

BOROUGH OF BRADDOCK HILLS
MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 9, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Thomas Evans President of Council, called to order the regularly scheduled council meeting at 6:59 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Evans led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALLING OF THE ROLL

Council Present: Mr. Evans, President; Ms. Bolton; Ms. Schaffer; Ms. Kvorjak; Ms. Lang; Mr. Mohan

Others Present: Mr. Brown, Jr., Mayor; Robert Garvin, Solicitor; Cheryl Sorrentino, Manager; Jonathan Barron, Engineer

1. CALLING FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES AS POSTED (all ayes vote)

Motion to approve minutes from June 11, 2024 meeting made by Ms. Kvorjak.

All ayes

2. CALLING FOR BIDS

No bids.

3. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS (6 minutes each)

Shanel Marshall, 28 Newton Road – Ms. Marschall spoke regarding the conditions of a neighboring house. Mr. Garvin stated that it was a police matter. Ms. Marshall added that the house had no electric and trash issue. Mr. Garvin stated that the building inspector will be contacted and investigate on whether it's a code violation. Ms. Marshall inquired about the possibility of recycling. Mr. Garvin, Ms. Sorrentino and Council explained the difficulty involved including costs and providers.

Carol Palangio, 1051 Ardmore Manor Drive – Ms. Palangio asked Council to review and update the Ordinance regarding parking on Ardmore Manor Drive. She is requesting that street parking be allowed, but for it to a violation to block a driveway and walkways leading from the street. Mr. Garvin stated that the manager and police chief will discuss this matter and make their recommendations for the next meeting.

Mary Pat McDermott, 1098 Brinton Road – Ms. McDermott asked Council to take into consideration some other factors regarding the ban on single-use plastic bags prior to adopting the new Ordinance. She listed several issues with banning these types of bags. Ms. Schaffer asked her for sharing and stated several reasons she is asking Council to adopt the Ordinance.

Ms. McDermott inquired about controlling the deer population and trees on private properties that need maintained. Also, she asked Council to look into having their own email addresses for residents to contact them directly. Lastly, she thanked Council for allowing the residents on McKelvey Road to close the road for their annual block party.

Other discussions during citizens' comments included the condition of Newton Street and a possible nuisance vehicle. Ms. Sorrentino stated that the vehicle is a police matter. She explained the expenses for paving projects and how many grants have requirements that affect potential projects. She stated that they applied for a grant to pave Newton Street, but it was rejected as it didn't meet income requirements.

DeWitt Walton, Allegheny County Councilman – Mr. Walton thanked Mayor Brown and Council for paying attention and listening to their constituents. He explained that budgeting has been an issue for the County and other municipalities since many business buildings have been reassessed, which resulted in lost revenue. The loss in revenue has been an issue since expenses have increased, but revenue has decreased. He stated that this will result in a tax increases. Further discussions regarding this matter followed with Council, Mayor Brown and residents.

Melody Farrin, 2826 McKelvey Road – Ms. Farrin stated that twelve trees have been planted within the Borough as part of the Shade Tree Commission. She added that six trees will be donated for the walking track and playground area. Ms. Bolton stated her issues with trees in the Borough.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Passed out prior to meeting.

5. REPORT OF BOROUGH COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE – CHAIRPERSON BOLTON

No report.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – CHAIRPERSON URSINY

No report.

C. ZONING & ORDINANCES – CHAIRPERSON KVORJAK

1) Motion to Adopt Resolution 5 of 2024 appointing Anthony Buba, Sean Skelley and Mary Pat McDermott to Braddock Hills Borough with the terms stated in the Resolution

Motion – Ms. Kvorjak

Second – Ms. Schaffer

Roll Call – Unanimous – Carried

Ms. Lang thanked them for their service to the Borough.

D. COMMUNITY EVENTS – CHAIRPERSON SCHAFFER

Ms. Schaffer thanked residents of McKelvey Road for their invitation to their block party. She attended with Ms. Lang and they both enjoyed themselves.

Ms. Schaffer stated that there is a delay in the opening of the playground but hoping it will be open soon.

Motion to table consideration of Ordinance 2 of 2024 Amending Chapter 10 of the Borough Code of Ordinances by the addition of Part 6, entitled “Single-Use Plastic Carry Out Bags”. This Ordinance will be considered at the next Council’s August 13, 2024 meeting.

Motion – Ms. Schaffer

Second – Ms. Kvorjak

Roll Call – Unanimous – Carried

E. HEALTH & SANITATION – CHAIRPERSON LANG

Ms. Lang stated that she is thrilled that so many residents were in attendance to voice their concerns.

No report.

F. BUILDINGS & BOROUGH PROPERTY –CHAIRPERSON EVANS

No report.

G. PUBLIC WORKS – CHAIRPERSON MOHAN

Mr. Mohan stated that he participated in the walk-through of Center Street with the engineer and Allegheny County Conservation District. He explained the process of the grant application and re

6. REPORT OF BOROUGH OFFICERS

A. MAYOR – JOHN BROWN

He read the police and EMS reports for June 2024 (see attached). There is no fire report and no knowledge of any fire service needed the month of June. He stated that he was invited to several upcoming events.

B. SOLICITOR – ROBERT GARVIN

Mr. Garvin stated that he was authorized to file a lawsuit for the delayed demolition of 995 Garfield Avenue and that is working on a court order to serve the property owner.

He added that he is a solicitor of other municipalities and that they do not always engage with their residents. He stated that the residents are fortunate that these Council members respond to their comments as they are not required to respond.

C. ENGINEER – JONATHAN BARRON

Mr. Barron read his report (see attached).

7. REPORT OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS: CHAIRPERSON EVANS

Mr. Evans stated that they discussed their concerns regarding the sale of U.S. Steel. Mr. Walton asked what is the sense of Council of Governments regarding the sale. Mr. Evans answered that it is positive in regards to money for employees and there are several other mills they own and kept in U.S. cities. Mayor Brown added that there are certain concerns for keeping the mills in the Mon Valley area. Further discussions followed.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No report.

9. NEW BUSINESS

No report.

11. CALLING FOR APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT AS POSTED

(all ayes vote)

Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Ms. Kvorjak.

All ayes

12. CALLING FOR APPROVAL TO PAY ALL BILLS AS POSTED IN THE LIST OF BILLS

Motion – Ms. Bolton

Seconded – Ms. Kvorjak

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

13. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. Evans adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.