

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

9281177

**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEIGANCE**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Joe Davidek  
Erika Josefowski  
Tim Firko  
Pete Varos  
Eric Carter  
Mike Gutonski  
Bill Rossey  
Mayor Magnetta  
Solicitor Clark  
Chief Vakulick

**3. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 15, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING**

Motion to approve by Councilman Varos, seconded by Councilman Davidek.

**4. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

REMARKS:

Krista Strellec Livingston of 219 North Street, Tarentum, representing The David Strellec Memorial Fund scholarship. David served as Borough solicitor from 1986 until his passing in 2013. The Fund gives \$500 scholarships to students in the Highlands school district who are attending any post-secondary institution. Krista recognized two students: Kaitlin Grosholz, who will be studying nursing at Penn State, and Melissa Gustafson, who will be studying English and psychology at Leigh University. These two young women have done extensive volunteer work as well as have outstanding academic records. Also, the Fund is now a 501(c)3 non-profit and all donations made to it are 100% tax deductible.

COUNCILMAN

FIRKO

Congratulations to the winners of the scholarships. The Fund is a truly fitting tribute to Dave, who was a strong part of the Borough for many years.

## 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PRESIDENT We regretfully report that we need to find a replacement for our code officer. Chris did a wonderful job and he will be very difficult to replace.

FIRKO I have created a budget committee to keep a tight eye on the Borough's finances and to communicate financial issues to the Council and the community. Erika has been doing a lot of work in submitting figures to the Council.

## 6. MAYOR'S REPORT

MAYOR

MAGNETTA Calls for service for June 2015: Calls for service 491; action necessary 360; no action necessary 131; arrests 30; Citations issued 94; Total accidents 12; Accidents with injury is 2; Fines collected \$3,242.56. Fines collected for the year \$27,153.38.

Parking tickets issued 30.

Month has been a little slow, but on 6/8, worked the concert in the park. On 6/9, attended the steelworkers' rally in the park and also performed a wedding. Received \$100 donation for the recreation board.

**\*\*\*NO POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT THIS MONTH\*\*\***

## 8. MANAGER'S REPORT

REMARKS: After much thought about retirement effective November 3, last day will instead be August 3.

COUNCILMAN

ROSSEY

RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Davidek, seconded by Councilman Varos, to accept Councilman Rossey's retirement as Manager effective August 3, 2015. Motion passed with unanimous vote by all Council members.

Congratulations to Mr. Rossey.

10574

## 9. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

REMARKS:

SOLICITOR

CLARK Work for the month included the deed for the parking at the Hope Center, exemptions for the water tank property, the real estate exemption, and had to attend some hearings with Mr. Fabec.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. ADMINISTRATIVE , EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tim Firko, Eric Carter

#### 1. RESOLUTION TO PAY JULY BILLS

Upon motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Varos.

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

Upon roll call, the resolution was adopted with five (5) affirmative votes.

#### 2. MOTION TO GRANT COUNCIL, THE MAYOR, AND MIKE GUTONSKI PERMISSION TO ATTEND THE 2015 FALL CONFERENCE AT SEVEN SPRINGS SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH THE 27<sup>TH</sup>.

RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Davidek, to grant the Council, the Mayor, and Mike Gutonski permission to attend the fall conference. Motion passed by a unanimous vote from all Council present.

#### 3. MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CHRIS FABEC AS TARENTUM BOROUGH CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2015.

RESOLVED, Upon motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Varos, and to a unanimous vote of those Council members present, this Council approves the resignation of Chris Fabec as Borough Code Enforcement Officer, effective August 1, 2015, contingent upon him changing his mind .

10.575

REMARKS:

MAYOR

MAGNETTA

We are losing a very good employee who followed the books, who we spent a lot of money on sending for training to be certified, and it is a shame something can't be done.

REMARKS:

Seconded that sentiment. Shame to be losing Mr. Fabec.

COUNCILMAN

DAVIDEK

REMARKS:

Can something be done to keep him? Should we table it?

COUNCILMAN

GUTONSKI

REMARKS:

Chris has a full-time police job at Carlow College.

