

BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW

REGULAR MEETING – October 11, 2023

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Town Council of the Borough of West View, held Wednesday, October 11, 2023, in Council Chambers at 441 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15229. The Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by President William F. Aguglia.

Members of Council present were President William F. Aguglia, Vice President Bryan S. Kircher, M. Kimberly Steele, Donald E. Mikec, Eugene Borio, and Scott Miller. Also attending were Mayor J.R. Henry, Chief Bruce Fromlak, Assistant Secretary Haylie Kelly, Solicitor Michael Witherel, Engineer John Balewski, and Junior Councilmembers Joseph Bensch and Jenna Woelke. Absent was Robert Schellhaas

Mayor Henry began the meeting with a special presentation and invited John L. Boehm to the podium. Mayor Henry presented Mr. Boehm with a certificate of commendation for his heroic actions last month. On September 12th, 2023, while driving along Bellevue Road in Ross Township, Mr. Boehm witnessed the vehicle in front of him suddenly and unexpectedly leave the roadway and crash into a telephone pole, coming to rest on its side. After witnessing the accident, Mr. Boehm immediately pulled over to help and assess the scene. He began communicating with the driver, who was the lone occupant of the vehicle. After checking for hazards, including downed wires, Mr. Boehm determined that he could approach the vehicle safely. Mr. Boehm checked to see if the driver had any visible injuries and constantly reassured him as he looked for a way to safely extricate him from the vehicle. While standing on top of the vehicle, using only his own strength, Mr. Boehm was able to force open a damaged door. He then was able to physically assist the driver into a standing position out of the vehicle. With the driver out of the overturned vehicle, he escorted him to a safe location off the roadway and waited for other first responders to arrive. On behalf of the Borough of West View, Mayor J.R. Henry and the members of Borough Council do hereby recognize and commend West View resident, Mr. John L. Boehm, for his heroic and unselfish actions on September 12th, 2023. His swift actions on that day helped assure that the driver and others were not further injured or harmed due to this automobile crash. Our sincerest thanks to Mr. Boehm for his dedication to unselfishly helping others in their unexpected time of need and for making West View Borough a great place to live!

Mayor Henry then invited Junior Councilmembers Jenna Woelke and Joseph Bensch to the podium to be formally sworn in as junior councilmembers and presented them with a certificate.

President Aguglia then invited Kelley Kelley of CONNECT (Congress of Neighboring Communities) to the podium for an informational presentation. Ms. Kelley thanked Council and explain the mission of CONNECT. CONNECT works with the city of Pittsburgh and surrounding municipalities on cross-boundary issues and facilitates collaboration between municipalities to work on solutions to various issues. CONNECT is currently working on the "Future of Fire" program which seeks to address staffing issues with volunteer fire departments in various municipalities. Mayor Henry has provided input on this program. Ms. Kelley introduced Eric Raabe, Director of Infrastructure Resilience for CONNECT. Mr. Raabe stated that the purpose of Infrastructure Resilience is to discuss issues pertaining to public works, roads, transit, and building operations. They have facilitated conversations between municipalities and utility providers as well as help local governments take advantage of federal grants. Joey Brantle approached the program and explained the LEAD Program. The LEAD Program aims to allow officers to connect people with CONNECT's resources instead of arresting them for an offense. Ms. Kelley concluded the presentation and stated that if the Borough ever has an issue they would like to discuss with CONNECT, they can reach out at any time.

REPORTS FROM THE OFFICERS

Mayor's Report - J.R. Henry - Mayor Henry reported that the motor vehicle code violations for the month of September 2023 totaled \$3,903.15.

Chief of Police/Manager's report - Bruce A. Fromlak – Chief Fromlak reported that in the month of September, there were 462 calls for service, 109 citations issued, 210 traffic reports, 0 criminal arrests, 5 accident calls, and 10 ordinance violations. The mobile speed sign was placed on Park Ave eastbound during the month of September. The speed limit is 25 miles per hour. In the month of September, a total of 7,334 vehicles traveled this roadway with an average speed of 14.41 miles per hour. In the month of September, the fixed speed sign on Center Avenue recorded a total of 17,695 vehicles with an average speed of 19.64 miles per hour. Chief Fromlak also reported that contract negotiations are going well. They will be meeting with the Public Works Union tomorrow and the Police Union the following week. Chief Fromlak also reported that paving is completed. There are a few minor issues to address but they should be resolved in the next few weeks.

