

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

MINUTES OF THE VANDERGRIFT COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 13, 2025

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	
Daisha Clayton	

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 December 2, 2024 meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Wilson. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

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

Lisa Schrader, 231 Whittier Street, stated that she wished to thank all those involved in addressing and helping in the lose of her home by the recent fire event. She especially thanked

the Vandergrift No. 1 Fire Department, Vandergrift Police and Ambulance Service, neighbors and businesses in town.

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 stated that with the new year, we should have a new outlook, and addressed the following:

1. The Game of Skill letter will be going out tomorrow, deadline for payment is 3/1/25.
2. Will be getting the parking meters re-certified.
3. With work on replacing the gas lines, Mayor Collini indicated that Peoples repairs all as stated in the Borough ordinance.
4. With the cold weather, Mayor Collini requested the elderly be checked-on.
5. Mayor Collini stated that "if You See Something Say Something."

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary presented a letter from Arlene Klick, the Borough's Tax Collector, requesting an increase in her rate of collection property taxes and LST from 2.75% to 3.00%.

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

The Secretary stated that the Vandergrift Civil Service Commission is requesting Council repeal the Age Requirement from 21 years of age to 20 years of age. (See page 2-A)

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

The Secretary presented a letter of resignation from Officer Richard Gray, effective January 31, 2025. (See page 2-B)

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson, second by Mr. Young, to accept Mr. Gray's letter of resignation from the Vandergrift Police Department. Motion carried.

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

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT  
POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RULES AND REGULATIONS  
AMENDMENT

The Borough of Vandergrift, County of Westmoreland and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does hereby set forth the following amendments to the Civil Service Rules of the Borough of Vandergrift enacted by Resolution of 4 of 2018 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2018, and further amended by Resolution 2 of 2022 on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022, said amendment to the rules to be enacted as follows:

CHAPTER 3. FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICERS

A. APPLICATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

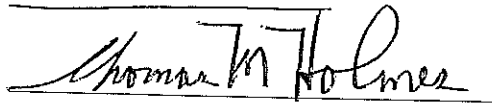
The provisions of Section 3.4 are hereby repealed and shall be replaced, in whole, with the following:

3.4 Age and Residency Requirements.

The applicant must have reached their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday before the deadline for submitting completed applications. Newly hired police officers are required to reside within a 13-mile radius of the Borough Administration Offices no later than the last day of the successfully completed probationary period.

The Civil Service Commission, acting at an advertised meeting on this date December 18, 2024, does hereby enact the same and recommend that the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift adopt the same by Resolution at a public meeting, in order for the same to become the rules of the Civil Service Commission for the Borough of Vandergrift.

BY THE BOARD:



THOMAS M. HOLMES, Secretary

2-13

# VANDERGRIFT POLICE DEPARTMENT

## BUREAU OF POLICE



109 GRANT AVE.  
VANDERGRIFT, PA 15690  
BUSINESS CALLS: 724-568-5507  
FAX: 724-568-5508

"Dear Vandergrift Mayor and Council Member's,"

I Richard Joseph Gray intend to retire effective January 31, 2025

I would like to express my thanks to Vandergrift Borough and members of the Vandergrift Police Department for the opportunities and experiences I have had over the past 30 years serving this community. Programs like Shop with a Cop, Feed the families, and Adopt-A-Family, are programs which I feel help the community engender this wonderful community. Activities like feeding the kids at Christmas time and having the kids ride their bikes to school under police escort will be memories they one day will tell their children about. Community Policing has always been at the core of a good police department and I feel that I have planted those seeds.

Although I am moving on, I will always keep a little piece of Vandergrift in my heart and the wonderful people I served both in good times and in bad times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard 'Joe' Gray".

Richard "Joe" Gray

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Exhibit 1-A: Lisa Dormire, Artfest Chair.

Subject: Requesting permission to host the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Vandergrift Artfest on  
On Sunday, July 27, 2025. (See page 3-A)

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

Exhibit 2-A: Trevor Burd Co-Chairperson, Vandergrift Pride in the Park 2025.

Subject: Requesting permission to use Kennedy Park on June 14, 2025 from  
12pm to 8pm for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Vandergrift Pride in the Park. (See  
page 3-B)

REGULAR AND STATED BILLS:

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

STREET & SANITATION REPORT:

No Report

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Bove presented and review his monthly report. (See page 3-C)

Acton was taken on the following:

1. Engineer Bove stated that \$27,700 has been received for the Olmsted Commons Project,  
with an additional \$59,119.00 will be needed to fulfill the contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Young, second by Mr. Sarno, to pay \$27,00.00 towards  
balance of the contractor's contract price. Motion carried.

2. The Engineer presented Resolution #2-2025, approving an intergovernmental agreement  
with Municipal Authority of Allegheny Township with respect to M.A.A.T. plan to the  
Implementation of a sewage plan.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wison, second by Mr. Sarno, to adopt Resolution No. 2-2025.  
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2 OF 2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT,  
COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND AND COMMONWEALTH OF  
PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH  
THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY TOWNSHIP  
FOR LABELLE VUE ROAD SEWAGE PLAN PURSUANT TO 23  
P.S. § 2305(a)

WHEREAS, the Borough of Vandergrift and the Municipal Authority of Allegheny Township ("MAAT") have discussed and jointly prepared a comprehensive Service Agreement related to MAAT's plan to implement a sewage plan designed to eliminate certain facilities and install new facilities at or near LaBelle Vue Road and south of Nevada Avenue, which shall connect MAAT sanitary sewer lines and facilities owned and maintained by the Borough of Vandergrift.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Vandergrift is authorized to jointly cooperate with other local government entities or authorities in the exercise or performance of its respective governmental functions, powers or responsibilities pursuant to 23 P.S. § 2303; and,

WHEREAS, in order to continue to adequately protect the health, safety and welfare of the Borough of Vandergrift residents, the Borough of Vandergrift has determined that intergovernmental cooperation with MAAT with respect to MAAT's desired implementation of the sewage plan outlined in the Service Agreement attached hereto is in the best interests of the residents of the Borough of Vandergrift;

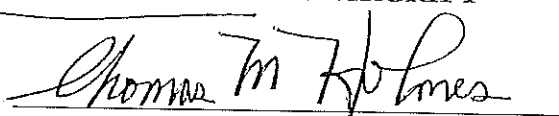
NOW THEREFORE, the Borough of Vandergrift does hereby resolve as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Borough of Vandergrift shall execute the attached Service Agreement and permit MAAT to move forward with implementation of the sewage plan outlined therein.

HAVING RESOLVED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025 at Vandergrift, Pennsylvania.

BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT

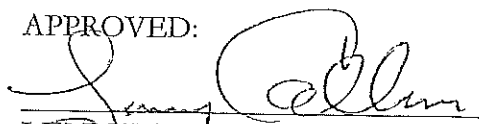
BY:

  
THOMAS HOLMES,  
Council President

ATTEST:

  
STEPHEN J. DELLEDONNE, (SEAL)  
Borough Secretary

APPROVED:

  
LENNY COLLINI,  
Mayor

# Vandergrift Artfest 2025

3-14

Dear Members of Council and Mr. Mayor,

On behalf of the Vandergrift Improvement Program I would like to formally request permission to host the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Vandergrift Artfest on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. The festival will officially run from Noon to 9 pm, but we will need to close the streets for set up from 7 am to approximately 11 pm.

We once again plan to use Grant between Sumner and Jefferson, Farragut from Grant to 11<sup>th</sup>, McKinley Avenue to 12<sup>th</sup> Street, and Columbia Avenue from Washington to right before G&G. Traffic for G&G will still be able to flow through the parking lot as was done last year. We will discuss trash removal and other details with you during future conversations.

Our formal application and deposit will be presented asap, and if we have another successful year we would plan to again make the returned deposit a gift of support to the borough to help cover costs. We will follow all guidelines in regards to insurance liability, street markings, etc.

This year's theme is going to be "Grimm" and is based on art from the original Grimm Brother's Fairy Tales. We were proud to be named the silver award winner in the Pittsburgh East division of the Trib's best of competition for 2024, and hope for a very successful year once again in 2025.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you again on this fantastic event.

Gratefully,



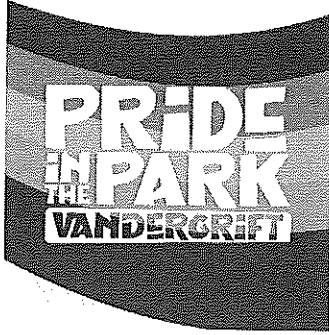
Lisa M. Dormire Artfest Chair

412-496-6779

[Lisa.dormire@gmail.com](mailto:Lisa.dormire@gmail.com)

Exhibit 2-A  
3-B

January 8, 2025



Attn: Vandergrift Council,

The Vandergrift Pride in the Park committee is requesting use of Kennedy Park on June 14, 2025 from 12pm-8pm for the 3rd Annual Vandergrift Pride in the Park.

Pride is a family friendly inclusive event that celebrates Vandergrift's and surrounding communities LGBTQ+ residents. Previous years have proved to be very valuable in letting people know that they are welcome in our community. The event was well attended and well received with no issues at all.

We will be purchasing the required insurance as well as restroom facilities for the event.

We look forward to working with you. If you have any questions please contact Trevor Burd at 724-393-7394.