CHIEF

VAKULICK

REMARKS:

PRESIDENT

FIRKO

What we can do is add on to the motion until we see Mr. Fabec to discuss things with him and give us time to work out a plan. If not, we accept the resignation.

REMARKS:

COUNCILMAN

DAVIDEK

We'll accept the resignation contingent. This is a job where a lot of time is needed to educate a person. What are the procedures necessary?

10-575

REMARKS:

PRESIDENT

FIRKO

We have a lot of work to do to find a replacement. If we could retain, that would be optimal. If not, the employee relations and finance and administrative committee will have to come up with some criteria on a replacement.

REMARKS:

COUNCILMAN

DAVIDEK

Any chance Mr. Fabec would still want to work part-time until we hire someone if he is only working 8 hours per day at the college?

REMARKS:

CHIEF

VAKULICK

That is not a good idea. I would have to chase him down to attend hearings and his other job may conflict with hearings. He would not be able to take any vacation.

REMARKS:

PRESIDENT

FIRKO

It will conflict too much. But we will add to the motion that his resignation will be contingent upon his changing his mind.

**\*\*\*NO WATER COMMITTEE REPORT THIS MONTH\*\*\***

REMARKS:

Part of the property zoning is dealing with a property we are thinking of putting the new tank on, but we will leave that up to the property committee.

COUNCILMAN

DAVIDEK

101577

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

REMARKS:

MAYOR

MAGNETTA

Was brought to attention that we received a bill for \$22,000 from Allegheny County for 15 percent local share for some decorative lights that were placed in the park. I believed that was covered under the grant we received. Would like to know where we will get \$22,000 to pay this bill.

REMARKS:

COUNCILMAN

ROSSEY

That was last year's lights, not this year's. This should have all been approved at Council meetings.

REMARKS:

COUNCILMAN

DAVIDEK

Not clear how I feel about it. The only way we will come up with this money is to tighten some belts around here. We don't want to raise rates and we don't want to raise taxes.

**D. PUBLIC SAFETY AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE**

Tim Firko, Erika Josefowski

REMARKS:

In June, Highland Hose reported 16 fire calls, representing 9.5 man hours. 2 training sessions, representing 52 man hours.

PRESIDENT

In May, Highland Hose reported 8 fire calls, representing 144 man hours. 1 training detail representing 32 hours.

FIRKO

For Eureka Fire Rescue, 41 fire calls representing 91 personnel hours. Training hours for the month of June are 24.

4/15/20

EMS, 270 calls, representing 1,016 personnel hours.

Our firemen operate on a volunteer basis and as always are a very important asset to this Borough and we thank them for that commitment.

#### **E. PROPERTY & ZONING, LIBRARY & HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Pete Varos, Ray Kerr

**1. Motion to hire Hass Excavating & Demolition to demolish house & shed at 301 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue for a cost of \$5,000.**

RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Varos, seconded by Councilman Davidek, with a unanimous vote by all Council present, to hire Hass Excavating & Demolition to demolish house & shed at 301 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue for a cost of \$5,000.

#### REMARKS:

#### BOROUGH MANAGER

GUTONSKI

This is being done because this is property we own, and kids have gotten up into the area and have vandalized the house and built a racetrack around it. In order to prevent anyone from getting hurt, we thought it best to have the property torn down.

This is not a complete clean-up of the entire property. This focuses on the house, the shed, and some debris, which will be paid for by the bond. There will be another bill coming up that will take care of the rest of the property.

#### **F. STREETS & SANITARY SEWERS COMMITTEE**

Eric Carter, Tim Firko

**1. Motion to award the 2015 paving contract to Ron Gilette Inc., for the amount of \$72,430.50.**

RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Davidek, to award the 2015 paving contract to Ron Gilette Inc., for the total amount of \$96,000, contingent upon the amount needed for repair of Lock Street, from E. 7<sup>th</sup> to E. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Motion passed by unanimous vote of all Council present.

