

REGULAR MEETING

WENESDAY

7:30 P.M.

AUGUST 5, 2020

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:** **BRYAN MYERS II, DOUG JUNECKO,
KENNETH HRESKO, DEBORAH THOMAS,
ROBERT BETTERS, MARK TORTORICE
MARK TORTORICE**

ABSENT: **GREG LOMBARDO**

Also present were, Mayor Hranics, Solicitor Patricia McGrail, Malisa Migliori, Borough Manager, Don Glenn, Engineer, Chief David Petruski and Jr. Council person Rebecca Matlos.

Mr. Hresko introduced Rebecca Matlos as the new Junior Councilperson for 2020-2021." Mayor Hranics officially swore in Rebecca Matlos.

MOTION: **Mr. Doug Junecko moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on June 3, 2020 at 7:30 P.M."**

RC-2 **Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried**

Mr. Tortorice announced an Executive Session was held this evening to discuss personnel issues.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZEN:

Borough Manager, Malisa Migliori stated there have been issues with cats on Burbridge Road. Animal control came in because there was a cat that was bit by a rabid racoon. The racoon went onto private property and bit a family owned cat. Several residents in the area have requested to have the Trap, Neuter and Release program be put into place.

1. Jason Cialone-715 Burbridge Street-Requesting to start the trap, neuter and release cat program due to a rabid racoon biting a cat.
2. Amy Templeton-718 Burbridge Street, stated her concern over the rabid cat and abundance of feral cats in the area. She asked if the Borough could proceed with the Trap, Neuter and Release program.
3. Linda Martinjak-724 Burbridge Street, requested the Trap, Neuter and Release program and also asked how can we address this issue.

4. Jean Check-716 Burbridge Street, expressed her concern over the number of stray cats and the kittens. She is asking for Council to consider the Trap, Neuter and Release program.

Mr. Hresko stated he's been speaking with Lynn Prislac about setting up the program from the Trap Neuter and Release Program. They book up very quickly and see if she can get us scheduled by March or April 2021. Mr. Hresko asked the public, "if you're feeding the cats, don't leave out the food to attract other animals."

5. Steve Hvozdk- 807 Burbridge Street-Port Vue Citizens Committee, asked about yard sales during pandemic. Mr. Hresko stated the PUMC is having their annual yard sales on September 12, 2020 as well. Mr. Tortorice said there's not a problem as long as they follow all the precautions. Mr. Junecko said he'll talk to Steve and let him know.
6. Annette Sobczak-regarding the deteriorating conditions of 1726 front and rear Romine along with rodent issues. She also wants to inform Council of the deteriorating of Dover Alley. She asked if there's anything we can do there. She thanked Council and Mr. Lombardo for the paving of Trimble. Mr. Tortorice said we are proceeding with demolitions at 1726 Romine Avenue front and rear so that should clear that up. He also stated we will have the street committee take a look at the 1700 block Dover Alley.
7. John Freund 903 Rebecca Street, requesting a stop sign, access to home limited on Rebecca Street the parking and trouble using the rear-Garfield Alley and cars being parked there. His mother lives there and needs to access for his mother. Mr. Hresko stated he spoke with Mr. Freund and advised him to put in an application for a handicap parking permit. Mr. Hresko said the alley is private.
8. Jennifer Gunnell-1000 Lysle Avenue, the Solicitor read the letter from her from July 23, 2020. I live just a few doors away from the house on Elmwood that was bought by Sisters Pgh. My husband and I have enjoyed living here for the last 11 years and raising our 6 year old daughter in this community. While I have no personal issues with the members of Sisters PGH or the people that they help, I am NOT in support of them establishing a group home in our neighborhood. Sisters Pgh constantly posts articles of violence against their kind on the Facebook page and on their website. The average black trans woman lives to be 35 due to committing suicide or being murdered. There are also multiple news articles stating that their previous facility was intentionally burnt down by their own tenant. According to the website for "Project T", this house will welcome new tenants every 3, 6 or 12 months. With the revolving door of tenants, how can we be assured that our Boro will remain safe? Will there be registered sex offenders? Will there be background checks? Will there be security onsite? Will there be extra police patrols? Will children have to worry about finding needles in the street while walking to their bus stop? Project T also advertises that this house is on a bus route(see attached image). When is the last time a port authority bus came thru Port Vue? If they are posting untruthful information like this what else are they going to lie about? I sincerely hope that these questions are taken into consideration and that the council is able to provide feedback during the next meeting. Thank you, Jennifer Gunnell. Solicitor McGrail said she'll try to answer. We have no input on what Sister Pgh puts on their site. We treat that information as we treat any other information on Facebook. It is our responsibility as the Borough Council to

