

BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW
REGULAR MEETING – December 13, 2023

Minutes of the Regular of Town Council of the Borough of West View, held Wednesday, December 13, 2023, in Council Chambers at 441 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15229.

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

REPORTS FROM THE OFFICERS

Mayor's Report - J.R. Henry - Mayor Henry reported that the motor vehicle code violations for the month of November 2023 totaled \$3,182.60.

Chief of Police/Manager's report - Bruce A. Fromlak – Chief Fromlak reported that in the month of November, there were 460 calls for service, 100 citations issued, 163 traffic reports, 9 criminal arrests, 7 accident calls, and 6 ordinance violations. The Waste Management cart delivery has begun this week after several delays. The Administration Office has been fielding calls to exchange the larger carts for smaller carts. The Borough is now also able to offer 35-gallon recycling carts which we did not think we would be able to before. Chief Fromlak also stated that Officer Chad Green will be resigning his position effective January 15th, 2024 and moving to Ross Township. Officer Green was always a stellar officer and will be missed in West View. President Aguglia asked if Waste Management will charge you for switching to a smaller cart. Chief Fromlak replied that no, the onetime exchange is free, however if you need additional carts there will be an additional charge for that.

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

Engineer's report - Mr. Balewski – Mr. Balewski reported that the Tomoka Avenue Sanitary Sewer Lining project was finally completed just before Thanksgiving.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Finance Report - Bryan S. Kircher - Mr. Kircher was absent, Mr. Miller reported that Wage tax collections totaled \$114,398.81 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 \$195,458.99 as of November 30th and earned \$384.80 in interest. The Building Fund money market account had a balance of \$20,184.42 as of November 30th and earned \$39.74 in interest. The General Fund money market account had a balance of \$8,662.71 as of November 30th and earned \$17.05 in interest. Real Estate tax collections totaled \$55,111.98 for the month of November. Local Service tax collections as of November 30th, 2023 totaled \$13,296.00 and Business/Mercantile collections for November totaled \$15,697.87.

Property & Purchasing – Eugene Borio - Mr. Borio was absent.

Public Works – Robert D. Schellhaas - Mr. Schellhaas was absent, Mr. Rapp reported that 107 work orders were received and completed in the month of November. Leaf collection has been wrapped up for the

season, with 275 cubic yards of leaves collected. Christmas decorations were installed throughout the Borough. The Public Works Department has also swapped 95 trash and recycling carts so far.

Police & Public Safety – William F. Aguglia – President Aguglia reported that Sgt. Stern and Officer Brunner attended an impaired driving law enforcement conference.

Budget/Administration – Bryan S. Kircher – Mr. Kircher was absent.

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

Public Relations & Recreation – Ms. Steele had no report.

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

Public Works Coordinator – Richard Rapp – Mr. Rapp had nothing else to report.

Junior Council – Jenna Woelke & Joseph Bensch – Ms. Woelke reported that North Hills National Honor Society will host their annual blood drive in the High School Wrestling Room this Friday, December 16th. Students and staff older than 16 are encouraged to donate. North Hills music students played a big role in this year's Community of Music event hosted by North Hills Cares at The Block Northway. All donations collected benefit local families and food pantries for the holiday season. All students will begin winter break on December 22nd and classes will resume January 2nd.

Mayor Henry addressed council regarding the 2024 budget. There was a typo that was fixed after the draft budget presentation at last month's council meeting. Mayor Henry thanked Jim Barr for pointing out the typo. Chief Fromlak noted that there were some minor changes made to the draft budget, but there were no drastic changes. A few line items were re-evaluated. There are a few vehicles on the budget, a backhoe for the Department of Public Works that will be paid for, if approved, through liquid fuels which the Borough is permitted to do through the state's regulations. A new police vehicle will be purchased, as well as a single-axle Ford F-350 pickup truck with a salt package for Public Works. The contractual agreements for Uniform and Non-uniform employees includes a 4% in wages for 2024. Mayor Henry stated that the General Fund revenues are projected at \$4,306,000 and expenses are the same. The General Obligation Fund is budgeted at \$517,900 revenues and expenses. The Building Fund comes in at \$86,000 for revenues and expenses. The Proprietary Fund is \$1,472,333.87, and the Liquid Fuel fund is \$170,005. The total Borough budget is \$6,560,733.87. West View will not have a tax increase in 2024 and the millage will stay at 6.3 mils. He thanked the Budget Committee for all their hard work on the budget.

AUDIENCE

Jim Barr of 200 Frankfort Avenue approached Council and thanked them for no property tax increase in 2024. He also stated that he liked the new "Welcome to West View" signs placed around the Borough and asked how many there were in total. Mr. Rapp replied that there are 4, they are located at Center Avenue and Williams Street, Perry Highway and Rochester Road, Perry Highway near Martorelli Stadium, and Glenmore Avenue and Rochester Road. Mr. Barr asked if it might be possible to fence in the area behind Ross/West View EMS (where the streetcar tracks used to be) and put in a dog relief station. He said it would probably be something to talk to Ross Township about but wanted feedback from West View Council as well. President Aguglia replied that there would likely be a few things to consider with that idea such as liability insurance and parking. Mayor Henry added that he's not sure who owns that land so he'd have to look that up. President Aguglia said that depending on who owns it, he could bring it up to them and see. Mr. Barr thanked Council and wished them happy holidays.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Town Council on November 8, 2023 was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion approved and ordered.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Budget Workshop Meeting on November 8, 2023 was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Mikec. Motion approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments for net pay and payroll withholding in the amount of \$291,710.35 was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion was approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments to vendors for \$687,704.76 was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion was approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments for liquid fuel expenditures for \$5,565.54 was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion was approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments for building fund expenditures for \$1,525.13 was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion was approved and ordered.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Agenda

Council to consider Ordinance 1525 (An Ordinance keeping the tax rate at 6.3 mils for the year 2024). *Motion to approve was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider Ordinance 1526 (An Ordinance appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for specific purposes of the Municipal Government hereinafter set forth, during the year 2024). *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider Resolution 1557 (A Resolution authorizing the filing of an application for DCED funds with the Commonwealth Financing Authority in the amount of \$55,000 through the Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant for a vehicle to be used for the West View HUB food bank). *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion approved and ordered.* Chief Fromlak stated that the state offers grant monies which nonprofits are permitted to apply for, but they have to go through a municipality to do so. The Borough is a passthrough; the Borough has no liability or ownership of the vehicle, but the request has to go through the Borough. President Aguglia asked if the Borough would have any liability if the organization were to go under, to which Chief Fromlak replied no, the Borough does not.

Council to consider Resolution 1558 (A Resolution authorizing the filing of an application for DCED funds with the Commonwealth Financing Authority in the amount of \$1,046,400 through the Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant for the Streetscape Project). *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider the hiring of a new full-time Public Works Employee. *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Mikec seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion approved and ordered.* Chief Fromlak stated that the Borough conducted interviews on Monday due to the pending retirement of Mark Scheller, who has worked for the Borough for 37 years in the capacity of a dispatcher for the Police and Fire Department early on in his

career, and currently as a Public Works employee. His last day is February 8th, 2024. This is a replacement, not an addition to the Public Works Department. Travis Cooney has been selected as his replacement. Mr. Cooney is a resident of West View Borough and meets many of the qualifications for the position. He currently works for Allegheny County doing similar work and has experience that will be valuable to the Borough. *Motion to amend the motion to include the name of Travis Cooney was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion approved and ordered.*

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. With no further business to come before Council, *Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion approved and ordered.* The meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.

Approved:

BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW

BY: _____

Haylie Kelly

Assistant Secretary