

**BOROUGH OF BRADDOCK HILLS
MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 11, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Thomas Evans, President of Council, called the regularly scheduled council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Evans led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALLING OF THE ROLL

Council Present: Mr. Evans, President; Ms. Bolton; Ms. Kvorjak; Mr. Gambino; Ms. Yazvac; Mr. Vogel

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

CALLING FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES AS POSTED

Motion to approve minutes from May 14, 2019 meeting made by Ms. Bolton.

All Ayes

CALLING FOR BIDS

No bids.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was passed out prior to meeting.

COMMENTS & CRITICISMS OF CITIZENS (6 minutes each)

Mr. Evans read a statement (see attached) regarding the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with Swissvale Borough to the audience prior to comments.

Cassie Schaffer, 322 Virginia Avenue – Ms. Schaffer commented on the matter of the police and the tentative agreement with Swissvale Borough. She stated that there was a problem with the lack of transparency by the Borough officials. Also, she understands the issues with police manpower and trusts that council is able to handle the matter. She explained to council about the unofficial Borough Facebook page where the matter was discussed. She also stated that residents have ideas and would like to be more involved in decision-making matters in the Borough.

David Ginsburg, 9 Orchard Street – Mr. Ginsburg asked how many police work on the weekend and if we could find anyone to fill these shifts. Also, will Swissvale Police will answer calls only or patrol.

Chief Helinski replied that there is currently one officer per shift at this time and they are having a difficult time, which is why we need contracted services.

Mr. Evans stated that some part-time officers are unwilling to work weekends.

Chief Helinski stated that Swissvale Police would patrol the Borough regularly and answer all calls.

Tony Gary, 900 Harrison Avenue – Mr. Gary asked if the police departments currently assist each other.

Chief Helinski stated that several boroughs have mutual assistance agreements and assist each other as needed.

Mr. Gary stated that is on-board with the decision and feels safe with Chief Helinski's decision.

Mr. Vogel stated that the police academy used to have thirty to forty candidates and now have less than half of that. This decision was strictly due to a manpower issue as we are having a hard time filling positions in the department. Also, the Chief has been working a lot of overtime hours, which is not good over a long period of time.

Michelle Zorrilla, 893 Harrison Avenue – Ms. Zorrilla thanked the police for their service. She asked council what it would take to recycle within the Borough.

Mr. Evans stated that we would have to look into costs and if residents would be interested. If residents don't mind the cost and willing to recycle, then council would consider it.

Diana Wilhelm, 1209 Circle Drive – Ms. Wilhelm thanked police for keeping residents safe and working with other boroughs to ensure their safety.

She stated that she spoke with the Borough Manager regarding an issue with her driveway. She is having issues since the paving project on her street and would like to know when it will be fixed.

Ms. Sorrentino stated that it will be included in the next paving project. She would like the contractor to look at all driveways as several people had issues.

Ms. Wilhelm asked about the possibility of a fence in the front yard. She asked why it's currently not allowed and if it will be discussed again.

Ms. Sorrentino stated that the last ordinance regarding fences was from 1991, but no reason is given. Also, the decision will be up to council and they will have to discuss the matter before it is on the agenda.

Ms. Zilko was in attendance and stated that she was informed of this Ordinance in the 1970's when she purchased her home. She was told that no fences were allowed in the front yards in case of a fire. This would allow easier access for firefighters.

David Ginsberg stated that he heard discussions about Woodland Hills School District raising the millage again. He has read in the *Pittsburgh Business Times* that the school district is rated low. Also, he understands the issue with the charter schools.

Mayor Brown stated that he has been attending meetings that involve officials from all twelve municipalities. They have been discussing the issues, which include budgets, charter schools, and transportation.

Mr. Ginsberg stated that there is a tax bill (HB 2329) that the State is looking at swapping real estate tax for earned income to fund schools. He asked everyone to review this bill.

Mr. Ginsberg then thanked Chief Helinski for his work.

Jazmine Bonner stated that she does not live in the Borough but was there on behalf of a private Christian school that is interested in opening in the area. Solicitor Garvin stated that it sounds good, but not sure if there was a good location in the Borough. Mr. Evans stated that council would have to investigate properties that may serve their purpose.

1. REPORT OF BOROUGH COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE – CHAIRPERSON BOLTON

Motion to transfer \$20,000 from First National Bank General account to Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust General account

Motion – Ms. Bolton

Seconded – Mr. Gambino

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – CHAIRPERSON URSINY

Motion to advertise authorizing the entry into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the Borough of Swissvale for municipal police services on weekends commencing on July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021 with the right to terminate with thirty days' notice

Motion – Ms. Yazvac

Seconded – Mr. Vogel

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

Motion to hire Patrick Lucas as part-time patrol officer with Braddock Hills Police Department as per current contract rates

Motion – Ms. Yazvac

Seconded – Ms. Bolton

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

C. ZONING – CHAIRPERSON KVORJAK

Motion to authorize the submission of a letter to Pennsylvania Department of Transportation requesting a safety review and/or traffic study of Brinton Road within the Borough

Ms. Kvorjak added specifically the intersections of Garfield, Columbia, McKelvey and Kings.