104570

REMARKS

COUNCILMAN

DAVIDEK

Lock Street from 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue is in deplorable condition due to rains lifting up the asphalt. Requests Mr. Gillette take a look at the area and add onto the existing contract to take care of this area as well. We have about \$96,000 for paving that can cover it.

**2. Motion to grant the Tarentum Fraternal Order of the Eagles permission to hold a Nationwide Food Drive on Saturday, October 3, 2015, and to block Wood Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue.**

RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Davidek, and to a unanimous vote by all Council present, to grant the Tarentum Fraternal Order of the Eagles permission to hold a Nationwide Food Drive on Saturday, October 3, 2015, and to block Wood Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

REMARKS:

RUTH

JORDAN

This is a nationwide event happening all over Pennsylvania and other states. We have the support of a fire company, and there will be a lot of advertising. My support, Karen, and I would appreciate the help of the Borough with this event as we would like to stock our food pantries and look forward to community support. Will I be given approval in writing to hold this event?

REMARKS:

A letter granting approval for the event will be given to Ms. Jordan.

PRESIDENT

FIRKO

**3. Motion to authorize Gibson Thomas to start the design of the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge superstructure replacement after the grant has been approved by the County and the Borough signs the grant agreement, price not to exceed \$600,000.**

RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Davidek, to authorize Gibson Thomas to proceed with Option 4 for the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge replacement. Motion passed by unanimous vote by all Council present.

**BOURGH MANAGER GUTONSKI:** Last meeting we had a representative from Gibson Thomas come in and go over 4 options. Of those 4 options, 3 of them involved federal funding and PennDOT involvement. The 4<sup>th</sup> option did not involve PennDOT and there's no federal funding. This is a project they feel they could do not to exceed \$600,000.

We should have the \$500,000 grant that will come up in the next motion. The remaining \$100,000 we should be able to take from liquid fuels money over the course of the next 10 years.

**REMARKS:** This is our best and cheapest option.

**PRESIDENT**

**FIRKO**

**REMARKS:** Concern that there may be unforeseen contingencies that we may have to pay engineers for.

**COUNCILMAN**

**DAVIDEK**

**REMARKS:** Speaking with the engineers, they have a lot of experience with bridges and superstructures, so we need to trust them on this to do their job.

## **G. PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Erika Josefoski, Greg Schmitt

**REMARKS:** Regarding the basketball courts in West Tarentum, we are looking into how much it would be to repave them and work with Dick's on getting some new backboards and nets to fix it up. Mike has been working on this as well.

**COUNCILWOMAN**

**JOSEFOSKI** We have also been brainstorming about having a dog park in West Tarentum at the crab diamond location. There have been some thoughts on having dogs in

Riverview Park, and this may be a good way to get some common ground on it. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know.

**1. Motion to grant Abundant Joy Fellowship permission to use Riverview Park on Sunday, July 19, 2015, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM for a church service, and Sunday, August 30, 2015, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM to hold a church service and picnic.**

RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Carter, to grant Abundant Joy Fellowship permission to use Riverview Park on Sunday, July 19, 2015 and Sunday, August 30, 2015 for their services. Motion passed by unanimous votes of all Council present.

**2. Motion to grant Summit Hose Company permission to install a permanent 20-foot pole along the riverbank behind the Hebie Statue for use during their Fall Festival.**

RESOLVED, upon motion by Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Carter, to grant Summit Hose Company permission to install a 20-foot pole along the riverbank behind the Hebie Statue for use during their Fall Festival. Motion passed by unanimous votes of all Council present.

REMARKS:

BOROUGH MANAGER

GUTONSKI

Have spoken with some members of Summit Hose and they would gratefully request the use of our mini excavator on August 7<sup>th</sup> for help with the installation of the pole and the box that's going to be installed. It will take about 2-3 hours.

REMARKS:

COUNCILWOMAN

JOSEFOSKI

Generations House of Worship would like permission to hold a night of music in the Park and cookout on Friday nights throughout the summer in order to bolster community spirit and involvement.

