

**BOROUGH OF TARENTUM
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 P.M. APRIL 20, 2015**

100507

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEIGANCE

2. ROLL CALL

Greg Schmitt
Ray Kerr
Joe Davidek
Tim Firko
Pete Varos
Eric Carter
Mike Gutonski
Bill Rossey
Mayor Magnetta
Solicitor Clark
Chief Vakulick

3. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 16, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING

Motion to approve by Councilman Davidek, seconded by Councilman Carter. Carried.

4. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

REMARKS: Gina Landa, 512 East 6th Avenue, Tarentum, raised the issue of a neighbor's red Cadillac being parked in front of her home that was leaking brake fluid and gasoline. The neighbor stated he could park the car there indefinitely.

REMARKS: Police had spoken with car owner on numerous occasions and that Ms. Landa would need to call the police if the car owner pushes his vehicle in front of another neighbor's home again.

CHIEF Plates and insurance are legal as per Chief Vakulick, and he can park there legally. Police will give him several tags, and he has so many tags before he needs to remove the vehicle. Chief Vakulick reiterated that if they see a vehicle being pushed, please call the police.

VAKULICK

REMARKS: Rhonda Russell, Butler Street, asked for clarification about a portable outdoor fireplace and a recreational fireplace and the setback distances according to code. Neighbor of Russell has a metal tire ring filled with wood within 5 feet of a wood pile and 10 feet of a deck, and 19 feet from the house. Mrs. Russell stated that as per County guidelines, fires must be 10 feet away from flammable materials, and she spoke with an attorney from the County who stated that the town rules of 25 feet would take precedence. Mrs. Russell stated that for a bonfire, it is a national standard of 50 feet from any flammable materials and 25 feet for a recreational fire.

REMARKS:

CHRIS Chris went to speak to the neighbor with the fire chief. Homeowner said he had not built a fire in the fire pit for 2 years. Fire chief explained that if he intends to build a fire, the propane tank needs to go. The fire pit is legal and well over 25 feet from the house. If they intend to build a fire, they would also need to move the wood pile.

REMARKS:

PRESIDENT

GUTONSKI County rules and regulations must be upheld. They will have the homeowner move the wood back to 25 feet.

REMARKS:

COUNCILMAN

FIRKO Suggests that council get together on wording and interpretation of fire codes for recreational fires, bonfires, and fire pits.

REMARKS:

Sandy Collins, 209 Main Street. Concerned about a repetitive bonfire in a yard on East Third Ave. Gentleman returns regularly to build bonfires. Also concerned about high trucks repeatedly hitting cable, electric, and telephone lines when traveling down her street. Requested no trucks sign be posted due to damage being done to her home from pulled wires.

REMARKS:

CHRIS Homeowner on East Third has already been cited for the bonfires.

REMARKS: Trucks should be using Bridge Street, not Main Street. The matter will be looked into.

CHIEF

VAKULICK

REMARKS: Jim Russell, Butler Street. Concerned about brake retarder signs needing to go up on the J past the high school.

REMARKS:

COUNCILMAN

ROSSEY That is a PennDOT road, not our highway, and we cannot put up brake retarder signs.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PRESIDENT

GUTONSKI Sidewalk repair on West 7th Avenue was done with an excellent job. Some fencing was also put up to prevent vehicles from cutting through the lot. Thanks given to the Chief of Police and Code Enforcement to get these matters taken care of.

Property to be torn down on West 12th Avenue was handled by Chris and he was thanked.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

MAYOR Calls for service for March 2015: Calls for service 437; action necessary 346; no action necessary 91; arrests 22; Citations issued 148; Total accidents 8; Accidents with injury is 2; Fines collected \$4,033.68. Fines collected for the year \$15,752.79.

Parking tickets issued 28.

MAGNETTA On 3/18, attended the Borough Public Safety meeting; 3/22, attended Eagle Scout ceremony for Tim Brevard; 3/24, attended Chamber of Commerce luncheon with county executive Rich Fitzgerald; 3/28, attended Eagle Scout presentation for Ethan Tady; 4/1, worked at senior citizen bingo; 4/7 attended Borough and accepted the banner award from county executive Rich Fitzgerald, along with Bill Rossey and Ray Kerr; 4/8, attended meeting with the Gillette's on

the cleaning up of the property on 5th Avenue; 4/8, attended meeting with Univar, USA, Incorporated, on chemical purchases and a holding tank; 4/9, attended ITT technical school and gave commencement address; 4/14 attended Allegheny County Mayor's Executive Association meeting; 4/14, attended Allegheny County hazard management meeting with Tim Firko.

Emergency Management position is currently vacant and we are looking for someone to fill the spot as the previous holder of the position had open heart surgery and resigned. No one has applied for the position at this time.

We have applied for FEMA and qualified and FEMA money will be available in case of an emergency.

Would like to recommend Tim Firko as Emergency Management Coordinator, which will be brought up under Public Safety. Mayor would like to apply for position of an emergency management coordinator to work alongside Tim Firko.

