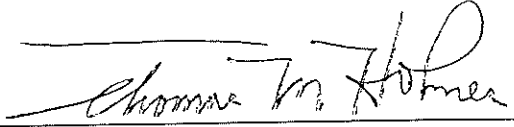
WHEREAS, Borough of Vandergrift supports and promotes active transportation, including walking, biking, using a wheelchair or other personal mobility assistive devices that contribute to active and healthy lifestyles among its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Vandergrift and Borough of Vandergrift Council seeks to develop an Active Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, Borough of Vandergrift proposes to respond to the WalkWorks Program Funding Opportunity Announcement with a grant application requesting funding in the amount of **THIRTY-THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$30,000.00)** to support the preparation of the Borough of Vandergrift Active Transportation Plan.

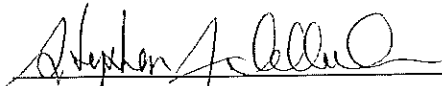
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Vandergrift and Borough of Vandergrift Council hereby authorizes Daisha Clayton, Council Member, to submit an application to the WalkWorks Program.

This **RESOLUTION** is adopted on this 4th day of March 2024.



TOM HOLMES
PRESIDENT, BOROUGH COUNCIL

ATTEST:



STEVE DELLEDONNE
SECRETARY, BOROUGH COUNCIL

**BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT
WESTMORELAND, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION 4 OF 2024

WHEREAS, the month of April 2024 recognized as "Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month", and the initiative sponsored by Pennsylvania 811, a utility notification information center with over 50 years of continuous service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania 811 received a million excavation notifications in 2023, over 3,000 construction projects in Coordinate PA, and transmitted approximately 6 million notifications to their member facility owners and operators allowing essential utility and construction crews to provide vital underground services and repair of critical infrastructure to communities throughout Pennsylvania; and

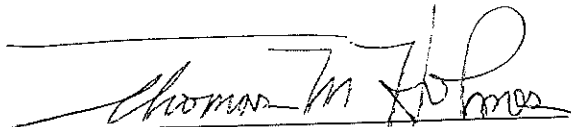
WHEREAS, their mission is to prevent damage to underground facilities, to promote safety, provide an efficient and effective communications network among project owners, designers, excavators, and facility owners; and

WHEREAS, when dialing 811, at least three business days before digging, a homeowner or a contractor is connected to a unique service that notifies the appropriate underground utility operators in the municipality in which the work will be performed; and


WHEREAS, by notifying 811 of their intent to dig, the homeowner or contractor is knowingly helping to protect the underground utilities, themselves, work crew, and their neighbors from any unsafe digging practices within their community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Vandergrift, in support of the Pennsylvania Underground Utility Line Protection Law, PA Act 287 of 1974, as amended, we do hereby proclaim April 2024 as "Pennsylvania Safe Digging Month", and encourage all Pennsylvanians to visit the Pennsylvania 811 website at www.paonecall.org for information about digging safely.

This **RESOLUTION** is adopted on this 4th day of March 2024.


TOM HOLMES
PRESIDENT, BOROUGH COUNCIL

ATTEST:


STEVE DELLEDONNE
SECRETARY, BOROUGH COUNCIL

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Mrs. Kessler, second by Ms. Clayton, to approve the placement of a Greenway Monument at the locations shown on attached page, pending approval of PennDot that the locations do not fall within PennDot right-of way, (see page 6-A)

Mrs. Kessler invited members of Council to attend a Community Watch Meeting on Thursday, March 28th regarding Vandergrift's sidewalk and streets.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mr. Uskuraitis, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

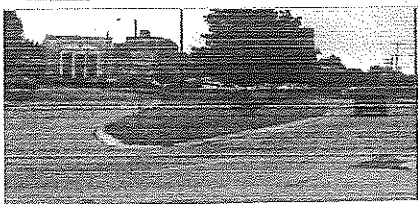
Agenda Items for March 2024 Council Meeting

NEW BUSINESS

- 1- Community Watch Meeting Thursday, March 28 -Enjoying Vandergrift's sidewalks and streets safely meeting open to residents of all ages and abilities. Officer Gray and Samantha Pearson, of PA Downtown Center will conduct the meeting as part of Vandergrift's Active Transportation Plan.
- 2-Request for council to approve placement of Greenway monument (see attached image) at one of the locations shown below, pending PennDot approval, as both locations are in a PennDot Right of Way.

Parcel 37-01-02-005 - The grassy area below the Casino Parking lot is not part of the parcel owned by the Borough. It is within the right-of-way of Washington Avenue SR 0056. Being between the lanes of SR 0056, this site would need PennDOT approval.

Parcel 37-01-02-101 - This parcel owned by the Borough. It is very narrow and is across the street from the grassy area at the corner of Sherman and Farragut (SR 56 Bridge). the grassy area (it's like a small park) is shown as part of the road right-of-way . Grass area is maintained by the Borough.



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

