



# BOROUGH OF TARENTUM

REGULAR MEETING

ONLINE ZOOM MEETING

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes



<b>ORDER:</b>	<b>The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Council President Scott Dadowski.</b>		
<b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG.</b>			
<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	The following members were present: Mr. Jim Bonner, Ms. Carrie Fox, Mr. Brian Snyder, Mr. Scott Dadowski, Ms. Erika Josefoski, Mr. Adam Blythe, Ms. Lou Ann Homa, and Mayor Eric Carter.		
<b>ALSO PRESENT:</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>PRESENT:</b>
	BOROUGH MANAGER	MICHAEL L. NESTICO	X
	BOROUGH SOLICITOR	DAVID A. REGOLI	X
	CHIEF OF POLICE	WILLIAM S. VAKULICK	AWC
	CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	ANTHONY D. BRUNI	X
<b>EXCEPTIONS TO OPEN MEETINGS:</b>	None.		
<b>MINUTES:</b>	Motion by Ms. Fox, second by Ms. Josefoski to accept the minutes of the <a href="#">May 5, 2020 Regular Council Meeting</a> . The motion carried unanimously.		
<b>CITIZENS:</b> <b>Agenda Items.</b>	None.		

### **COMMITTEE and DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

<b>Mayor Report</b>	Calls for service report detailed. Would like to open the spray park for the summer. Believes the park should open tomorrow.
<b>President Report</b>	Third and hopefully last virtual meeting. Thanks to Public Works staff for the Borough appearance heading into the summer. Thanks to the office staff for their handling and professionalism in dealing with the virus shutdown and its effects. Thanked the Borough Staff and Council Members for the way everything has been handled during the shutdown. Thanks to Manager for getting meetings coordinated during this time. Discussion to follow later in the meeting about what it means for Tarentum in the “green phase”.
<b>Solicitor Report</b>	
<b>Police Chief Report</b>	
<b>Code Officer Report</b>	Monthly Report will be posted online. Demolition update: 13 demolitions down, 10 remaining on the contract with Allen Demolition.
<b>Manager Report</b>	<b>Upcoming Events:</b> June 25, 2020 – 7:00 PM: Recreation Board Concert – Murphy’s Music Center Band June 29, 2020 – 7:00 PM: Zoning Hearing Board Appeal June 30, 2020 – 6:00 PM: Recreation Board Meeting July 3, 2020 – Borough Offices Closed



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July 7, 2020 – 6:00 PM: Borough Council Meeting

[Legislative Locator Monthly Update](#)

League Link Monthly Update

[Engineer Report](#)

**New Business:**

- ❖ Motion by Ms. Fox, second by Mr. Snyder to pay the Borough bills for the month of May, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Motion by Ms. Fox, second by Mr. Blythe to add Brian Geracia to the Tarentum Boat Dock Lease list at position # 16. The motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Motion by Ms. Fox, second by Mr. Blythe to opt-in to the Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program through the Allegheny Valley North Council of Governments (AVNCOG) for the period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Motion by Ms. Fox, second by Mr. Snyder to approve the use of Tarentum Park for Denise Kissell, RN to hold several health information sessions on July 7, July 14, July 21 and July 28, 2020 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

*Councilwoman Fox commented if you have diabetes this session is phenomenal. Highly recommends attending this event.*

- ❖ Motion by Mr. Blythe, second by Ms. Fox to adopt Resolution #20-07:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TARENTUM, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING THE TARENTUM BOROUGH ACT 537 FACILITY PLAN FOR SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on the use of Dreshar Stadium for Natrona Heights Baseball and Softball Association. *Manager commented that this item is no longer necessary to discuss or deliberate. NHBSA is not currently seeking use of the facility. Councilwoman Josefoski commented that we may need to revisit next month depending on the school board decision to allow NHBSA to use the school ball fields.*

Discussion on the opening of Borough facilities such as spray park, park events and borough building in light of the Allegheny County “green phase.”

**Spray Park:** Manager recommendation to open spray park. Signs probably not necessary.



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Councilman Dadowski: Would like to open the park. Decision is whether it is open tomorrow or Friday, June 5.

Councilman Snyder: Open tomorrow and let kids have some fun.

Councilwoman Homa: Agree to open park.

Councilman Bonner: Agree to open but would recommend signage consistent with PRPS (Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society) guidelines.