REMARKS: Parking tickets issues should be 60, not 28.

CHIEF

VAKULICK

7. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

REMARKS: Has a comment on a motorcycle issue once it is raised, and that concludes the Police Chief's report.

CHIEF

VAKULICK

8. MANAGER'S REPORT

REMARKS: Would like to put on the agenda next month to hire summer help. There are 6 applications so far. Will forward names and Council can decide how many to hire.

9. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

REMARKS:

SOLICITOR

CLARK Made progress on issues on the 5th Avenue laundromat. There are also 5 properties that are trying to be made tax exempt. Notice was made to County, who will give their reply in the near future. Also worked on the reserve parking ordinance at the behest of the Chief of Police.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**A. ADMINISTRATIVE , EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, FINANCE COMMITTEE
MIKE GUTONSKI, TIM FIRKO**

1. RESOLUTION TO PAY APRIL BILLS

Upon motion by Councilman Firko, seconded by Councilman Varos

RESOLVED, this Council approves the payment of the April 2015 bills.

Upon roll call, the resolution was adopted with seven (7) affirmative votes.

REMARKS: There are 2 bills for Senate Engineering. As per President Gutonski, that will be tabled.

B. WATER COMMITTEE

Joe Davidek, Eric Carter

1. RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Davidek, seconded by Councilman Carter, motion to accept the bid from Tank Industry Consultants, Inc. for the amount of \$13, 225.00 for the inspection of the three existing water storage tanks. Motion passed with unanimous votes by Council.
2. RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Davidek, seconded by Councilman Carter, motion to approve the 2 year equipment agreement with Univar for the installation of a new 2500 gallon Caustic Soda storage tank for the water treatment plant. Motion passed with unanimous votes by Council.

REMARKS:

MR. ADAMS Three 330-gallon tanks are delivered each month. There is a lot of handling and money involved loading and unloading the tanks. By buying in bulk and having a bigger storage facility, more money is saved. We are currently paying 33 cents

per pound for caustic soda. By buying in bulk, we'll be paying about 20 cents per pound, with 13 cents in savings per pound. Last year we went through 147,000 gallons. This would be a savings of anywhere between \$16-18,000 per year. Univar supplies the tanks and maintains the tanks at no cost. There will be a cost of \$2,000 for the installation.

REMARKS:

COUNCILMAN

FIRKO

Raised the issue of the chlorine tanks at the water department being in an area not conducive to work. Right now chlorine is stored in 150-pound bottles in a loading dock. Recommendation to move them to storage room off the parking lot. Current moving and handling of chlorine using forklifts and hand trucks is not safe. It would cost about \$8,000 to relocate the chlorine.

REMARKS:

This is a public safety issue which cannot be kept on the backburner.

PRESIDENT

GUTONSKI

REMARKS:

There is a small storage room off the water plant where these cylinders could be stored that would make for easier and safer access.

MR. ADAMS

*****NO ELECTRIC COMMITTEE REPORT THIS MONTH*****

D. PUBLIC SAFETY AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE

Tim Firko, Mike Gutonski

1. RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Firko, seconded by Councilman Davidek, motion to advertise Ordinance 15-03 amending Chapter 250, Vehicles and Traffic, Article III, Traffic and Parking Regulation, adding Section 250-27.2 of the Code of Ordinances of the Borough of Tarentum (Reserving Parking.) Motion passed with a unanimous vote by Council.

REMARKS:

CHIEF

VAKULICK Request by Chief and by the Mayor to cite citizens who are using chairs, TV stands, couches outside to save parking spaces. When these are removed by police citizens will go put them back. Citations will follow standard ordinances.

REMARKS:

COUNCILMAN

FIRKO Safety issues brought up by fire department, police department, code enforcement, and the mayor regarding hazards while fire department is responding to calls and fighting fires. Difficulty with cars being parked in areas that restrict fire department's safely responding to calls and fighting fires. Requests stricter enforcing, requests public to use their driveways, not park near stop signs or intersections. Target areas in the First Ward will be focused upon to start with.

Report from Eureka Fire Rescue was read stating 33 fire calls were made in March 2015, representing 81 personnel hours, and EMS calls representing 900 personnel hours.

2. RESOLVED, upon motion by President Gutonski, seconded by Councilman Davidek, to appoint Tim Firko as Borough Emergency Manager and Carl Magnetta as Assistant Emergency Manager. Motion passed with unanimous votes by Council.

E. PROPERTY & ZONING, LIBRARY & HEALTH COMMITTEE

Pete Varos, Ray Kerr

1. RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Kerr, seconded by Councilman Carter, to motion to accept the bid from Hass Excavating and Demolition for the demolition of 200 West 12th Avenue at the bid price of \$7,500. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote by all Council members.

REMARKS:

PRESIDENT

GUTONSKI A neighbor to the West 12th Street property had approached and discussed the request to remove a garage that was also on the property as well as a tree.

