

BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW

REGULAR MEETING – February 14, 2024

Minutes of the Regular of Town Council of the Borough of West View, held Wednesday, February 14, 2024, in Council Chambers at 441 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15229. The Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by President Bryan S. Kircher, followed by a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Members of Council present were President Bryan S. Kircher, Vice President M. Kimberly Steele, William F. Aguglia, and Donald E. Mikec. 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 Eugene Borio, Robert Schellhaas, and Scott Miller

Mayor Henry began the meeting with a special presentation and invited Mark Scheller to the stand. Mr. Scheller has worked for the Borough for 39 years, first starting on December 12, 1985 and retiring on February 9, 2024. He started out as a dispatcher before transferring to the Department of Public Works. He is also a lifetime member of the West View Volunteer Fire Department. In honor of his 39 years of service to the Borough of West View, Mayor Henry and the Borough Council presented Mr. Scheller with a certificate of appreciation and wished him well in his retirement.

President Kircher then moved to Agenda Item #2. Council to consider the promotion of Detective Stephen Ganster to Sergeant, effective February 14, 2024. *Motion to approve was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Mikec. Motion approved and ordered.* Mayor Henry invited Detective Ganster to the stand and administered the oath of office. Detective Ganster was promoted to Sergeant.

REPORTS FROM THE OFFICERS

Mayor's Report - J.R. Henry - Mayor Henry reported that the motor vehicle code violations for the month of January 2024 totaled \$5,383.43. Mayor Henry also stated that although it is not official until February 15, 2024, the Borough wanted to announce the retirement of Sergeant Todd Towne. Sgt. Towne was employed with the Borough from May 24, 1990 through February 15, 2024. The Borough hopes to present him with his retirement badge at a future date. On behalf of the Mayor's office and Borough Council, Mayor Henry congratulated Sgt. Towne on his retirement.

Chief of Police/Manager's report - Bruce A. Fromlak – Chief Fromlak reported that in the month of January, the mobile speed sign was in the 1100 block of Center Avenue near Schell Field. The posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour and the average speed was 27.15 miles per hour, with 54,487 vehicles traveling that route in the month of January. Also in the month of January, the permanent speed sign on Highland Avenue, which is a 30 miles per hour zone, recorded an average speed of 28.26 miles per hour, with 111,123 vehicles traveling that route. Chief Fromlak also addressed the agenda item of appointing a new Building Inspector. He recommended considering Code.sys Consulting, Inc for that appointment. They have been in business for 35 years and seem to be the best option for the Borough. There is also a pedestrian-friendly communities grant by Governor Shapiro's office for municipalities. If awarded, the Borough would use these grant funds for the planning of pedestrian-friendly primarily along the entire length of Center Avenue. All parties have been notified of the demolition of 419 Highland Avenue. The Borough intends to demolish that property, as it is unsalvageable due to the fire damage from Oct 2022. The insurance funds are in escrow, there would be no cost to the Borough.

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

Engineer's report - Mr. Balewski – Mr. Balewski reported that the Borough opened bids for the 2024 paving program on Friday and received 8 bids. The lowest bidder does not appear to have the PENNDOT qualifications for the project, so if they can't provide them, the Borough will go with the second lowest bidder.

President Kircher noted that the committees have been revised for 2024 and moving forward different councilmembers will oversee the committees.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Finance Report – Scott V. Miller – Mr. Miller was absent, Mr. Kircher reported that Wage tax collections totaled \$34,677.31 for January and were deposited into the Borough's General Fund checking account by Keystone Collections. The Liquid Fuel checking account had a balance of \$22,648.27 as of January 31st and earned \$67.83 in interest. The Building Fund money market account had a balance of \$20,266.79 as of January 31st and earned \$43.88 in interest. The General Fund money market account had a balance of \$8,698.06 as of January 31st and earned \$18.83 in interest. Real Estate tax collections totaled \$5,918.77 for the month of January. Local Service tax collections as of January 31st, 2024 totaled \$1,212.44 and Business/Mercantile collections for January totaled \$6,536.88.

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

Public Works – Robert D. Schellhaas – Mr. Schellhaas was absent.

Police & Public Safety – William F. Aguglia – Mr. Aguglia reported that all West View officers will have completed the mandatory 12 hours of in-service training.

Budget/Administration – Bryan S. Kircher – Mr. Kircher had no report.

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

Public Relations & Recreation – M. Kimberly Steele – Ms. Steele reported that the renovation of Powell Park is about 75% complete. The ModWash on West View Park Drive is scheduled to be opened sometime in March. Sweet Pea's on Perry Highway finally opened this week.

