

BOROUGH OF BRADDOCK HILLS
MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
via phone
November 10, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Ursiny led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALLING OF THE ROLL

Council Present: Mr. Evans, President; Mr. Ursiny, Vice-President; Ms. Bolton; Ms. Yazvac; Ms. Kvorjak; Ms. Schaffer

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Evans announced a public hearing will be held prior to regular council meeting. Mr. Garvin stated that the hearing is to determine if property located at 318 Virginia Avenue, Braddock Hills, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, should be demolished as a dangerous structure in accordance with Borough Ordinance No. 4 of 1991

CALLING FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES AS POSTED

Motion to approve minutes from October 13, 2020 meeting made by Mr. Ursiny.

All Ayes

CALLING FOR BIDS

Ms. Sorrentino opened two bids received from Waste Management and Bigs Sanitation for contracted trash collection service in the Borough. She read the price options provided by Waste Management (attached). Bigs Sanitation did not bid on services.

COMMENTS & CRITICISMS OF CITIZENS (6 minutes each)

Colleen Antantis, 2783 Columbia Avenue – Ms. Antantis asked if the lights on the stop signs will be fixed and if there was a plan of action for speed control in the Borough.

Mayor Brown stated that he spoke with Chief Helinski and there is no definite plan to date. He noted that if Chief Helinski does have a plan, he is not ready to announce it at this time. Ms. Sorrentino stated that she spoke with Public Works foreman, Chris Bowser. The lights on the stop signs that are not working need replaced as they are broken and not a matter of replacing batteries.

Ms. Antantis asked if they are being replaced. Ms. Sorrentino replied that she would have to look into costs prior to making a decision.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Sorrentino stated that all correspondence has been sent to council and mayor prior to the meeting.

1. REPORT OF BOROUGH COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE – CHAIRPERSON BOLTON

Motion to contribute \$1,000 to the C.C. Mellor Memorial Library for 2020

Motion – Ms. Bolton

Seconded – Mr. Gambino

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

Motion to approve the 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the police pension plan in the amount of \$43,223

Motion – Ms. Bolton

Seconded – Ms. Kvorjak

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

Motion to ratify phone vote on October 23, 2020 to finance \$10,099.16 through First National Bank at 2.79% interest rate with three annual payments for purchase of police radios and accessories

Ms. Antantis asked how many radios. Ms. Sorrentino responded that it was for eight (8) radios with chargers and accessories.

Motion – Ms. Bolton

Seconded – Ms. Yazvac

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

Motion to notify Wilkesburg-Penn Joint Water Authority to pass on increased rate of 7 percent by Alcosan onto customers in Braddock Hills Borough

Motion – Ms. Bolton

Seconded – Mr. Ursiny

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

Motion to advertise 2021 budget

Motion – Ms. Bolton

Seconded – Mr. Gambino

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – CHAIRPERSON URSINY

Motion to adopt Resolution 8 of 2020 implementing COVID-19 exposure protocol and policy for Borough employees

Motion – Mr. Ursiny

Seconded – Mr. Gambino

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

Motion to ratify phone vote on October 23, 2020 to purchase eight (8) police radios with chargers and accessories for \$10,099.16 from Louttamus through a CoStars contract

Motion – Mr. Ursiny

Seconded – Ms. Bolton

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

C. ZONING – CHAIRPERSON KVORJAK

No report.

D. ORDINANCES – CHAIRPERSON SCHAFFER

Motion to advertise Ordinance #1 of the Borough of Braddock Hills, Amending Chapter 25, Trees, of the Borough of Braddock Hills Code by the addition of Part 1, Diseases; Part 2, Injury and Removal; and Part 3, Prohibitive Planting

Ms. Kvorjak asked who would determine that the tree is diseased. Ms. Sorrentino stated that it would be Public Works or Code Enforcement Officer. However, the tree would have to be obviously diseased (i.e. no vegetation growth, missing bark, cracked/ready to fall).

Mr. Garvin stated borough employees would make the determination and that the tree would be obviously diseased and ready to fall. The Borough would then notify the owner and give them time to remove or maintain it.

Ms. Bolton asked what are prohibited trees. Mr. Garvin answered that it would be trees planted in rights-of-way.

Motion – Ms. Schaffer

Seconded – Ms. Yazvac

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous - Carried

E. HEALTH & SANITATION – CHAIRPERSON YAZVAC

Motion to adopt Resolution 9 of 2020 declaring that the property located at 318 Virginia Avenue is a dangerous structure under Ordinance Number 4 of 1991 and authorizing the demolition of the property in accordance with the Ordinance

Motion – Ms. Yazvac

Seconded – Mr. Gambino

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous - Carried

F. BUILDINGS & BOROUGH PROPERTY –CHAIRPERSON EVANS

No report.

G. PUBLIC WORKS – CHAIRPERSON GAMBINO

No report.

2. **REPORT OF BOROUGH OFFICERS**

A. **MAYOR – JOHN BROWN**

Mayor read police and EMS reports for October 2020 (see attached). He added that although he did not receive a fire report that the fire department did provide three trucks to patrol on Halloween night. Swissvale Police and Woodland Hills EMS also patrolled the Borough. Also, he and Robert Henkel (former Councilperson) rode with Officer Kurt Henkel and passed out candy.

North Braddock Fire Department also answered a call at Brinton Apartments for a small kitchen fire that was confined to one unit.

B. **SOLICITOR – ROBERT GARVIN**

Mr. Garvin read an anonymous letter received from Borough citizens. He brought the matter of the letter to the attention of the Manager prior to sharing it with Council and Mayor.

He stated that the letter accused Public Works department of abusing Borough time and equipment to collect scrap. He noted that the accusations were unsubstantial as there no details, pictures or other evidence included with the letter.

Also, he stated that the Manager stated that there is an identical truck (red, Ford F-350) that has been spotted picking up scrap around the Borough and neighboring municipalities. The only difference between the vehicles is that the scrap truck does not have markings on the door. Mr. Evans and Mr. Gambino noted that they have also seen the unmarked vehicle.

The Manager stated she would not take any action until she receives substantial evidence that proves their accusations.

C. **ENGINEER**

Report was read by Ms. Sorrentino (see attached).

3. **REPORT OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS: CHAIRPERSON EVANS**

Mr. Evans did not attend the meeting. Mayor Brown stated that he did attend and they discussed blight mitigation. Also, they discussed the regulations of asbestos removal that is only imposed in Allegheny County. They met with County Executive Richard Fitzgerald and Allegheny County Health Department regarding this matter.

4. **THREE RIVERS WET WEATHER: CHERYL SORRENTINO**

No report.

5. **OTHER COMMITTEES**

No report.

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No report.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

No report.

8. **CALLING FOR APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT AS POSTED**

(all ayes vote)

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

All ayes

CALLING FOR APPROVAL TO PAY ALL BILLS AS POSTED IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$164,709.26 TO INCLUDE:

- General fund expenses of \$162,194.74
 - Sewer fund expense of \$2,428.03
 - Refuse fund expense of \$86.49
- Motion – Mr. Evans
Seconded – Mr. Gambino
Roll Call Vote – Unanimous - Carried

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

Mr. Evans adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.