enforce our ordinances and requirements of the zoning as we would anyone else. Council met with Sisters Pgh group and Board members. According to the website there could be tenants every 3, 6, or 12 months. Borough Council met with Ciora Thomas, Sister Pgh, her attorney and their Board. They indicated the leases would be one year and they would be going in and out and multiple rent pay tenants. Regarding sex offenders, there's a requirement for it. Chief Petruski stated they are required to register with PA State Police at that time they will inform our police department and there it's kept confidential. Next answer there will not be security on site to our knowledge. Next answer, no extra police patrols. If there are problems the police will respond to all calls as they would with any other residence in the Borough. Next answer untrue about the residence there is no bus route in that area. Next answer the proposed use is not a group home. This property is in a B residential, which is multifamily. It is a single family home, unrelated people in this zone can't exceed three and are considered a household with terms of the ordinance and we will enforce our ordinance.

9. Kathy Dettman- 937 Lysle Avenue, sent an email on July 29th, 2020. Solicitor McGrail read the email. "There are many neighbors with questions, they have asked me to send you their questions to be addressed at the council meeting. I would also like to warn you that there is talk of residents lining hi at the borough building during the meeting. *why weren't borough residents notified of the shelter? *borough knew in December and said that are just hearing about it. *sisterspgh misled borough on occupancy permit, it has been said that the tenants will sign a one year lease, they are advertising 3, 6, 9, or 12 months!

*borough says group home but they are not following rules of group home. If they are a group home, they have to be staffed 24 hours. Ciora says in her fb video that is will have a part time person there. She has also said a Pt person will stop in. A group home is for people that are physically or mentally challenged. They are not!! This is strictly a drop in homeless shelter which is it a group home and should not be permitted in the borough. *will tenants have background checks?*will there be registered sex offenders?*will it be safe for kids to walk to the bus stop?*sadly, they are targeted and murdered. You can go on Their web page to see the list of people who have been murdered!! That is a huge fear for neighbor's safety. There is no security. *vandalism and crime. Their last place was burned down by their own tenant. They also have another building in their webpage that they are fundraising for because they have been vandalized. *according to Ciora herself, on her her fb page, she is on welfare and food stamps. They will be running strictly on donations, currently they have \$15k what happens when they run out of donations and they can no longer afford to feed these tenants and pay their utilities and bills? What will become of that house and the current tenants that will have no jobs, homes or vehicles? Thank you for your time". Solicitor McGrail answered, the described use of the property is not a group home. It's a home owned by Sisters Pgh that is being rented out. We have met with Sister's Pgh along with their board members and attorney. We were able to attain information on the use of the property. We were told there would be a one year lease, paying rent. There could be changes in tenants, and we are told they are not a group home. At that location there's not supervision, it's not a drug or alcohol rehab, it is a described as transgender adults transitioning. Our police will respond and continue to keep our children and residents safe. Next answer, we cannot respond to a post about Ciora being on food stamps and unrelated to the use of the property. Next answer, the leases will operate as long as it is maintained and are

applicable to all Borough ordinances. Malisa is already working with them regarding code enforcement compliance. Next answer, what happens to the property once the funding runs out. Solicitor McGrail stated unfortunately this happens. Right now this is a planned rental use of this property and they will be required to meet all of the rental registration requirements by the Borough.

