

OFFICIAL BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW BOROUGH

MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING - DECEMBER 14, 2022

Minutes of the special workshop meeting of Town Council of the Borough of West View, held Wednesday, December 14, 2022 in Council Chambers at 441 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15229. The Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by President William F. Aguglia, followed by a moment of silent prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Members of Council present were: President William F. Aguglia, Vice President Bryan S. Kircher, Members M. Kimberly Steele, Robert Schellhaas, Eugene Borio, and Donald E. Mikec. Also attending were: Chief of Police/Secretary/Manager Bruce A. Fromlak, Public Works Coordinator Rich Rapp, Administrative Assistant Haylie Kelly, Solicitor Michael J. Witherel, Engineer John Balewski, and Junior Council Member Jenna Woelke. Absent were: Scott V. Miller and Donald E. Mikec

Chief Fromlak began the meeting by introducing Greg Porter, the Executive Director of Ross/West View EMSA, for preparing tonight's special presentation.

Mr. Porter began the presentation by playing a short video for council. Ross/West View EMSA is planning to introduce a \$55 annual subscription in 2023 in all 5 communities it serves. The EMSA has been struggling financially in recent years, so they hope that this subscription will provide a more regular source of revenue so they can continue to maintain their staff and equipment.

The EMSA currently has a staff of 30 full-time employees, 20 part-time employees, and 10 volunteers. They also have a fleet of 7 ambulances. Employee benefits and wages have been greatly reduced in recent years. The revenue generated from this subscription will be used to maintain its staff, equipment, and facilities and to hopefully improve wages and benefits for current employees. Ross/West View EMSA's financial struggles have been exacerbated by the closing of many other EMSAs over the past 30 years, which means Ross/West View EMSA often has to fill in the gaps left by other authorities. The COVID-19 pandemic made an already dire situation even worse.

The fee would become a mandatory subscription for residents served by Ross/West View EMSA, but once paid, you would not have to pay any out-of-pocket fees for utilizing the EMSA's services. The EMSA will be holding public meetings in each community it serves to inform them of this new subscription. The EMSA believes this subscription would help them get their footing and provide a sustainable source of revenue.

An ordinance to be voted on in the Regular Meeting would allow Ross/West View EMSA to impose this fee on West View residents.

Chief Fromlak moved to close the Special Meeting and open the Regular Meeting. *Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kircher and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion approved and ordered.*

Approved:

BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW

BY: _____

Haylie Kelly

Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW

REGULAR MEETING – December 14, 2022

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Town Council of the Borough of West View, held Wednesday, December 14, 2022 in Council Chambers at 441 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15229. The Meeting was called to order at 5:51pm by President William F. Aguglia.

Members of Council present were: President William F. Aguglia, Vice President Bryan S. Kircher, Members M. Kimberly Steele, Robert Schellhaas, Eugene Borio, and Donald E. Mikec. Also attending were: Chief of Police/Secretary/Manager Bruce A. Fromlak, Public Works Coordinator Rich Rapp, Administrative Assistant Haylie Kelly, Solicitor Michael J. Witherel, Engineer John Balewski, and Junior Council Member Jenna Woelke. Absent were: Scott V. Miller

REPORTS FROM THE OFFICERS

Mayor's Report - J.R. Henry - Mayor Henry reported that the motor vehicle code violations for the month of November totaled \$4,238.89.

President Aguglia convened a motion to consider the promotion of Officer Chad Green to Sergeant, effective December 14, 2022. *Motion to approve was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Kircher.* Mayor Henry called Officer Green to the podium and administered the oath of office. Officer Green's wife removed his patrolman badge and replaced it with the Sergeant badge. Chief Fromlak formally introduced Sergeant Chad Green.

Chief of Police/Manager's report - Bruce A. Fromlak – Chief Fromlak reported that there were 344 calls for service, 69 citations issued, 125 traffic enforcement reports, 1 criminal arrest, 4 accident incidents, and 5 ordinance violations in the month of November. The Streetscape Project lighting installation has been finished and the Borough is still applying for more grant funding for the completion of the Streetscape Project.

Solicitor's Report - Michael Witherel – Mr. Witherel had no report but noted that Ordinance #1521 may need to be amended to make it clear whether the tax credits would be earned income tax credits, real estate tax credits, or both. Mayor Henry said that he thinks that Council should consider doing just the earned income tax credit.

Engineer's report - Mr. Balewski – Mr. Balewski reported that the Norwich Avenue stormwater project has been completed and appears to be working as intended. Mayor Henry noted that residents expressed compliments to the contractor on the project.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Finance Report - Bryan S. Kircher - Mr. Kircher reported that Wage tax collections totaled \$103,395.76 for November and were deposited into the Borough's General Fund checking account by Keystone Collections. The Liquid Fuel checking account had a balance of \$179,913.42 as of November 30th and earned \$354.20 in interest. The Building Fund money market account had a balance of \$19,706.23 as of November 30th and earned \$38.80 in interest. The General Fund money market account had a balance of \$8,457.50 as of November 30th and earned \$16.65 in interest. Real Estate tax collections for November

totaled \$31,823.16. Local Service tax collections for November totaled \$13,993.90 and Business/Mercantile collections for October totaled \$7,541.52.

