

**North Braddock Borough
Borough Council Meeting
Minutes**



**Tuesday
July 18, 2023
06:30 PM**

Call to Order:

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM

Roll Call:

Breaston
Giles
Nigro
Ruiz
Sepesy
Vahosky
Vargo
Franklin-Robinson

Also Present:

Mayor: Cletus Lee
Manager: Nathan 'Jay' Bish
Foreman: Jerome Sepsey
Solicitor: John Bacharach
Code Officer: David Andrews

Absent With Cause:

Parker

Agenda:

A motion was made by Ruiz and seconded by Breaston to amend the agenda

Approved Unanimously

A motion was made by Vahosky and seconded by Vargo to approve the agenda as amended.

Approved Unanimously

Minutes:

A motion was made by Breaston and seconded by Giles that the meeting minutes from the Borough Council Meetings held June 20, 2023 and June 27, 2023 be accepted as presented.

Approved Unanimously

Reports:

A motion was made by Parker and seconded by Vargo to accept the Officer's Reports as presented.

Approved Unanimously

Communications:

None at this time

Citizens:

Best Pittsburgh: Jordan Herbert: Spoke about projects in nearby communities to mitigate blight through property acquisition and rehabilitation, focusing on veteran assistance. Spoke on blight and property redevelopment opportunities in the Borough and difficulties for private investors in the area. Explained plans for property purchases and development and asked Council for best practices and processes.

Mary Kerry: Commented on planned changes to the Vacant Property Recovery Program to ease property purchases process for local residents



Mandy Williams: Works at Children’s library in Braddock, thanked the Borough and Council for help and support with recent events at local parks. Commented on success of recent events for children in the community. Commented on difficulties getting student data from Woodland Hills School District. Shared student data from Heritage: twenty percent of student participants are North Braddock residents, six pre-K classes, twenty percent of out-of-school program participants are North Braddock residents, and eighteen percent of pre-K participants are North Braddock residents . Spoke about recent “water-battle” event for local children that included the Braddock History center and the Braddock Youth Project, and possible future ice-cream and litter-clean-up events that could include local student volunteers.

Dara Johnson: Spoke about road patching and paving issues throughout the Borough and asked about possibility of paving on her street, Garden Court.

David Sloan: Asked about process for placing “Children at Play” signage on Wolfe Avenue.

Donna Brookes: Spoke about condition of lot on North Avenue owned by Zakiya house, and asked about Borough assistance to clean the lot. Commented on concerns about skunks. Commented on trash collection concerns regarding trash receptacles and issues with refuse not being properly collected.

Edith Abeyta: Asked about plans and timeline for the Tri-COG Land Bank property acquisitions and redevelopment in the Borough. Spoke on current state of Tri-COG Land Bank projects in nearby communities. Commented on collapsing structure and disrepair at property at 1401 Wolfe Avenue and asked about Borough action to remedy the situation.

Dara Johnson(continued): Commented on overgrown lot at 513 Verona Street

Mayor Jackson of Belle Vernon: Spoke about work through various organizations on local fundraising for military families, veterans, and underprivileged children. Commented on recent blood drive and spoke about “Sound the Alarm” Program through the American Red Cross. Spoke about conversations with children in local communities about gun violence. Spoke about Road Tax program implemented in Belle Vernon to fund road construction and maintenance.

New Business:

1. A motion was made by Vargo and seconded by Ruiz to approve and adopt **Resolution 23-07**

A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COMMUNITY FINANCIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Approved Unanimously

2. A motion was made by Giles and seconded by Sepesy to accept the bid by Mar-Allen Concrete Products for the Hawkins / Sixth Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$425,154.00 contingent upon approval by PennDOT.

Approved Unanimously



3. A motion was made by Nigro and seconded by Ruiz to approve the retirement of the code enforcement officer Dave Andrews effective February 2, 2024.

For (6): Giles, Franklin-Robinson, Nigro, Ruiz, Vargo, Breaston,

Against (1): Sepesy

Vahosky Abstained

Motion Passed

4. A motion was made by Breaston and seconded by Giles to advertise, and accept applications for the Code Enforcement Officer position with an application window starting from July 31, 2023 until September 1, 2023 at 3pm.

Approved Unanimously

A motion was made by Giles and seconded by Sepesy to approve motions Five (5) through Eleven (11)

For (7): Franklin-Robinson, Giles, Nigro, Ruiz, Sepesy, Vargo, Vahosky

Against (1): Breaston

Motion Passed

5. A motion to acknowledge and approve of the Tri-Cog Land Bank's proposed acquisition of 1013 4th Street , Lot Block Number 301-E-337, and direct the Borough Manager to submit all relevant documents.
6. A motion to acknowledge and approve of the Tri-Cog Land Bank's proposed acquisition of 1105 4th Street, Lot Block Number 301-E-330, and direct the Borough Manager to submit all relevant documents.
7. A motion to acknowledge and approve of the Tri-Cog Land Bank's proposed acquisition of 1101 4th Street, Lot Block Number 301-E-356, and direct the Borough Manager to submit all relevant documents.



8. A motion to acknowledge and approve of the Tri-Cog Land Bank's proposed acquisition of 1014 4th Street, Lot Block Number 301-E-321, and direct the Borough Manager to submit all relevant documents.
9. A motion to acknowledge and approve of the Tri-Cog Land Bank's proposed acquisition of 508 Price Avenue, Lot Block Number 301-J-091, and direct the Borough Manager to submit all relevant documents.
10. A motion to acknowledge and approve of the Tri-Cog Land Bank's proposed acquisition of 712 ½ Penn Street, Lot Block Number 301-J-335, and direct the Borough Manager to submit all relevant documents.
11. A motion to acknowledge and approve of the Tri-Cog Land Bank's proposed acquisition of Lot on Penn Street, Lot Block Number 301-J-337, and direct the Borough Manager to submit all relevant documents.
12. A motion was made by Sepesy and seconded by Nigro to approve the contract between North Braddock Borough and Pest-B-Gone for wildlife removal services.

Approved Unanimously
13. A motion was made by Vahosky and seconded by Giles to accept the resignation of Officer Jackson from the North Braddock Police Department effective June 7, 2023.

Approved Unanimously
14. A motion was made by Vahosky and seconded by Giles to accept the resignation of Officer Major from the North Braddock Police Department effective June 19, 2023.

Approved Unanimously
15. A motion was made by Giles and seconded by Nigro to appoint Ryan Wooten as the Interim Chief of Police effective July 1, 2023 and to approve the employment contract effective July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 pending by the borough solicitor.

For (7): Giles, Franklin-Robinson, Nigro, Ruiz, Vargo, Breaston, Vahosky



Against (1): Sepesy

Motion Passed

16. A motion was made by Giles and seconded by Nigro to approve the borough payrolls and monthly bills as presented.

Approved Unanimously

17. A *****

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Giles and seconded by Ruiz to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM

Approved Unanimously