

BOROUGH OF BRADDOCK HILLS
MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Thomas Evans, President of Council, called to order the regularly scheduled council meeting at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Ursiny led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALLING OF THE ROLL

Council Present: Mr. Evans, President; Mr. Gambino, Vice President; Ms. Bolton; Mr. Ursiny; Ms. Schaffer

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

1. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL PERSON TO VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

- 1) Motion to adopt Resolution 8 of 2023 to appoint Pamela Lang to Braddock Hills Council to fill the unexpired term of Anette Nance

Motion – Ms. Bolton

Seconded – Ms. Schaffer

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

Ms. Lang was sworn in by Mayor Jack Brown.

2. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING DEMOLITION OF 118 CENTER STREET

Solicitor Robert Garvin conducted the hearing. He stated that a notice of the hearing was advertised in Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and that proof of publication will be added as part of the exhibit for this hearing along with pictures of the property. He added that, according to the obituary of the owners, there are no heirs listed. Mr. Garvin asked Ms. Sorrentino if the condition of the property fulfills the definition according to the borough ordinance for a dangerous building. Ms. Sorrentino stated that the building has severe damage to the foundation and roof, which makes it inhabitable and beyond repair.

Motion to conclude the hearing to declare property known as 118 Center Street as a dangerous building pursuant to Ordinance 4 of 1991 that requires demolition.

Motion – Mr. Ursiny

Seconded – Ms. Bolton

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

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

Motion to approve minutes from June 13, 2023 meeting made by Mr. Ursiny.

All ayes

4. CALLING FOR BIDS

No bids.

5. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS (6 minutes each)

Harrison Bradford, 420 Jackson Street – Mr. Bradford stated his concern for speeding traffic and lack of police presence. Also, he added that a neighbor's chickens are running loose and going onto his property. Mayor Brown responded that he would speak with Chief Helinski regarding the speeding and police presence. Ms.

Sorrentino answered that if he provided her with the address of the chicken owners, she would send a violation letter to the property.

Mr. Bradford thanked the borough employees for cutting the grass on the vacant lot next to his house and for the new road.

Jonette Suiter, 337 Virginia Avenue – Ms. Suiter asked what happened to the community yard sale. Ms. Schaffer responded that inclement weather was being forecasted, along with a lack of participation this year which resulted in her postponing the event. Also, she plans on rescheduling it later this year. There were further discussions regarding the event and possibility of using a form to encourage more participants.

Sean Skelly, 2820 McKelvey Road – Mr. Skelly stated that he appreciated for the public safety response and acknowledging the need for coverage. He added that he knew council would be voting to submit a letter of intent to the State and he is concerned that the State would require us to regionalize. Also, he asked if anyone reached out to other neighboring municipalities such as Forest Hills.

Mayor Brown answered that regionalization would not be forced or required by submitting a letter of intent. They did reach out to other boroughs, but decided not to publish their conversations with them. Lastly, he has attended multiple meetings regarding regionalization and it is definitely encouraged by all government entities.

Mr. Evans stated that council and mayor would keep the borough's best interest in mind at all times during the process.

Ms. Suiter asked if it would be permanent or could we opt out in the future.

Mayor Brown discussed other police departments that regionalized across the country and their successes.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Passed out prior to meeting.

7. REPORT OF BOROUGH COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE – CHAIRPERSON BOLTON

- 1) Motion to purchase a full-page advertisement from Woodland Hills Football Boosters for the gameday program in the amount of \$200.00

Ms. Lang asked what type of advertisement. Ms. Sorrentino answered that it is a generic advertisement wishing them luck.