Councilman Dadowski: Laminate several signs and place around the park fence area.

Councilwoman Fox: Would like to wait until Friday, June 5 “green phase” to abide by the rules. Laminate signs and put them on fence.

Councilwoman Homa: Under “yellow phase” we are allowed to have a spray park open. Just get them open. Public works just has to open the gate and turn on the valve.

Councilwoman Josefoski: Not much for kids to do at this time. Time to return to a sense of normalcy to our families and give them something to do.

Councilman Snyder: Some things need to be left up to the individual. If you are comfortable going to the spray park, you can go. If you’re not comfortable, then don’t go. It should be up to the individual.

Manager: No need to vote on the item. Just wanted to hear council’s position. We will get signs made that indicate “maintain social distancing.”

**Concert Events:** Manager recommendation to hold concert events. Discretion of recreation board if they want to have concessions or raffles.

Councilwoman Fox: First concert may occur on June 11 as a tribute to Patrick Segriff. Still up in the air. Following concert would be June 25, 2020. Spoke with Board of Health several times, referred to the State Dept. of Health. Also spoke with the DCED. Both said the same thing: Permitted up to 250 people. Proper social distance and sanitation. Main concerns are about the snack shack. Would have to be treated as a restaurant. Concessions would require plexiglass installation. Condiments in individual packets. Sanitizer. Paper Products. Masks and Gloves. Bathrooms sanitized. CF not sure what to about the snack shack because it gets so hot in there. Doesn’t know about standing inside with mask and gloves on. Doesn’t know what to say or do. Can’t have elderly recreation board volunteers sitting outside exchanging money with attendees. In a bind.

Manager suggested having concerts without any concessions or raffles. We have the funds to hold the event without raising revenue.

Councilman Dadowski: Asked about doing small concessions like drinks or chips.

Councilwoman Fox: Considered doing small concessions. But attendees look forward to the snack shack. It makes the decision difficult.



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Councilwoman Josefoski: Attendees look forward to the snack shack food. Do whatever you need to keep the concerts going. Anything we can do to help just let us know.

Councilman Dadowski: Football does small items. Maybe recreation board can consider doing the same thing.

Councilman Snyder: Possibly consider food truck idea.

Councilman Bonner: Possibly consider boxed lunch style idea.

Manager asked if any council members have a concern with holding concerts. No members of council had any concerns. Therefore we will have concerts this summer and recreation board can decide how they want to do the concessions or raffles.

**Borough Building:** Manager recommendation to limit office hours as we return to regular operations. Possibly two separate windows of being “open”, one in the morning, one in the afternoon. Want to limit sanitizing and upkeep, and promote employee safety.

Also received a recommendation from Councilwoman Homa via email. Recommendation was to have office open roughly 5-6 hours daily when we believe that the office is prepared to handle public visitation.

Councilwoman Homa: Possibly rearrange plexiglass. Open a bit later than usual, close a bit earlier than usual. Roughly 10am to 2pm. Staff will still have time to work on other items outside of payment window.

Councilwoman Josefoski: Would take Ms. Homa’s lead on this item.

Councilman Bonner: Return to normalcy was talked about earlier. It should be encouraged because we are a public entity. So getting the office open as much as possible should be accomplished. Counter area probably exceeds most of safety protocols already in place.

Councilwoman Josefoski: Conferences and seminars show that other municipalities are trying to trend away from in-person transactions for various reasons, primarily safety. Wants to get back to normal, but we should do it slowly.

Councilman Dadowski: Starting on Mon, June 8, 2020 we should reopen office. Hours will be 10am – 2pm daily until further notice. 1 person at a time. Sanitize best they can.

Councilwoman Fox: Once we get new software, we can get people to pay online and make things more efficient. But right now we have to remember that we are serving the public and if they want to come in to the Borough Building, that is their right. Believes that it should be open more hours.

Councilwoman Homa: Some folks just want to have face-to-face interaction.

Councilman Dadowski: Everyone seems to be in agreement to reopen office on Mon, June 8, 2020. Hours will be 10am – 2pm daily until further notice. 1 person at a time. Sanitize best they can. Plug holes in plexiglass.



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**July 7, 2020 Meeting.**

Councilman Dadowski: Should we hold the July 7, 2020 in Council Chambers? Are we comfortable with in-person meeting?