10. Kathy Dettman 937 Lysle Avenue -email July 30th, 2020_Manager read the email: I know that you are not on Facebook so I wanted to share this post with you from their page. It is reposted every day asking for donations. They are stuck at \$15k. At first a lot of people donated. They are not going to be able to maintain this house and all of those people on donations. They are also advertising 7 people and a group home is only allowed. We hit our first 15k👏👏👏👏👏 Wanna support SisTers PGH in the biggest way? Please consider donating and sharing👉❤️👏👉❤️ Even if you can't donate right now, a share is FREE👏❤️ tinyurl.com/projecttpgh Project T is Pittsburgh's Trans-Led Transitional Housing program, a project of SisTers PGH. And we need your help. Trans, non-binary, and other gender-nonconforming individuals (TGNC) are among the most likely to experience housing insecurity, and this was true even before COVID-19 hit our communities even harder. Now is the time --We're raising funds to launch the first year of Project T - a radical vision of self-determination and housing justice. With your previous help, SisTers has already raised the funds to purchase and renovate a house in the Pittsburgh area that can house up to 7 TGNC people while they transition from unstable environments and unsupportive communities.

Now, we're raising funds to support the first year of services - including sober living, case management, transportation services, housing management, and more. As always, Project T is trans-led and focused on the needs and experiences of TGNC people of color. Our approach has an intersectional lens prioritizing the most marginalized. As such, any staff or volunteers engaged in the project will receive extensive training in conflict resolution and trans-specific needs and issues. If you're not able to donate right now, help us spread the word by sharing our campaign and/or this image on social media: [#ItTakesAVillage](https://tinyurl.com/projecttpgh).

2nd email from Kathy Dettman-There are people who do not want to email the borough because they don't want their names known Those are questions being sent to me that I am forwarding to you. Everyone feels the borough is sweeping this under the rug. There are people researching laws and ordinances, there are text groups and meetings. People are very concerned with safety and property values. I was asked to share this with you...Looks like there are promises that are future funded based and much more than the org is prepared to deliver at this point This info was shared and the sum total of previous posts and actions is very tellingnon profits, while many truly desire to fill the gap and help ppl, soon find out the complex path to manifesting the vision is not the journey hoped for or expected and is a very costly one. A non profit is a business at the end of the day. I am detecting that the desired or essential basic infrastructure for this first of its kind service facility needed by the Sisters Pgh community is still being built and funding is one of the keys and is missing. So some very important questions have to be asked and answered by all parties and revolve around the first article I shared re: 10 Q's for shelter/shelter system. And, - Does the org have any gov/funding - Will the org participate under the PA HUD. If there is no nonprofit biz plan, admissions plan, service plan etc then basically are there just some temporary homeless residents going to be arbitrarily selected and moved in with no services support or official oversight while fund raising, treatment model, and staffing is figured out and completed? We need

answers! Solicitor McGrail, responded. It has been explained by Sister's Pgh, that this is a residential location. The support services needed by those tenants will be provided at Sisters Pgh center located in Swissvale. That is where they will receive their services. Sister's Pgh will provide their transportation. It is not anticipated that those services will be at this residential location in Port Vue. Next answer regarding their funding, we would not look into that unless they are not compliant with our ordinances. It's not appropriate for the Borough as to how they have their organization and funding in place.

11. Don Shuker- Vivant going house to house in Port Vue, they haven't applied for any solicitation permit. Turned over to the Chief of Police. Mr. Tortorice said to contact them again and if we can't get through let the Chief and Mayor know to follow up.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

CHIEF PETRUSKI: Reported the audit with the State Police went well and we should be good for another 3 years. He reiterated the hiring of a few more part timers and possibly a future hiring of another full time officer.