Motion – Ms. Bolton

Seconded – Mr. Ursiny

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

B. PUBLIC SAFETY – CHAIRPERSON URSINY

- 1) Motion to adopt Resolution 7 of 2023 declaring property known as 118 Center Street as a dangerous building pursuant to Ordinance 4 of 1991 and authorize the demolition of the building

Motion – Mr. Ursiny

Seconded – Mr. Gambino

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

- 2) Motion to authorize the submittal of a Letter of Intent to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Governor’s Center for Local Government Services requesting technical assistance to determine the feasibility of regionalizing police services with Swissvale Borough

Motion – Mr. Ursiny

Seconded – Ms. Schaffer

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

C. ZONING & ORDINANCES – CHAIRPERSON KVORJAK

- 1) Motion to adopt Ordinance 1 of 2023 amending Chapter 25, Trees, by the addition of Part 2, Shade Tree Commission

Motion – Ms. Lang

Seconded – Mr. Gambino

Ms. Bolton made a motion to table the adoption of Ordinance 1 of 2023.

Seconded – Mr. Gambino

Roll Call Vote

Ms. Bolton – Yes

Mr. Ursiny – Abstain

Ms. Schaffer – No

Ms. Lang – Abstain

Mr. Gambino – Yes

Mr. Evans – Yes

3 Yes, 2 Abstain, 1 No - Motion Carried

- 2) Motion to accept Tri-COG Land Bank's Disposition Plan to market Lots/Blocks # 235-M-36 and 234-M-38, vacant lots formerly known as 283 Park Avenue. The Land Bank would like to market the properties as a side lot or vacant lot.

Motion – Ms. Lang

Seconded – Mr. Gambino

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

D. COMMUNITY EVENTS – CHAIRPERSON SCHAFFER

Ms. Schaffer stated that they continue to work on Community Day and still looking for volunteers if anyone is interested.

Also, she and Mayor Brown attended a block party located on McKelvey Road. She added that she enjoyed the atmosphere of community.

Mr. Ursiny asked if she should consider combining a flea market with Community Day. Ms. Schaffer agreed it would be a good idea and asked Mr. Ursiny if he could help organize it as volunteers are needed for expansions on the event.

E. HEALTH & SANITATION – PAMELA LANG

No report.

F. BUILDINGS & BOROUGH PROPERTY –CHAIRPERSON EVANS

No report.

G. PUBLIC WORKS – CHAIRPERSON GAMBINO

- 1) Motion to ratify phone vote on June 16, 2023 to accept a quote from Hickey Contracting in the amount of \$3,675.00 for emergency repairs to the roof of the Borough Administration Building and to clean the gutters to avoid further damage

Motion – Mr. Gambino

Seconded – Ms. Bolton

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

- 2) Motion to pay Doug Krusper Tree Service, Inc. an amount not in excess of \$5,500.00 for removal of ten (10) trees along Illinois Avenue due to the fact that they pose an imminent danger to property located at 225 McKinley Avenue

Ms. Lang asked if the property was someone's home and why the Borough was paying for this. Ms. Sorrentino stated that it was the location of Keough Plumbing and that all trees are located in the right-of-way, which makes it the Borough's responsibility.

Motion – Mr. Gambino

Seconded – Mr. Ursiny

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

8. REPORT OF BOROUGH OFFICERS

A. MAYOR – JOHN BROWN

Mayor Brown read the police, fire and EMS reports for June 2023 (see attached). He reported that Rhea Corley passed away. He noted that many people knew her from her work at Giant Eagle.

B. SOLICITOR – ROBERT GARVIN

Solicitor Garvin stated that he continues working with the building inspector on the properties located 1127 Wilkins Avenue and 995 Garfield Avenue to be submitted for demolition.

C. ENGINEER

Mr. Barron read the engineer's report for June 2023 (see attached).

9. REPORT OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS: CHAIRPERSON EVANS

No report.

10. THREE RIVERS WET WEATHER: CHERYL SORRENTINO

No report.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

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

(all ayes vote)

Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Mr. Ursiny.

All ayes

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

Motion – Mr. Gambino

Seconded – Mr. Ursiny

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous – Carried

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

Mr. Evans adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.