Motion – Ms. Kvorjak

Seconded – Ms. Yazvac

Roll Call Vote –

Mr. Gambino – No

Ms. Bolton – Yes

Ms. Yazvac – Yes

Mr. Vogel – No

Ms. Kvorjak – Yes

Mr. Evans - No

Tie Breaker, Mayor Brown – Yes

Motion Carried

D. ORDINANCES – CHAIRPERSON VOGEL

No report.

E. HEALTH & SANITATION – CHAIRPERSON YAZVAC

No report.

F. BUILDINGS & BOROUGH PROPERTY –CHAIRPERSON EVANS

No report.

G. PUBLIC WORKS – CHAIRPERSON GAMBINO

Motion to ratify the phone vote on May 28, 2019 to authorize removal of tree located at 364 Virginia Avenue by Jungle Jims Tree Removal Service in the amount of \$800.00.

Motion – Mr. Gambino

Seconded – Ms. Bolton

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

Motion to accept the bid of \$11,750.00 from Mele & Mele & Sons to correct a drainage problem on Illinois Avenue in the vicinity of the property located at 958 Illinois Avenue with price including labor, material and equipment

Motion – Mr. Gambino

Seconded – Ms. Bolton

Motion to table vote and bid out with future paving project of Indiana Avenue and Montana Avenue

Motion – Ms. Yazvac

Seconded – Mr. Vogel

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

Motion to submit an application for a GP-7 permit to Allegheny County Conservation District as part of the grant process for paving of Vermont Avenue and for payment of any application fees and engineer's costs

Motion – Mr. Gambino

Seconded – Ms. Yazvac

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

8. REPORT OF BOROUGH OFFICERS

A. MAYOR – JOHN BROWN

Mayor read police, EMS and fire reports for May 2019 (see attached). He attended the following meetings:

- Meeting of Woodland Hills School District municipalities
- Meeting with Swissvale elected officials, Borough Manager and Police Chief regarding contracted services

- Viewing of the funeral of County Council Representative Dr. Charles Martoni
- Joined in the motorcade with North Braddock AmVets for Memorial Day services
- Attended monthly Steel Rivers Council of Governments meeting which was hosted by Braddock Hills Borough this month
- Emergency Coordinator training held by Allegheny County Emergency Services
- Gene Kelly Awards ceremony which Woodland Hills School won several awards and Propel School of Braddock Hills won one

B. SOLICITOR – ROBERT GARVIN

Mr. Garvin stated that the initial reassessment for Guardian Storage was \$4.9 million but was appealed by owner and lowered to \$2.59 million. During assessment hearing, Guardian was providing half-truths, so he did a follow-up with the school solicitor to appeal on behalf of Borough and School

He stated that there was a case that emanated from a regional DUI task force stop located at the old StarLake Amphitheater (now called KeyBank Pavilion). There was a stop that resulted in an arrest and conviction. It was then appealed to Supreme Court. It was there that the conviction was overturned. These regional task forces have communities that have joined with them, but it must be done appropriately by adopting an ordinance. The taskforce in question adopted a resolution, so the conviction was overturned. We will have to look into this matter to make sure we have an ordinance in place.

C. ENGINEER

Report was read by Robert Garvin (see attached).

9. REPORT OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS: CHAIRPERSON EVANS

Meeting was hosted by Braddock Hills and held at the Senior Center. Everything went smoothly and thanked Public Works department and Cheryl Sorrentino. There is no meeting until September 2019.

10. THREE RIVERS WET WEATHER: CHERYL SORRENTINO

Ms. Sorrentino stated that she attended meeting with Engineer Jonathan Barron as there were some issues with manholes and sewers located along the borders with Swissvale and Edgewood. They are meeting with these municipalities regarding shared costs of repairs to save money.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

14. CALLING FOR APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT AS POSTED

(all ayes vote)

Motion to approve the treasurer’s report by Mr. Vogel.

All ayes

CALLING FOR APPROVAL TO PAY ALL BILLS AS POSTED IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$67,042.01 TO INCLUDE:

- General fund expenses of \$56,591.00
 - Sewer fund expense of \$1,072.50
 - Refuse fund expense of \$9,378.51
- Motion – Mr. Evans
Seconded – Mr. Gambino
Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

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

Mr. Vogel calling for the continuation of this meeting to June 25, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

All ayes

**BOROUGH OF BRADDOCK HILLS
MINUTES
CONTINUATION OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 25, 2019**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Continuation of meeting began with Mr. Evans leading the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 p.m.

CALLING OF THE ROLL

Council Present: Mr. Evans, President; Ms. Bolton; Ms. Kvorjak; Ms. Yazvac
Others Present: Robert Garvin, Solicitor; Cheryl Sorrentino, Manager

2. COMMENTS OF CITIZENS (6 minutes each)

No comments

3. REPORT OF BOROUGH COMMITTEES

H. PUBLIC SAFETY – CHAIRPERSON URSINY

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2 of 2019 authorizing the entry into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the Borough of Swissvale for municipal police services on weekends commencing on July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021 with the right to terminate with thirty days’ notice

Motion – Ms. Bolton
Seconded – Ms. Yazvac
Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

Solicitor Garvin stated that the proof of advertisement will be made part of this record.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

No report.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

No report.

5. **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR**

Mr. Evans adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.