Request to add an extra \$700 or \$800 to remove these items also and amend the former motion.

2. RESOLVED, upon motion to add to and amend previous motion, motioned by Councilman Kerr, seconded by Councilman Davidek, to accept the bid from Hass Excavating for the amount of \$8,300. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote by all Council members.

3. RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Kerr, seconded by Councilman Davidek, that the condemned and dangerous property at 204 East 5th Avenue be torn down. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote by all Council members.

Also RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Kerr, seconded by Councilman Davidek, that the asbestos abatement proceed on the property at 204 East 5th Avenue. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote by all Council members.

REMARKS:

PRESIDENT

GUTONSKI Property of former laundromat at 203, 204, 205 East 5th Avenue, current site of Three Rivers Staffing, has been deemed a danger by engineers and should be torn down.

REMARKS:

MAYOR

MAGNETTA What actions can the building owner take at this point when faced with demolition.

REMARKS:

PRESIDENT

GUTONSKI Owner of building has been given ample chance to rectify issues with safety and asbestos and has refused. Engineers have deemed structure unsafe. Any motions for advertising any bids for that property?

REMARKS:

MR. GILLETTE Mr. Gillette is willing to come in and clean it up and use it as a lien against the property. There is already a lien on the property by the Federal Government due to owner's withholding taxes.

F. STREETS & SANITARY SEWERS COMMITTEE

Eric Carter, Tim Firko

1. RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Davidek, motion to approve the request from Tarentum Vapor Lounge to close 3rd Avenue from Corbet Street to Worth Street on Saturday, May 16th, 2015, from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM to hold a Cloud competition. Amended that the event will be held on 3rd Ave. from 12:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Motion passed with unanimous votes by all Council members.

REMARKS:

CHIEF

VAKULICK Raised concerns about controlling the crowd, loud music, and use of alcohol. Motion to change event to be held on 3rd Avenue from 12:00 PM until 8:00 PM instead, no music, no band, no alcohol, security checks at the door and bathrooms provided.

2. RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Kerr, to disapprove the request from the Zodiac motorcycle club to close East 6th Avenue from Ross Street to Wood Street on Saturday, August 15, 2015 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM to hold the 4th annual charity ride for the Fisher House. Motion was denied by unanimous votes by all Council members.

REMARKS:

CHIEF Concerns about shutting the bridge down and having PennDOT's involvement, which will be time consuming and expensive.

VAKULICK

3. RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Davidek, to grant Bill Ringler permission to hold a block party on Sunday, May 10, 2015 from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM and close the lower half of Highland Street during that time. Motion approved with unanimous votes by all Council members.

4. RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Kerr, motion to grant Mark Gatto permission to install a curb cut at 203 East 7th Avenue and Wood Street. Motion approved by unanimous votes by all Council members.

5. RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Kerr, seconded by Councilman Varos, to approve the \$350,000 street scape project funded by grant money. Motion approved unanimously by all Council members.

REMARKS:

PRESIDENT

GUTONSKI Concerns raised over cost of \$350,000 for continued street scape of East 5th Avenue and this is not necessary. No Borough money will go into the project except for the engineering fees.

6. RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Davidek, seconded by Councilman Carter, to approve the retirement of Bill Rossey on November 3rd, 2015. Motion approved by a unanimous vote by all Council members.

G. PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Greg Schmitt, Pete Varos

1. RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Schmitt, seconded by Councilman Carter, to grant Highlands Family Center permission to hold a Summer Bash in Tarentum Riverview Park on Thursday, June 18, 2015 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM with a rain date of Friday, June 19, 2015. Motion passed by a unanimous vote by all Council members.

2. RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Schmitt, seconded by Councilman Davidek, to grant Dynamite Daycare permission to hold the annual preschool graduation in Tarentum Riverview Park on Thursday, May 21, 2015 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM and to close First Avenue to traffic during that time. Motion passed with unanimous votes by all Council members.

*** NO AVN/COG COMMITTEE REPORT THIS MONTH***

NO KOZ COMMITTEE REPORT THIS MONTH

NO REDEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT THIS MONTH

11. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

REMARKS: Jim Bowser, 314 West 8th Avenue. When did Tarentum become divided into two towns? If there is money for Tarentum Borough, it should not matter whether the money is used by East side, West Side, etc. The money is for the entire Borough. To solve the parking issue, put a few parking lots in and use the money where it needs to go.

ROSSEY Money has been tried to be moved around, but uses of it as per County. I tried to use some of the money for demolition of property on West 7th and they said no.

COUNCILMAN

DAVIDEK

It broke my heart to make a motion to let Bill Rossey go into retirement. I made the motion to hire him. That was pretty tough. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Davidek, seconded by Councilman Schmitt to adjourn. There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting of April 20, 2015 was unanimously adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Submitted by:



William Rossey

Tarentum Borough Manager