Manager indicated that the Zoning Hearing Board meeting will take place in late June in council chambers.

Councilman Snyder: Use ZHB meeting as barometer for our meeting.

Councilman Bonner: Do we have a default backup location in case we need a larger facility?

Councilwoman Homa: Could even hold meeting at park pavilion.

Manager indicated that we will use the ZHB meeting as a guide. We will follow up after that and make a decision.

Monthly Report – *Posted Online.*

- ❖ Motion by Ms. Homa, second by Mr. Snyder to ratify the hire of Terry Chambon, Nick Hilliard and Zachary Kuniak as temporary summer public works employees, with a prior start date of May 26, 2020 at a rate of \$12.00 per hour. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Fox: Last meeting discussion about college age or student age summer work positions. Maybe in the future we can look at ways to make these positions available as “student work”.

Councilwoman Homa: Historically it was high school or college students.

Manager stated that in future years we can look at the ability of hiring students for this position. May need to be listed as an internship. We didn’t appear to have any students apply this time. We don’t ask for age on the employment application so it’s hard to be certain exactly who applied. May be possible that the Borough was not doing things properly in the past. Asked solicitor for feedback.

Solicitor Regoli: You can set the guidelines how you want. They are non-union employees. There shouldn’t be an issue with structuring things to hire students for this position. We can look in to this item further for next year.

Councilwoman Fox: We aren’t the only municipality that hires student workers. So there has to be a way of doing it. We used to get a lot of students who applied for the positions but we previously advertised much earlier in the year.

Councilwoman Homa: We previously advertised earlier in the year but we had time constraints this year.

**Public Works**

**Ms. Homa**



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Water – [Monthly Report](#) – *Posted Online.*

- ❖ Motion by Mr. Bonner, second by Ms. Fox to ratify the execution of a [Master Power Purchase and Sale Agreement](#) between Tarentum Borough and PSEG Energy Resources & Trade, LLC for the purchase of electric supply through December 31, 2024 at a rate of \$30.35/MWh. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Bonner: Decision was between two bidders, PSEG and BP Energy. PSEG is our current supplier. Rate reduction from roughly \$38/MWh. We will not have to change or modify anything with our security deposit that is being held with them. In some ways it serves as a reserve account because it is earning interest.

- ❖ Motion by Mr. Bonner, second by Ms. Josefoski to re-advertise for the position of Water Treatment Plant Operator. The motion passed 6-1 with Ms. Homa voting nay.

Councilman Bonner: Only one applicant was interviewed out of the pool of applicants that we obtained a couple months ago. Even though the applicant looked to be qualified, based upon the current economic circumstances there may be others looking for work. We should ensure due diligence and re-advertise. Would like to seek additional applicants to ensure what is best for borough operation.

Utilities

Mr. Bonner

Councilwoman Fox: When did the interview take place?

Manager: Interview was a week and a half ago. Received 16 applicants. Reviewed between Manager and Plant Manager. Found 3 applicants that seemed to be a good fit. All 3 wanted to interview. Shutdown occurred. Restarted the process 3-4 weeks ago. Two of the three had found other jobs and were not interested in the position. Interviewed one applicant. Interview went well. Individual seemed like they would be a good fit. Plant manager recommended the hire of this individual. But from a financial and staffing standpoint, it doesn't hurt to re-advertise and conduct new interviews.

Councilwoman Fox: Asked if this was emailed to us about the water position.

Councilman Snyder: There was an email about the Plant Manager's recommendation, but it didn't include information about the number of applicants or resumes.

Councilwoman Fox: Doesn't like things like this to happen in a meeting. Feels that it discourages the candidate that applies. Discourages the supervisor.

Councilwoman Josefoski: Feels that we need to have a better idea of who we are voting on to hire. Last time the hire was messy. Would like to have a better



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idea of who we are about to hire. We are hiring them to be a part of our community.

Manager: If you are not sure about something listed on the agenda, you can always ask or email him.

Councilwoman Josefoski: Understands that we can ask but feels that once the department manager is making a recommendation it is already too late. Has concerns that not everybody who applies is being interviewed for the position. Doesn't think that is fair.

Manager: Borough manager and plant manager are making managerial decisions. We received 16 applications, not all of them are qualified. Some of the applicants only give their name and indicate they are looking for work. Some resume's are very limited. Last year we interviewed 5 applicants for the opening.