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

Engineer's report - Mr. Balewski – Mr. Balewski reported that the Powell Park CDBG project will begin soon. The pavilion work will start in the next 2 weeks and the new playground equipment should arrive in the next few weeks. They will determine whether this project can be completed before the end of the year or whether it will have to wait until the spring.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Finance Report - Bryan S. Kircher - Mr. Kircher reported that Wage tax collections totaled \$104,751.56 for September and were deposited into the Borough's General Fund checking account by Keystone Collections. The Liquid Fuel checking account had a balance of \$194,664.59 as of September 30th and earned 370.49 in interest. The Building Fund money market account had a balance of \$20,102.38 as of September 30th and earned \$38.26 in interest. The General Fund money market account had a balance of \$8,627.51 as of September 30th and earned \$16.42 in interest. Real Estate tax collections totaled \$456,290.65 for the month of September. Local Service tax collections as of September 30th, 2023 totaled \$1,468.77 and Business/Mercantile collections for September totaled \$1,448.45.

Property & Purchasing – Eugene Borio - Mr. Borio reported that the Public Works Department recently purchased 60-watt handheld tools. The total was \$9,939.

Public Works – Robert D. Schellhaas - Mr. Schellhaas was absent, Mr. Mikec reported that 102 work orders were completed in the month of September. New "Welcome" signs were installed in 4 locations across the Borough. 352 catch basins were cleaned out. Tree trimming at stop signs was done. Yellow traffic line painting was started.

Police & Public Safety – William F. Aguglia – President Aguglia reported that Officer Karski completed a 4-day course on interviewing. Detective Ganster and Officer Brunner completed a "Stop the Bleed" training. All West View officers will complete this training as they are scheduled.

Budget/Administration – Bryan S. Kircher - Mr. Kircher reported that budget for 2024 is well underway. Preliminary work is being done at this point and there should be a draft budget for the public meeting in November.

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 are online only and will be open until the parade starts. Candy bags for the Halloween Parade will be packed on Thursday, October 26th at 5pm in Council chambers. Trick or treating will be held on Halloween from 6-8pm.

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

Public Works Coordinator – Richard Rapp – Mr. Rapp was absent.

Junior Council – Jenna Woelke & Joseph Bensch – Ms. Woelke reported that North Hills' 5th annual Trunk-or-Treat will be held on Saturday, October 21st at the Middle School from 12-3pm. This event will feature trick-or-treating at trunks decorated by various student, school, and community groups. There is no cost to attend but donations will be collected for the Make-a-Wish Foundation and Children's Hospital Pittsburgh. Instant Decision Day is Tuesday, October 24th at the High School. This event will take place during the school day in the library where college admission representatives will be on-hand conducting personal interviews and will make admission decisions on the spot. All application fees will be waived for students.

AUDIENCE

Jacquelyn Ussack of 44 Park Ave approached Council to address the parking situation at 33 Oakley Avenue. There are many cars parked there, some of which have out-of-date inspection. She also stated that there is indoor furniture on their porch, as well as garbage in the front yard and on the street well before the pickup date. She expressed concern at the number of people living in the house and asked Council if they were paying wage taxes. Mr. Kircher stated he could not answer the question about wage taxes but that some of her complaints could be addressed by the Manager. Chief Fromlak replied that there are ordinances regarding abandoned vehicles, garbage in the front, and the furniture on the porch and they will reach out to the property owners to make sure they are in compliance with these ordinances. Mayor Henry added that the Borough welcomes anyone, and that regarding wage taxes, employers in the state of Pennsylvania collect wage taxes. He suggested that if she ever has any concerns, she can call 911 to file a report.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Town Council on September 13, 2023 was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments for net pay and payroll withholding in the amount of \$184,769.19 was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Mr. Borio. Motion was approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments to vendors for \$428,366.32 was made by Mr. Kircher and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion was approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments for building fund expenditures for \$2,291.42 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 the subdivision of Allegheny Tax Parcel 279-B-210 into three separate lots. This is located at the corner of Center Avenue and Cornell Avenue (townhouses). *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Kircher and seconded by Mr. Mikec. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider Resolution 1552 (A Resolution authorizing the distribution of the Foreign Fire and Casualty Premium Taxes pursuant to the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act totaling \$157,352.98. \$118,220 for the Police Employee Pension Plan and \$39,132.98 for the Non-uniformed Plan). *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Kircher and seconded by Mr. Mikec. 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. Miller and seconded by Mr. Kircher. Motion approved and ordered.* The meeting adjourned at 6:34pm.

Approved:

BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW

BY: _____

Haylie Kelly

Assistant Secretary