ENGINEERS REPORT: No change in report from the work session, he recommended payment to Lawson Excavating LLC in the amount of \$12,231.25 for generator installation and the generator switch.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Hranics gave the monthly report: With possibility of home schooling, Comcast Internet Essentials, offering a low cost program for internet service. He gave the monthly reports for May, June and July. The police had 99 calls in May there were 9 traffic citations and 24 non-traffic citation, 5 calls assisting other departments and 11 calls assisting E.M.S. The balance of calls were for various reasons such as animal complaints, civil dispute, criminal complaint, disabled vehicle, disturbance, etc...The Mayor also reported the mileage on the 2013 Ford Taurus was 384 and \$0 expenses. The mileage on the 2017 Explorer was 2,360 and the expenses were \$445.01, the mileage on the 2019 Explorer was 534 with \$0 in expenses.

Report for June: The police had 113 calls in June there were 5 traffic citations and 12 non-traffic citation, 7 calls assisting other departments and 31 calls assisting E.M.S. The balance of calls were for various reasons such as animal complaints, civil dispute, criminal complaint, disabled vehicle, disturbance, etc...The Mayor also reported the mileage on the 2013 Ford Taurus was 321 and \$0 expenses. The mileage on the 2017 Explorer was 1,968 and the expenses were \$0, the mileage on the 2019 Explorer was 993 with \$0 in expenses.

Report for July: The police had 114 calls in June there were 7 traffic citations and 12 non-traffic citation, 6 calls assisting other departments and 24 calls assisting E.M.S. The balance of calls were for various reasons such as animal complaints, civil dispute, criminal complaint, disabled vehicle, disturbance, etc...The Mayor also reported the mileage on the 2013 Ford Taurus was 318 and \$179.39 expenses. The mileage on the 2017 Explorer was 2,105 and the expenses were \$169.00, the mileage on the 2019 Explorer was 591 with \$0 in expenses

SOLICITORS REPORT: Solicitor Patricia McGrail, no additional report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CHAIRMAN OF RECREATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Myers thanked Don Glenn and Malisa Migliori for working diligently to keep things moving along. He thanked Patricia McGrail

for answering all the resident and Council questions regarding the home on Elmwood Avenue. He had three following motions:

MOTION: Mr. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, "To pay for electric and installation of the generator in the Recreation Building to Lawson Excavating in the amount of \$12,231.25."

RC-3 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Myers moved seconded by Mr. Hresko, "To ratify payment to McKee Asphalt for the paving of three alleys in the amount of \$20,950.00 as recommended by Don Glenn Engineering."

RC-4 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Junecko, "To authorize a donation to South Allegheny Football Boosters in the amount of \$50.00."

RC-5 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Junecko, "To ratify payment to the South Allegheny Band Parents in the amount of \$250.00."

RC-6 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE: Mrs. Thomas gave the tax report for June, collections are up \$16,000.00 from last year and from last month. This made up the difference from last report. For July we are right on target for collection as compared to last year. Mrs. Thomas had the following motions:

MOTION: Mrs. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, "To adopt Resolution No, 2020-011, authorizing the payment of bills and wages incurred during the month of June, 2020."

RC-7 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried
Abstain: Mr. Tortorice, Tortorice Auto, Motion carried

MOTION: Mrs. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, "To adopt Resolution No, 2020-013, authorizing the payment of bills and wages incurred during the month of July, 2020."

RD-8 Yeas: Mr. Myers, Mr. Junecko, Mr. Hresko, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Betters
Abstained: Mr. Tortorice, Tortorice Auto - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mrs. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, "To accept increased Community Development Block Development Funding Year 46 allocation in the amount of \$120,000.00 for Liberty Way Street Reconstruction."

RC-9 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

CHAIRMAN OF PROPERTY/DEMOLITION COMMITTEE: Mr. Junecko, stated demolitions are progressing. He thanked Patricia McGrail for answering questions by residents. Mr. Junecko had the following motions:

MOTION: Mr. Junecko moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, “To ratify Resolution #2020-012 requesting a Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority in the amount of \$300,000.00 to be used for blight remediation and demolition of unsafe structures.”

