

BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW

SPECIAL MEETING – September 13, 2023

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Town Council of the Borough of West View, held Wednesday, September 13, 2023, in Council Chambers at 441 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15229. The Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by President William F. Aguglia.

Members of Council present were President William F. Aguglia, Vice President Bryan S. Kircher, M. Kimberly Steele, Robert Schellhaas, Donald E. Mikec, Eugene Borio, and Scott Miller. Also attending were Chief Bruce Fromlak, Public Works Coordinator Rich Rapp, Administrative Assistant Andrew Bensch, Solicitor Michael Witherel, and Engineer John Balewski. Absent was Mayor J.R. Henry

Mr. Witherel began the special meeting and stated its purpose was to consider the demolition of the following structure, located within the Borough: 419 Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, Block and Lot No. 350-P-096. Mr. Witherel stated this property had been posted and notice had been given to the property owner. Mr. Witherel stated that after sending notice to the property owner, he received an email from an individual claiming to be the property owner. The owner had no objection to the demolition of the property and was currently incarcerated. Chief Fromlak and Mr. Rapp have examined the building and determined it to be unsafe, unfit for human occupancy, and a nuisance. Mr. Witherel invited members of the audience to give testimony regarding this demolition.

With no audience testimony, Mr. Witherel recommended approving the demolition. He stated there is a mortgage on the property and the bank was notified as well. Mr. Rapp stated that the doors of the property are unlocked and anyone can enter. It appears the property has been looted. Animals and insects have taken over the inside. The second floor is completely gone, and there are problems with the foundation. Even if someone were to rebuild, the foundation would have to be rebuilt. Mr. Mikec asked if there was insurance on the property. Mr. Witherel replied that there was, and the Borough had \$25,000 escrowed from the insurance company to pay for the demolition of this property. It would not cost the Borough anything. Mr. Kircher asked who assumes ownership of the property once the demolition is complete. Mr. Witherel replied that it would still belong to the title owner for the time being.

Motion to approve the demolition of the structure located at 419 Highland Avenue, Block and Lot No. 350-P-096 was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Mr. Borio. Motion approved and ordered.

With no further business for the special meeting, Council moved immediately into the regular meeting.

BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW

REGULAR MEETING – September 13, 2023

President Aguglia invited Ross/West View EMSA Executive Director Greg Porter to the stand for a special presentation. Mr. Porter reported that between January 1st and June 30th, 2023, there were 4,568 911 dispatches that resulted in 3,731 ambulance responses. West View accounted for 10.4% of the total calls. 67% of the total calls resulted in transportation to the hospital. 42.7% of calls occur in the daytime, 41.1% in the evening, and 16.1% overnight. Of all the communities Ross/West View EMSA serves, West View has the quickest response time, with an average time of 7 minutes. During this period, the EMSA has collected \$702,903.00 as a result of the recently-implemented mandatory EMS fee, in addition to \$86,357.46 in donations. The total percentage of collections in all the communities the EMSA serves is about 40%. Late notices will be going out this month. Mr. Kircher asked if he knew where West View

stood in terms of participation. Mr. Porter replied that he did not have the information on-hand but would send it Council after the meeting. Mr. Mikec asked if the 40% participation was after the mandatory fee was implemented. Mr. Porter replied that yes it was. Since the fee implementation in March, the EMSA has made staff raises to increase retention, purchased 2 new ambulances, made computer and equipment upgrades as well as facility improvements, and increased training hours. Mr. Kircher asked if there is anything else the Borough can do to assist in the fee collection efforts. Mr. Porter replied that the EMSA has been trying to be in front of the media as much as possible. He also said that continuing to put information on the Borough's website and in the newsletter would be helpful.

REPORTS FROM THE OFFICERS

Mayor's Report - J.R. Henry - Mayor Henry was absent, Mr. Miller reported that the motor vehicle code violations for the month of August 2023 totaled \$3,712.20.

Chief of Police/Manager's report - Bruce A. Fromlak – Chief Fromlak reported that in the month of August, there were 482 calls for service, 78 citations issued, 177 traffic reports, 11 criminal arrests, 10 accident calls, and 9 ordinance violations. A portable speed sign was placed on Hidden Valley Drive between August 1st and August 23rd. The posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour. During that time period, a total of 2,705 traveled that roadway with an average speed of 14.49 mph. Between August 20th and August 31st, a speed sign was placed in the 200 block of Park Avenue. The posted speed limit is 15 miles per hour. During that time period, a total of 3,974 vehicles traveled that roadway with an average speed of 15.48 mph. During the month of August on Highland Avenue, a total of 159,263 vehicles traveled that road with an average speed of 28.61 mph. The posted speed limit is 30 miles per hour. During the month of August on Center Avenue, a total of 14,614 traveled that road with an average speed of 19.29 mph. The posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour. Chief Fromlak also mentioned that the Police Department is inquiring about getting new ballistic vests covers. This is not for consideration for a vote but potentially something to put in for the 2024 budget. These vests would allow officers to carry more equipment on their body instead of their hips, which is recommended by the insurance company. It would cost \$500 per officer for the equipment. Lastly, Chief Fromlak stated that Resolution 1551 is an agreement made with the state every 5 years in which they pay the Borough to plow and salt two state roadways in the winter, Perry Highway and Highland Avenue.