Property & Purchasing – Eugene Borio - Mr. Borio had no report.

Police & Public Safety – William F. Aguglia – President Aguglia personally commended Officer Matt Pavlecic for his efforts in collecting toys, gift cards, and money which will be distributed to needy West View families. The Borough is still collecting items and there is a drop-off box in the lobby of the Borough Building.

Public Works – Robert D. Schellhaas - Mr. Schellhaas reported that 130 work orders were received and completed in the month of November. 3 ADA parking stalls and signs were installed. A box for new LPR cameras was installed. Overhead Christmas decoration lights were installed.

Budget/Administration – Bryan S. Kircher - Mr. Kircher reported that there have been no major changes to the budget since it was introduced at the November meeting other than a grant that was included for Powell Park which totaled \$100,000.

Fire & Water / Public Relations & Recreation – Donald E. Mikec - Mr. Mikec had no report.

Military & Veterans Affairs – Scott Miller - Mr. Miller was absent.

Public Works Coordinator – Richard Rapp – Mr. Rapp reported that leaf collection has ended. If residents want leaves to be collected, they must be placed in brown, decomposable bags. Mr. Rapp also thanked everyone who helped with Welcome Christmas to West View.

Junior Council – Jenna Woelke - Miss Woelke reported that the North Hills High School World Language Department has been awarded the Golden Globe from the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association. The Golden Globe Award is the Association's top honor this year and North Hills High School is one of just 9 schools across the state to receive this award. Members of the North Hills SADD Club decorated a DUI Dedication Tree in the High School lobby last week. The tree's decorations represent impaired driving statistics in Allegheny County in 2021 to serve as a reminder of the dangers of impaired driving, especially during the holiday season.

AUDIENCE

Ed Singley of Chalfonte Avenue approached Council regarding a letter he received about the additions being made to West View Elementary. He asked why no one on Chalfonte Avenue received any notice of the project or details about the extent of the additions. He said the letter stated that they will be putting a chain-link fence on one lane of Chalfonte Avenue in January and is concerned that residents will have nowhere to park. He is also concerned about the vehicle traffic on the alley between Highland and Chalfonte that might impinge upon residents' ability to get out of their driveways. Mayor Henry replied that the Planning Commission meetings were the time for residents to give input on the project and apologized that Mr. Singley was unaware. He also stated that residents in affected areas should have received posted notices. He went on to say that Council is voting on an ordinance tonight to limit parking to make it safer for the construction workers. Chief Fromlak added that the Borough could evaluate making the alley a one-way but is unsure of what impact it would have on the situation. Mr. Singley replied that perhaps they could make the alley closed off to thru traffic. Mayor Henry said the problem with that is it would be difficult to enforce. Mayor Henry asked Chief Fromlak how exactly traffic would be affected by the parking limits. Chief Fromlak replied that the chain-link fence would go

8-9 feet off the current curb to permit traffic of emergency services vehicles. They were trying to maintain parking in that area while still putting up the fence but there is simply not enough room. Chief Fromlak said he approached the manager of the Rite Aid across from the school and they have no problems with teachers using that lot. As far as making the alley local traffic only, he said the Borough has tried that in other areas before but it is not very effective and hard to enforce. Mayor Henry suggested that Mr. Singley stay in contact with Chief Fromlak and said that the Borough could examine the situation and see if there are other options. President Aguglia added that the Borough had a police officer stationed in that alley last week to monitor traffic and they are aware of the situation.

Jim Barr of 200 Frankfort Avenue approached Council and asked if they were going to approve the proposed 2023 Budget this evening. He said that the budget was not posted and residents did not have an opportunity to review it before approval. Chief Fromlak replied that notice was given at the last meeting and that anybody could stop by the Borough Building and obtain a copy. Mayor Henry added the budget meeting was formally advertised in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Mr. Barr asked why it was not posted on the website and Mayor Henry said that that is not required. Mr. Barr asked if the West View paving project is done for the year and whether Glenmore Avenue will be paved or resurfaced anytime soon. Chief Fromlak replied that the Water Authority was replacing lead lines on Glenmore and has finished, but is unsure of when the street will be paved since it is not the season for paving. Mr. Barr also asked if West View is responsible for maintaining both sides of Rochester Road and asked why only one side of it was paved. Mayor Henry said that multiple projects have been going on. The state applied tar and chips to the entire length of Rochester Road with the exception of the portion going through West View due to the water line project. He said Rochester Road is a state road and is not maintained by the Borough. When weather permits, the Water Authority's contractor is going to pave Glenmore Avenue, but it may not be until the spring. The Borough will not be doing that paving. Mr. Barr asked when West View joined the Ross/West View EMSA. Solicitor Witherel replied that it was 2001. Mr. Barr expressed concern about an extension cord across the walkway to the Magnolia Avenue steps. President Aguglia asked Mr. Rapp to check out the extension cord.