REMARKS:

SOLICITOR

CLARK

If they are going to be using the pavilion, is that something that we usually grant? Because it may be against the U.S. Constitution for us to allow any religion to just go and use the pavilion every Friday night. I can see this being more problematic than a one-shot deal because they are saying "Friday nights" and "using our facilities."

REMARKS:

Will the streets be closed as well?

CHIEF

VAKULICK

REMARKS:

PRESIDENT

FIRKO

Does not say anything about closing the streets. I can run it by the Rec board to see what they think. Why don't we look into this a bit more and contact the church? No motions being made at this time.

#### **H. AVN/COG COMMITTEE**

Erika Josefowski, Eric Carter

REMARKS:

We accepted the rock salt bid for \$59.29 per ton, and that is through the Shacog\*. This Wednesday, the 22, is for the water bill.

COUNCILWOMAN

JOSEFOSKI

**\*\*\*NO KOZ COMMITTEE REPORT THIS MONTH\*\*\***

10-58

**\*\*\*NO REDEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE THIS MONTH\*\*\***

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

REMARKS:

COUNCILWOMAN

JOSEFOSKI I have been working on the budget using last year's budget and this year's year-to-date. Everyone has a copy of the revenue and I also have a copy of the expenses. If anyone has questions, please let me know.

## **11. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

REMARKS: Jim Bowser, 106<sup>th</sup> West 14<sup>th</sup>, for Mr. Mayor: You say you stood up for United Steelworkers the other day; are you still supporting them?

REMARKS: I support them 100%. This is not a publicity stunt.

MAYOR

MAGNETTA

REMARKS: Director of Parks & Recreation: mower is broken, motor is not working and mower had to be towed. Here tonight asking for a new motor for the mower.

REMARKS: We will address it and get that fixed.

PRESIDENT

FIRKO

REMARKS: Larry Troutman, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue: What happened to the locomotive that was supposed to come from McKees Rocks and be placed somewhere with a bridge view? You haven't reported on it.

10-586

REMARKS:

PRESIDENT

FIRKO It was going to cost more than we anticipated. We have not been able to come up with the funds.

REMARKS:

BOROUGH MANAGER

GUTONSKI The railroad company actually would not agree to the stipulations. They weren't willing to give the time and effort, and there was no money.

REMARKS: I thought there was a \$200,000 grant to build some sort of roof over it.

REMARKS:

COUNCILMAN

ROSSEY The train is sitting isolated in McKees Rocks near a lumberyard because tracks were taken out stranding the train. CSX took their tracks out. No one wanted to put down 400 feet of track to get the train out of isolation. The grant would not pay for it because it was a temporary measure. The railroad would not do it as a donation. So we could not get anyone to put in that 400 feet of track. The money had to be spent by the end of June. It's gone. It's been sent back because it wasn't used.

REMARKS: Cindy Sander, 506 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue: I have been here before to complain about the neighbors at number 507 and their dog. We have a shared sidewalk. They have ruined their backyard and there is trash and dog doo everywhere. When it rains, there is mud and trash and dog doo everywhere. They are renters, and I have contacted property management.

REMARKS: Have you contacted Code Enforcement?

10-586

BOROUGH MANAGER

GUTONSKI

REMARKS:

CINDY

SANDER

Code Enforcement was contacted a few weeks ago but did not respond, which was a first, because they had been out to fix the drains. I had a lot of water coming in my basement. Code Enforcement did come back out and clean the gutters, but the water is still pouring and there's silt because there's no grass. Water keeps getting in. I had to spend \$1,300 on a fence because their backyard is so disgusting.

I do have to commend you all on the great work you did on the park.

REMARKS:

Give Mr. Gutonski your phone number and he will look into it.

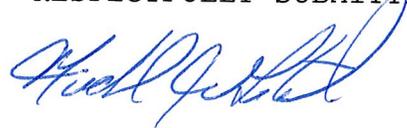
PRESIDENT

FIRKO

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilman Davidek, seconded by Councilman Varos to adjourn. There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting of July 20, 2015 was unanimously adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY



MICHAEL J. GUTONSKI  
TARENTUM BOROUGH MANAGER