Solicitor's Report - Michael Witherel – Mr. Witherel had no report.

Engineer's report - Mr. Balewski – Mr. Balewski reported that the Borough started the pre-application for the CDBG and is putting in for a project on Mt. Vernon Avenue between Norwich Ave and Bell Ave. All materials are in for that and there may be a resolution in the next month or two to approve that. Mr. Balewski also commented on an agenda item. A few months ago, the Borough did a sewer project on Tomoka Avenue and replaced 10-inch pipe with 18-inch pipe. After this was completed, another section of pipe nearby was found to be leaking sewage. The Borough received a bid to line 127 linear feet of pipe. Mr. Balewski recommended awarding that contract to Insight Pipe Contracting LLC and said it should resolve the issue.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Finance Report - Bryan S. Kircher - Mr. Kircher reported that Wage tax collections totaled \$122,401.93 for August and were deposited into the Borough's General Fund checking account by Keystone Collections. The Liquid Fuel checking account had a balance of \$194,294.10 as of August 31st and earned \$145.79 in interest. The Building Fund money market account had a balance of \$20,064.12 as of August 31st and earned \$40.81 in interest. The General Fund money market account had a balance of \$8,611.09 as of August 31st and earned \$17.52 in interest. Real Estate tax collections totaled \$553,167.57 for the month of August. Local Service tax collections as of August 31st, 2023 totaled \$11,317.00 and Business/Mercantile collections for July totaled \$18,427.36.

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

Public Works – Robert D. Schellhaas - Mr. Schellhaas reported that 130 work orders were completed in the month of August. 200 cubic yards of playground mulch were spread. The Borough's 2023 paving project was completed.

Police & Public Safety – William F. Aguglia – President Aguglia had no report.

Budget/Administration – Bryan S. Kircher - Mr. Kircher reported that he and Chief Fromlak will begin meeting later this month to start drafting the budget for 2024.

Fire & Water – Donald E. Mikec - Mr. Mikec had no report.

Public Relations & Recreation – Ms. Steele reported that the Halloween Parade will be held on Monday, October 30th at 7pm. Sign-ups will begin later this month. The newsletter will be sent out soon and should arrive in mailboxes by the second week of October. Halloween candy bags for the parade will be packed on Thursday, October 26th at 5pm in Council chambers. Anyone may come and help. Trick-or-treating will take place on Tuesday, October 31st from 6 to 8pm.

Military & Veterans Affairs – Scott Miller - Mr. Miller had no report.

Public Works Coordinator – Richard Rapp – Mr. Rapp restated that paving for 2023 has been completed. All asphalt has been put down and center seams have been sealed. Outer seam sealing and line painting on Center Avenue and Glenmore Avenue will be done by the contractor soon. Mr. Rapp also reported that this past month, a judge granted the Borough a conservatorship for the property at 22 Dartmouth Avenue. After 30 days, the Borough will have the option to either send someone in to fix it or have it demolished.

AUDIENCE

Jim Barr of 200 Frankfort Avenue approached Council and asked for an update on the Tomoka Avenue sewer project. Mr. Balewski stated that that project was completed. Mr. Barr asked what the project entailed. Mr. Balewski replied that 750 feet of sewer line was replaced in the valley behind Tomoka Avenue. Mr. Barr asked about a 2-year term on council in this year's election and whether someone was stepping down. President Aguglia stated that last year, there was an individual who was elected but moved out of state, so council appointed Eugene Borio to a 2-year term to fill the vacancy. As a result, his term is up this year and there will be an election for an additional 2-year term in November.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Town Council on August 9, 2023, was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Kircher. Motion approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments for net pay and payroll withholding in the amount of \$169,735.44 was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Borio. Motion was approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments to vendors for \$490,369.04 was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Mr. Schellhaas. Motion was approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments for liquid fuel expenditures for \$5,506.83 was made by Mr. Schellhaas and seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion was approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments for building fund expenditures for \$22,470.90 was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion was approved and ordered.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Agenda

Council to consider the award to Insight Pipe Contracting LLC in the amount of \$18,014.95 for the rehabilitation and lining of 127 linear foot sewer pipe in the area of Park Avenue and Martsolf Avenue. *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Kircher and seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider Resolution 1551 (A Resolution authorizing the execution of a municipal winter traffic services agreement between the Borough of West View and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania). *Motion to approve was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion approved and ordered.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

President Aguglia thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. 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 6:05pm.

Approved:

BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW

BY: _____

Andrew Bensch

Administrative Assistant