Jeff Selman of Tomoka Avenue approached Council on behalf of Ross/West View EMSA and praised them for the services they provide to the community. He said that in June, he was installing a gazebo when he fell backwards and was pronounced dead. A neighbor called 911 and performed CPR until EMS arrived and they were able to eventually revive him. Mayor Henry thanked him for his comments and agreed that Ross/West View EMSA is a vital asset to the Borough.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Workshop Meeting of Town Council on November 9, 2022 was made by Mr. Kircher and seconded by Ms. Steele.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Town Council on November 9, 2022 was made by Mr. Schellhaas and seconded by Mr. Mikec. Motion approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments for net pay and payroll withholding in the amount of \$170,160.08 was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Mr. Kircher. Motion was approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments to vendors for \$609,425.81 was made by Mr. Borio and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion was approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payment for liquid fuel expenditures for \$5,240.25 was made by Mr. Kircher and seconded by Mr. Schellhaas. Motion approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments for building fund expenditures for \$252.58 was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Mr. Borio. Motion was approved and ordered.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Agenda

Council to consider Ordinance #1522 (An Ordinance authorizing the imposition and collection of a special emergency ambulance service fee). *Motion to discuss the Ordinance was made by Mr. Kircher and seconded by Mr. Mikec.* Mayor Henry summarized the Ordinance, stating that it authorizes Ross/West View EMSA to implement a \$55 fee for every residential dwelling in the Borough and a fee for each business in the Borough ranging from \$55 to \$500 depending on the size of the business. He said this is historic as it will give the EMSA the long-term sustainable funding it needs. The Borough has been working with the other 4 communities served by the EMSA to come up with a solution that is fair to residents. The fee is mandatory, but he strongly believes this is the best solution to give Ross/West View EMSA the funding it needs. *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Kircher and seconded by Ms. Steele.* Mr. Porter thanked Council.

Council to consider the approval of the 2023 Budget as presented. *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Kircher and seconded by Ms. Steele.*

Council to consider the bid received from Waste Management for a 5-year contract for weekly collection of solid waste and the bi-weekly collection of recycling and household waste. Chief Fromlak stated that packets were sent out to various local haulers, but Waste Management was the only bid received. Waste Management came back with a rate that is 9% higher than the current rate, so beginning in January 2023, a household will pay \$30.50 more a month. This price could have been higher if the Borough had not gone with the automated collection system. Starting in April, each resident will be issued a 96-gallon garbage can which residents must fit everything in or else they will not take it. They will also be giving residents a new 64-gallon recycling bin to replace the old red bins and recycling will be collected every other week. Chief Fromlak also stated that West View is not the only municipality where these changes are being implemented. President Aguglia asked what the cost of the automation service is. Chief Fromlak replied it is \$30.50 a month, with 9% incremental increases each year for the 5-year contract. Mayor Henry added that the Borough is entering a 5-year contract as they believe it will be a better deal in the long run versus a 1-year contract. He said that while they do not normally like to approve single bid contracts, he believes this is the best deal. He also stated that the bid the Borough received is better than the bid the NHCOC received. Chief Fromlak added that the senior citizen 50% discount is still available under this contract. *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Mr. Kircher.*

Council to consider Resolution #1540 (A Resolution establishing the criteria that a volunteer must be certified under the Borough of West View's Service Credit Program to claim local tax credits). Chief Fromlak stated that this Resolution is in regards to a law that Governor Wolf signed in 2016 that authorizes local governments to grant local tax credits to volunteers at volunteer fire companies and at non-profit emergency medical services authorities. This would apply to the earned income tax credit. The list of volunteers would be certified by the chief of the company or authority and given to the Borough. *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Mr. Borio.*

Council to consider Resolution #1541 (A Resolution authorizing the appropriation of the American Rescue Plan Funds in the amount of \$683,102.77 to pay for police staff salaries and wages). Chief Fromlak clarified that the Police Department was not being given a bonus but that this money is permitted to be used for police salaries in order to free up money in the budget to be used for other projects. *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Schellhaas and seconded by Mr. Mikec.*

Council to consider Ordinance #1521 (An Ordinance authorizing local tax credits for volunteer members of volunteer fire companies and non-profit emergency medical services authorities). *Motion to approve was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Kircher.*

Council to consider Ordinance #1523 (An Ordinance amending the traffic code on Chalfonte Avenue from Perry Highway to Bellevue Avenue limiting the parking on Bellevue Avenue between Chalfonte Avenue and driveway entrance of West View Elementary). Chief Fromlak noted that this ordinance is temporary and parking on Bellevue Avenue would be returned to normal once construction is completed. Mayor Henry added in regards to Mr. Sangley's concerns that the Borough could take action on the alley if needed without having to pass an ordinance. *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Kircher and seconded by Mr. Borio.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

President Aguglia thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and wished all in attendance a merry Christmas and happy New Year. He closed the meeting in honor of Pete DiPietro, who recently passed away, and expressed his gratitude for all he did for the Borough over the years. With no further business to come before Council, *Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kircher and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion approved and ordered.* The meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

Approved:

BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW

BY: _____

Haylie Kelly

Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer