

REGULAR MEETING

WENESDAY

7:30 P.M.

APRIL 5, 2023

This regular meeting of Council was called to order on the above-stated date at the above-stated time after the Pledge of Allegiance by President Mark D. Tortorice with the following Members of Council present:

**RC-1 PRESENT: BRANDON HALE, DOUG JUNECKO, GREG LOMBARDO
 KENNETH HRESKO, MARK TORTORICE
 ROBERT BETTERS, DEBORAH THOMAS**

Also present were, Solicitor Falco A. Muscante, Malisa Migliori, Borough Manager, Don Glenn, Engineer and Jr. Council Person Kate Atkins. Chief of Police David Petruski was absent this evening.

MOTION: Mrs. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, "To approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting on February 1, 2023 at 7:30 P.M."

Executive session was held this evening to discuss personnel issues

MOTION: Mrs. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, "To approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting held on March 1, 2023 at 7:30 P. M."

RC-2 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

PAWC representatives Chuck Schultz and Brent Robinson are here this evening to discuss the sewer rate increase and to provide the officials and the residents information regarding income base eligible programs to assist residents. They also addressed the investments that PAWC have made here in Port Vue and overall sewer upgrades. Specifically, 5.8 million in Port Vue. They encouraged those eligible to sign up for the programs. Council agreed to open up the social hall for PAWC to have an open sign up for those who would qualify. There was also discussion on outdoor water usage. Mr. Schultz said he would look into it and get back to us.

State Representative Matt Gergely recognized and presented Mr. Erkel with a proclamation for his years of service to the Community.

Port Vue Officials recognized long time resident and dedicated public servant Robert Erkel for his 36 years of service. Council presented him with a plaque and key.

Mark Jeffreys plant manager as US Steel presented a donation check in the amount of \$29,515.00 to Vigilant Hose Co. 1 for the fire company's dive team and equipment.

President Tortorice again welcomed St. Representative Matt Gergely to the meeting.

PAWC officials Charles Schultz and Brent Robinson address the resident concerns over the sewer increase. He said he's been through the acquisitions of purchasing the sewer systems. He said locally PAWC has invested \$57 million into the system and \$5.8 million into Port Vue sewer system. He said they have installed smart meters to monitor the combined sewer and storms systems in the borough. Mr. Robinson provided information on income driven programs to assist with the bills. He also recommended having a up a sign-up opportunity to apply for these programs. State Representative Gergely said he feels this utilities fair makes a lot of sense. President Tortorice agreed and asked they work quickly to set this up and get the word out. Council person and fire Chief Brandon Hale inquired about the usage of outdoor water and would like to know if the sewage rates would be decreased or forgiven. Mr. Schultz did not have the answer for that, but will look into and get back to Council on this.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

1. **Anita Corey** representing Facebook residents regarding the sewage rates and read to Council a few of the concerns posted.
2. **Greg Oneill** 1021 Santa Monica, provided statistics on sewer rates and the increases in Port Vue. He also provided rates for other surrounding municipalities. He said he filed a complaint with the PUC. He stated PAWC has the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th highest rates in Pennsylvania of anywhere in the US. Mr. Neill spoke at length about his concern over the increase. He said he's contacted the PUC and mentioned a class action law suit. Mr. Oneill said he has his call with the PUC tomorrow. He said this increase is absurd. He added PAWC is buying up all the small sewage authorities and it seems to be a good business model for them.
3. **Dan Nagy**- 1136 Portsmouth Drive inquiring on leaving the access to PVAA open instead of closing it. He said it's open to the dog park and he would like to see it stay open. Mr. Tortorice said the traffic is decreased because there's only about a third of the teams that used to play at PVAA and it will be taken under consideration. Council agreed to let it stay open.
4. **Trevor Osgood**-1801 New York said he's moving forward with his remodeling on the property. President Tortorice said we have the status update from the building inspector Mark Lazzaro. President Tortorice said the condemnation is idle until all the work is completed.

CHIEF PETRUSKI: Absent

ENGINEERS REPORT: Gave his report at the caucus meeting.

MAYORS REPORT:

Said since the Chief is out of town there is no report.

The Mayor reported on the Glad Program and there will be an award at the end of May and he will keep Council posted. The school is currently accepting the applications.

SOLICITORS REPORT: Solicitor Falco Muscante reported the written report was submitted this evening.

CHAIRMAN OF POLICE/CODE ENFORCEMENT: Mr. Hresko reported on the new code enforcement ticketing system to eliminate citations through the magistrate's office. There are 5 steps. The first step is a warning, if the problem isn't corrected with in 5 days, then it will go for the first ticket of \$25.00 with in 5 days then you will receive another ticket for \$50.00 and a third ticket of \$75.00 if it still isn't remediated. If after the third ticket isn't paid and violation remediated then it will go to the Magistrate's office. He said the program will begin tomorrow. He asked for residents to contact the Borough if you have questions.

MOTION: Mr. Hresko moved, seconded by Mr. Hale "To advertise amendment to Ordinance 2018-620, also known as the Borough of Port Vue Tenant Occupancy Safety Inspection Ordinance to eliminate last sentence of Section 8.1."

RC-3

MOTION: Mr. Hresko moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, "To ratify the order of two (2) Hybrid Police Ford Interceptor vehicles through Shorkey Auto Group and Costars contract pricing in the amount of \$86,258.00."

RC-4 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Hresko moved, seconded by Mr. Junecko, "To ratify the purchase of Axon Body Cameras through the Sourcewell Contract Pricing Program in the amount of \$29,977.49 in five (5) equal payments."

RC-5 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

STREET AND LIGHT COMMITTEE: Mr. Lombardo reported the paving program will be awarded this evening and we are paving 23 streets and 11 alleys.

MOTION: Mr. Lombardo moved, seconded by Mr. Hale, "To authorize purchase of a Neuson RD Vibrator Roller in the amount of \$19,500.00 from Golden Eagle through Sourcewell Contract and funded through the Community Benefit Trust."

RC-6 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Lombardo moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, "To authorize street paving at unit pricing from lowest most responsible bidder El Grande Industries for the 2023 paving project in the amount of \$493,862.30, as recommended by Don Glenn Engineering."

RC-7 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

CHAIRMAN OF PROPERTY/DEMOLITION COMMITTEE: Mr. Junecko reported he gave his report at the Workshop session.

MOTION: Mr. Junecko moved, seconded by Mr. Lombardo, “To authorize payment to Elvis Electrical in the amount of \$3,234.00 for installation of LEDS throughout Borough Properties.”

RC-8 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Junecko moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, “To authorize Elvis Electrical to replace the 200 AMP Electrical Panel at the police station with a new 200 AMP Panel including installation and equipment in the amount of \$2,485.00

RC-9 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Junecko moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, “To reconvey Parcel 466-B-131 back to Mark Tortorice from the Borough of Port Vue in accordance with agreement regarding recreation.”

**RC-10 Yeas: Mr. Hale, Mr. Junecko, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. Hresko
 Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Better**

Abstained: Mr. Tortorice - Motion Carried

CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE: Mrs. Thomas gave the following report:

Delinquent: January 2023 delinquent collections, not available as of meeting time.

2023 Real Estate tax bills were mailed out on schedule. For residents convenience payments can be dropped off in the police night time drop box. The tax collector’s hours are 9 AM to 11 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In April, May, and July, additional hours are available from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays. You may call to arrange another day or time.

Reminder---COG 50th anniversary dinner at Sunset Room in Elizabeth Township, Thursday April 6, 2023 at 5:00 pm.

The auditors are just about through with the 2022 Borough audit. In the near future an exit conference will be scheduled. The Manager reported everything went very well without any issues.

MOTION: Mrs. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Hale, “To adopt Resolution No. 2023-006, authorizing the payment of bills and wages incurred during the month of March, 2023.”