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

Public Works Coordinator – Richard Rapp – Mr. Rapp reported that installation at Powell Park should be completed by tomorrow. They are awaiting the delivery of mulch, but once that is done, the park should be re-dedicated sometime in March. Mr. Rapp also stated that they are going to start posting notices at properties whose trash cans that are not moved behind the building line. They will not be fining residents but trying to remind them to keep the carts off of sidewalks.

Junior Council – Jenna Woelke – Ms. Woelke reported that the junior class traveled to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center last week and had the opportunity with representatives from over 250 colleges and universities. Our varsity girls' and boys' basketball teams will be heading to WPIAL playoffs later this month. The girls' team defeated Hampton last Thursday to claim a share of their first WPIAL section title since 1980, and the boys' team defeated Chartiers Valley on Friday to finish #3 in the section.

AUDIENCE

Jim Barr of 200 Frankfort Avenue approached Council and asked them about the project that is going on Center Avenue between Frankfort Avenue and Oakwood Avenue. Mr. Rapp stated that it is part of the greenspace project that was mentioned at a prior meeting, where they plan to add benches, trees, and a walkway in that area. They are currently putting down a compost base and are waiting for it to dry out before continuing work. Mr. Barr asked if it would be possible to fence off part of that area and put in a dog release station. Mr. Rapp stated there are already dog bag stations in that area. President Kircher added that he doesn't think that area would be conducive to a dog release station as it is not only close to a roadway, but also that the point of the project is to beautify that area. Mr. Barr asked about the Pennsylvania RACP grant on the agenda and asked if it was the same grant being offered by Governor Shapiro's office. President Kircher said yes. Mr. Barr asked about the appointment to the vacancy board and wanted to know what that board does. President Kircher replied that the vacancy board would meet if a councilmember resigned and establish a nominee if council didn't appoint one in thirty days. Mr. Barr commented on the new trash carts and said that he likes how big they are, but they are also very heavy. Mayor Henry clarified that they are larger because Waste Management is soon going to start enforcing that all trash items must fit inside the carts. They will no longer take items outside of the carts. He also mentioned that the Borough is still offering smaller trash cart exchanges for residents who want them.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of Town Council on January 2, 2024 was made by Mr. Aguglia and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion approved and ordered.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Town Council on January 2, 2024 was made by Mr. Aguglia and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments for net pay and payroll withholding in the amount of \$200,301.09 was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Mikec. Motion was approved and ordered.

Motion to approve payments to vendors for \$427,491.91 was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion was approved and ordered.

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

Motion to approve payments for building fund expenditures for \$4,087.27 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 Resolution 1559 (A Resolution authorizing the filing of a final application and business plan for the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (PA RACP) in the amount of \$633,072). *Motion to approve was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Mikec. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider the appointment of Code.sys Code Consulting, Inc. located in Millvale, Pennsylvania, as the new building inspector. *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Aguglia and seconded by Mr. Mikec. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider the appointment of M. Kimberly Steele to the Civil Service Commission for a term to expire August 1, 2029. *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Aguglia and seconded by Mr. Mikec. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider the appointment of Raymond Laporte to the Civil Service Commission for a term to expire August 1, 2027. *Motion to approve was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Aguglia. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider the appointment of J.R. Henry to the West View Water Authority of the Borough of West View Board for a term to expire December 31, 2028. *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider the appointment of William F. Aguglia to the West View Water Authority of the Borough of West View Board for a term to expire December 31, 2027. *Motion to approve was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Aguglia. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider the appointment of Paul Malone to the West View Water Authority of the Borough of West View Board for a term to expire December 31, 2027. *Motion to approve was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Mikec. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider the appointment of Daniel Dannenmueller to the Vacancy Board for a term to expire February 14, 2025. *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Aguglia and seconded by Mr. Mikec. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider the appointment of James Miller to the Ross/West View Emergency Services Authority for a term to expire December 31, 2026. *Motion to approve was made by Mr. Mikec and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion approved and ordered.*

Council to consider the appointment of Gary Punzak to the Ross/West View Emergency Services Authority for a term to expire December 31, 2027. *Motion to approve was made by Ms. Steele and seconded by Mr. Mikec. Motion approved and ordered.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Henry presented William F. Aguglia with an award recognizing him for his recent term as President of Council.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kircher thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. With no further business to come before Council, *Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Aguglia and seconded by Ms. Steele. Motion approved and ordered.* The meeting adjourned at 6:34pm.

Approved:

BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW

BY: _____

Haylie Kelly

Assistant Secretary