Councilwoman Josefoski: There are folks that are putting good applications or resume's in and they are not being interviewed. Never raised the issue previously but indicated that there are 3 really good applicants who have never been called to interview.

Manager: From a personnel standpoint, this is something we can address separately. But without having ever been told this, there is no way to know that this was a concern.

Councilwoman Fox: This happens a lot.

Councilwoman Josefoski: It does happen a lot.

Manager: Being put on the defensive during a public meeting. Continue to do this month after month. This issue was never said to him. Provide thorough email updates to council, sometimes they seem to be overwhelming, but he can't fix something if he doesn't know it's broken.

Councilwoman Josefoski. You are 100% right. Bringing it up now instead of privately because she doesn't want to appear as if she's asking for a favor. People in the public are personally reaching out to her and sending their resume, which she forwards to the manager. Thinks they are impressive resumes and wants to bring it up publicly because she wonders why they aren't being interviewed.

Councilwoman Fox: Never said anything because she thought it was always left up to the supervisor of the departments. Not blaming Borough Manager.

Councilman Snyder: Always trusted Borough Manager and Plant Manager recommendation without seeing individual resumes. They know what they are





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	<p>looking for and need in an employee. Impressive resumes could certainly be submitted but maybe they are not for the particular line of work.</p> <p>Manager: Worth mentioning that three of the applicants were to slated to be interviewed. Of those three, two others took positions elsewhere in the industry. The one that we did interview was a prior employee in the water plant. So each of the three potential interviewees all had water treatment backgrounds. As far as resumes go, sometimes the department head is looking for certain things within a resume.</p> <p>Councilwoman Josefoski: Trusts judgment of Borough Manager and Plant Manager. But as a person elected by the people, when she gets a resume from someone, and they aren't called for an interview, she feels obligated to speak on their behalf. Not trying to come across with any distrust toward either manager. Just advocating for those with quality resumes.</p>	
<b>AVNCOG</b>	<p>Zoom meeting last month. If there are any emergency water or sewer projects, let the COG know because there may be funding opportunities for those items.</p> <p>All talk with county CDBG money for COVID-19, all going toward things like a housing unit for healthcare workers during the crisis. So the money may not be so helpful/useful like everyone is thinking.</p>	<b>Ms. Fox</b>
<b>Comprehensive Plan</b>	No report. Meetings have not occurred since March 2020.	<b>Ms. Homa</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Admin.</b>	<p>Borough monthly financial reports are posted online.</p> <p><a href="#">2020.05 – Budget Report</a></p> <p><a href="#">2020.05 – Check Register</a></p> <p><a href="#">2020.05 – YTD Revenue/Expenditure Report</a></p>	<b>Mr. Blythe</b>
<b>Parks/ Recreation/ Library</b>	<p>Stay tuned for concert information.</p> <p>Recreation board planted flowers at the park gazebo and West Tarentum sign.</p> <p>Met with Costello's regarding magazine. Hoping to have second magazine edition released in July.</p>	<b>Ms. Fox</b>
<b>Special Events/ Tourism</b>	Hopes to set up a meeting soon w/ committee members.	<b>Mr. Snyder</b>
<b>Redev./ Revitalization</b>		<b>Ms. Josefoski</b>
<b>Property/ Health/Zoning</b>		<b>Ms. Josefoski</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>	<a href="#">Eureka – Monthly Report</a> – <i>Posted Online.</i>	<b>Mr. Blythe</b>
<b><u>CITIZENS:</u></b>	None.	





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<u>ADDITIONAL:</u>	<p>Councilwoman Fox: Attended Highlands Partnership Network meeting. Thanks to Highlands School District lunch ladies, Misty Chybrzynski, Citizen Hose, Salvation Army, Trisha, Autumn, and Roenigk bussing for providing lunches to students in need.</p> <p>Councilwoman Josefoski: Tattered flags in town should be replaced. Received feedback from several members of the public asking for them to be replaced. Large flag by the bridge is one of them.</p> <p>Councilwoman Fox: One on Corbet Street. Will reach out to Representative Dermody to see if he has any flags available.</p> <p>Councilwoman Homa: The one by the bridge is historically replaced every spring.</p> <p>Manager: We will get them all replaced.</p>
<u>CITIZENS:</u>	None.
<u>ADJOURN:</u>	Motion by Mr. Bonner, second by Ms. Homa to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.