RC-11 Yeas: Mr. Hale, Mr. Junecko, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. Hresko, Mrs. Thomas

Abstained: Mr. Better, Mr. Tortorice - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mrs. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Better, “To authorize purchase of a Polaris Utility Terrain Vehicle XD 2 Seater in the amount of \$29,199.98 from Golden Eagle through Sourcewell Contract and funded through the Community Benefit Trust.”

RC-12 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**CHAIRMAN OF RECREATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Betters gave the following report:
PVAA opening day April 14, 23 time to be determined.**

Thank you to all the volunteers, Port Vue Citizens Committee, Jr. Council and helpers, Mayor, President, Council and workers for a successful Easter event. A good time was had by all and we had a great turn out.

Discussion on the closing of Portsmouth Drive, Council agreed.

Discuss summer help and asphaltting

Announce Spring clean up April 29 and 30 at the PVAA parking lot

Port Vue Citizen's committee yard sales April 22nd.

Discussion on the upgrades to the comfort station. Council agreed to the new faucets that are hand activated to start and stop. This will prevent any vandalism with anyone that would leave the water on.

There will be other upgrades to the War Memorial and the front of the building with stone versus mulch.

MOTION: Mr. Betters moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, "To ratify payment to Howell Rescue Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$1,455.00 from the Fire Fund for Vigilant Hose Company tool maintenance."

RC-13 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Betters moved, seconded by Mr. Lombardo, "To ratify payment to Howell Rescue Systems, Inc. for the Annual SCBA Flow Testing in the amount of \$1,540.00 from the Fire Fund."

RC-14 Yeas; Unanimous - Motion Carried

CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC SAFETY, FIRE AND AMBULANCE: Mr. Hale gave the fire report for March and reported:

Current Garbage collections report for February: \$65,591.33

Delinquent garbage collections for February: \$0

March collections not available as of meeting time.

He also mentioned bullet proof vests and wants to speak with the District Attorney's office.

Reminders:

Street fair August 26th

The current trash contract is up at the end of the year. Specifications to be advertised late summer.

Big thanks to Council and US Steel Representatives Mark Jeffreys, Brian Pritz and Mike Rhoades. The Fire company submitted a grant out of the shared local funding for the safety solar panel light, motor for swift water rescue boat and an underwater ROV drone. Total project cost \$29,515.00. Greatly appreciated.

MOTION: Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, "To ratify all departmental and inter-governmental transfers during the month of March, 2023"

RC-15 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, "To accept the monthly reports for March, 2023 as presented."

RC-16 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

Junior Council-Kate Atkins gave her report on school activities for the month of April. The kids that volunteered were all National Honor Society students.

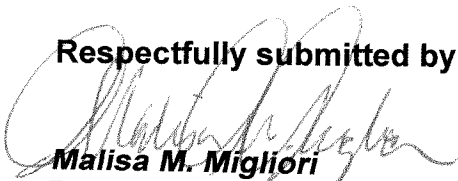
Mr. Tortorice thanked everyone for coming out this evening and to the Council for their updates. He also gave a report on Borough matters for April:

1. Don Glenn received bids for the steps at the War Memorial. These were turned over to the tree service's insurance company.
2. Kennedy Square repairs were turned over to our insurance company EMC, discussion on restoration, drive it. (Borough insurance paid out \$14,318.69) There's an additional \$4,000.00 depreciation hold back.
3. Fun to be a Kid Day!!!, Last Sunday in July. July 30th. Office staff will be sending out the donation letters this month.
4. Tree and Plaque dedication for MaryAnn Dwornek and Joann Gubanic prior to the next meeting. May 5, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at Izzy Park.
5. Glenn Engineering is composing a demolition general notes and scope of work to be attached to every demolition permit for contractors to follow.


Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting this evening and thank you for your continued support.

MOTION: Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, "To Adjourn"

Respectfully submitted by:


Malisa M. Migliori
Borough Manager

Approved by:


Mark D. Tortorice
President of Council