RC-10 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Junecko moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas “To approve the hiring of Diane Jackson with a 30 day initial probationary period and contingent upon successful background check and drug and alcohol testing.” Question by Mr. Hresko regarding probation period after six months as well.

RC-11 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Junecko moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, “To authorize the demolition of 1726 Romine Front 465-A-245 and 1726 Romine Rear 465-A-247.”

RC-12 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion - Carried

MOTION: Mr. Junecko moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, “For the Borough Solicitor to file petition for relief of stay is applied to 1721 and 1726 Johnson Street.”

RC-13 Yeas: Unanimous _ Motion Carried

CHAIRMAN OF STREET COMMITTEE: Mr. Lombardo was absent

CHAIRMAN OF SANITATION: Mr. Betters gave the monthly Keystone Garbage report, May collections were up over last year \$8,870.22 June collection up from last year \$3,718.20. He reported the back gutter on the garage is complete and now we’re waiting on a proposal for the front portion.

MOTION: Mr. Betters moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko, “To ratify all departmental and inter-governmental transfers during the Months of June and July 2020.”

RC-14 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Betters moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, “To accept the monthly reports for June and July 2020 as presented.”

RC-15 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Betters moved, seconded by Mr. Junecko, “To approve the revised Deed of Easement and Right of Way between Pennsylvania American Water Company and the Borough of Port Vue contingent upon final approval by Borough Engineer and Solicitor.”

RC-16 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

CHAIRMAN OF POLICE/FIRE/PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Hresko read the fire reports for May, June and July 2020. He stated the RAD tax is down due to COVID by \$4,605.00 in June and \$1,934.00 in July. Mr. Hresko read the fire reports and thanked the fire company for everything they do to keep the community safe. He also asked if anyone else is interested in the TNR program please contact the Borough Manger. She’s the point of contact for the registration for the program.

MOTION: Mr. Hresko moved, seconded by Mr. Betters, “To authorize up to \$1,000.00 to repair the front gutter of the garage.”

RC-17 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Hresko moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, “To ratify payment to Vigilant Hose Company 1 in the amount of \$1,361.00 to reimburse for repairs to 2006 Chevrolet.”

RC- 18 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Hresko moved, seconded by Mr. Junecko, “To ratify payment to Elvis Electric in the amount of \$6,514.00 from the Capital Reserve Fund for the camera system at the Police Department.”

RC-19 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Hresko moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, “To accept a Family Medical Leave for Part Time Police Officer Leann Demuzzio effective July 4, 2020.”

RC-20 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

MOTION: Mr. Hresko moved, seconded by Mr. Myers, “To advertise for Part Time Police Officers.”

RC-21 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

Mr. Tortorice thanked everyone, he welcomed the Jr. Council person Rebecca Matlos. Mr. Hresko talked about the program. Mr. Tortorice said we are behind our residents and concerns and will continue to have our Manager and Solicitor assist our residents.

Mr. Myers asked everyone to keep Archie and the Tortorice family in your thoughts and prayers through this time. He said Mr. Tortorice was one of the most influential and greatest people in this community and has done so much for the residents. Mr. Hresko also recognized Archie Tortorice for all he did at PVAA for all of us.

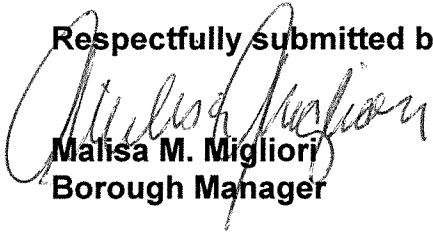
Mr. Betters said sometime in October we will be scheduling Bin days.

Mr. Tortorice thanked everyone for their support and asked for continued prayer for the Myers family.

MOTION: Mr. Betters moved, seconded by Mr. Hresko "Motion to adjourn."

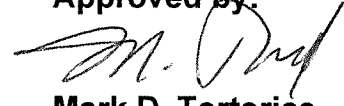
RC-22 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted by:



Malisa M. Migliori
Borough Manager

Approved by:



Mark D. Tortorice
President of Council