Thank you again,

Trevor Burd  
Co-Chairperson  
Vandergrift Pride in the Park 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trevor Burd".



## Engineer Agenda items for January 6, 2025

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> • jodyarno@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 Monday, January 6, 2025 Council meeting:

1. **Olmsted Commons Park Development Project** – Requesting authorization to approve Payment Estimate No. 3 as soon as funds are available. \$27,700 is to be deposited from DCNR (an add'l. \$59,119 will be needed to fulfill the contract). Status is needed for In-House/Volunteer Work and fundraising total. I have yet to see the Press Release sent to the Trib 11/22. Note that the Raingarden seed mixture has not yet been installed (90 day germination). A small punch list remains.
2. **MAAT LaBelle Vue Road Sewer Extension - Intermunicipal Agreement** – Discussion and/or authorization to approve the Plans and Intermunicipal Agreement.
3. **2024 CDBG Project** – Subrecipient Agmt. signed and submitted to the County in December (please provide a copy). Discuss tentative bid opening date in spring.
4. **Reappointment for 2025** - Request approval of reappointment to the position of Borough Engineer.
5. **Ninth Street Retaining Wall Replacement Project** (CEAP Grant) Costs for Geotechnical Engineering and drilling received. Request authorization to proceed with Drilling & Geotechnical Engineering.
6. **219 – 225 Grant Avenue Partial Building Collapse** – No update.
7. **PNG Gas Line Replacement Projects**
  - a. Whittier Street Project – Planned to start in January 2025.
  - b. Franklin Avenue Project – Planned for July 2025.
  - c. Sherman Avenue Project Phase 1 – This project may have been completed. Please advise of any issues with the restoration.
  - d. Columbia Avenue Leak Project (11<sup>th</sup> Street) – Gas line work complete. Trench pavement restored but curb to curb wearing course not yet completed.
  - e. East Monroe Ave. (East Madison Ave.) Project – Planned for July 2025. Anticipate application being filed soon.
  - f. Longfellow & Irving Street Project – Now planned to start in February, 2025 (Half a block of Longfellow is within the 2024 CDBG project).
  - g. LaBelle Vue Project – Under design.
  - h. 231 Whittier St. (work in 7<sup>th</sup> Street) – Permit Pending.
8. **MAWC Line Repair Restoration Issues** – Several patches have yet to be restored (Alabama, Walnut, etc.).
9. **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 but not listed above, please let me know as soon as possible. I plan to attend the meeting and to be available for any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

4. Engineer's request for an appointment as the Borough's Engineer for 2025.

Mrs. Wilson recommended an appointment on a monthly basis. Mr. Sarno disagreed and stated that there would be no continuity and therefore recommending an appointment for one year.

Solicitor Kraft suggested that this matter be discussed in executive session.

6. President Holmes questioned Solicitor Kraft as to why no action has been taken on the Property located at 219-225 Grant Avenue.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mr. Young, to direct the Solicitor to send A letter to the owner of said property for the purpose of making the necessary repairs. Motion carried.

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

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT:

Chairperson Clayton stated that members of Council were provide with copies of the General Fund Budget, State Aid Fund, and the Park & Pool Fund.

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

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

Chairperson Kessler recommended the hiring of Melissa Beck as a substitute crossing guard, contingent upon passing a background check.

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

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT:

Chairperson Sarno questioned what amount has been collected to date on the delinquent refuse and sewer recovery bills.

Mrs. Geltz stated that approximately \$66,000.00 has been collected to date.

Mr. Sarno stated that he will need to determine the procedures for having the water shut off regarding the delinquent accounts.

Mr. Sarno questioned when funds will be available to replace the heating & air conditioning system that serves the police station.

The Secretary stated that funds will not be available until such time as the property taxes come in.

Mr. Sarno questioned if Saxion Heating will honor their original bid price.

President Holmes stated that this project may require to be rebid.

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

#### TREE & LIGHT REPORT:

Chairperson Bruner presented and reviewed tree and light report. (See page 5-A)

Mr. Young requested Ms. Bruner to remove a tree near the Pool facility.

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

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT REPORT:

No Report

#### RECREATION REPORT:

No Report

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Kraft stated that a motion is needed to amend the advertisement for January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to be moved to January 13, 2025.

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

5-A

raeannbruner@vandergriftborough.com

12/27/2024 7:11 AM

## Dec 2024 Trees and lights

To Steve Delladonne <vgborosec@comcast.net>

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### Trees and Lights December 2024

#### Lights:

- 105 Indiana Ave
- 521 Franklin
- 112 Hamilton
- 112 Sumner
- 103 Farragut
- 111 Georgia

#### Trees:

- 27th street alley broken branches and debris removed by borough crew.
- Washington Ave dead tree removed by borough crew

Solicitor Kraft presented for adoption Resolution No. 1-2025, which amends the Vandergrift Civil Service Commission Rules and Regulations changing the age requirement from 21 years of age to 20 years of age. (See page 6-A)

A motion by Mr. Sarno, second by Mr. Young, to adopt Resolution No. 1-2025. Motion carried.

Solicitor Kraft stated action needs to be taken regarding the retirement agreement between the Borough of Vandergrift and Officer Richard Gray.

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

At 8:30 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Kessler, to call an executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matter regarding the Borough Engineer. Motion carried.

At 8:40 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mrs. Kessler, to return to regular business, and to state that no action was taken during the executive session. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarno, second by Mr. Young, to retain Lucien Bove as the Borough Engineer for the year 2025, and with his fee set at \$80.00 per hour and to receive 15% of bid projects. Motion carried.

President Holmes requested the Engineer to provide Council with letter setting forth the above hourly rate and etc.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Secretary presented the regular monthly meetings for the Vandergrift Council and the Vandergrift Planning Commission will be advertised. (Page 6-B & C)

ADJOURNMENT:

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

6-A

**RESOLUTION 1 OF 2025**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Civil Service Rules of the Borough of Vandergrift were enacted by Resolution of 4 of 2018 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2018, and further amended by Resolution 2 of 2022 on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift has received the recommendation of the Borough of Vandergrift Civil Service Commission to amend the Civil Service Rules to change the minimum age requirement from age twenty-one (21) to age twenty (20), and has determined that the amendment of the Civil Service Rules of the Borough of Vandergrift is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Borough of Vandergrift; and

**WHEREAS**, 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;

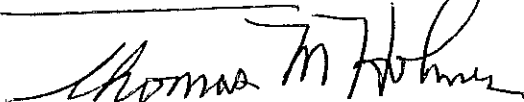
**NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift does RESOLVE as follows:

**RESOLVED**, that the Council the Borough of Vandergrift, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025, does hereby repeal and revoke any provisions of the Civil Service Rules of the Borough of Vandergrift in conflict with the amended provisions as adopted by the Civil Service Commission of the Borough of Vandergrift and which said rules were approved by the Board of the Civil Service Commission on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024, said rules attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "A" amending Chapter 3, Full-Time Police Officers, Subsection A, 3.4 – Age and Residency Requirements.

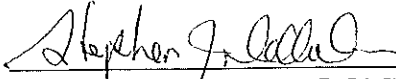
**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that said amendments, as approved by the Civil Service Commission of the Borough of Vandergrift on December 18, 2024 are hereby incorporated into the Vandergrift Borough Police Civil Service Rules and Regulations adopted by the Borough of Vandergrift Civil Service Commission and enacted by the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift by Resolution of 4 of 2018 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2018, and further amended by Resolution 2 of 2022 on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

**BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT**

By:

  
THOMAS M. HOLMES, Council President

ATTEST:

 (SEAL)  
STEPHEN J. DELLEDONNE,  
Borough Secretary

APPROVED:

  
LENNY COLLINI, Mayor

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025**

**NOTICE** in compliance with the Sunshine Act (Act of October 15, 1998, P.L. 729 No. 93), as amended by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is hereby given that the regular monthly meetings of the Council of the Borough of Vandergrift, for calendar year 2025 will be held at Vandergrift Borough Council Chambers; 109 Grant Avenue, Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, beginning at 7:00 P.M. prevailing time, on the following dates:

**January 13, 2025**  
**February 3, 2025**  
**March 3, 2025**  
**April 7, 2025**  
**May 5, 2025**  
**June 2, 2025**  
**July 7, 2025**  
**August 4, 2025**  
**September 2, 2025**  
**October 6, 2025**  
**November 3, 2025**  
**December 1, 2025**

Stephen J. DelleDonne,  
Borough Secretary

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING  
COMMISSION OF THE BOROUGH OF VANDERGRIFT FOR  
CALENDAR YEAR 2025**

**NOTICE** in compliance with the Sunshine Act (Act of October 15, 1998, P.L. 729 No. 93), as amended by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is hereby given that the regular monthly meetings of the Planning Commission for the Borough of Vandergrift, for calendar year 2025 will be held at Vandergrift Borough Council Chambers; 109 Grant Avenue, Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, beginning at 7:00 P.M. prevailing time, on the following dates:

- January 13, 2025**
- February 10, 2025**
- March 10, 2025**
- April 14, 2025**
- May 12, 2025**
- June 9, 2025**
- July 14, 2025**
- August 11, 2025**
- September 8, 2025**
- October 13, 2025**
- November 10, 2025**
- December 8, 2025**

Stephen J. DelleDonne,  
Borough Secretary



The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.