

**MINUTES****TARENTUM BOROUGH REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 21, 2015  
ASSEMBLY:**

Council of the Borough of Tarentum met in regular session on Monday, December 21, 2015; with Councilman and President Eric Carter; Councilwoman and Vice President Erika Josefoski; Councilman Tim Firko; Councilman Gregory Schmitt; Councilman Raymond Kerr; and Councilman Joe Davidek. Councilman Pete Varos was absent. Also present were Mayor Carl Magnetta; Borough Manager Mike Gutonski; Solicitor Charles Clark; and Chief William Vakulick.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MINUTES:**

Upon motion by Councilman Eric Carter and seconded by Councilman Davidek, RESOLVED, that Council approves the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 16, 2015.

All Council members present were in favor and the Resolution was adopted.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

At this point in the meeting, Council invites questions and comments from members of the audience.

**REMARKS --**

**MR. RHODES** Phillip Rhodes, the soon-to-be new owner of St. Clement's church, said he would like to share his website and card. Ideas for the church include adult day center. He will take public feedback for ideas. A lot of renovations to take place. Mr. Rhodes is enlisting Pennsylvania History and Landmarks Foundation. Mr. Rhodes said his next step will be zoning.

**REMARKS --**

**MR. BOWSER** Jim Bowser, 314 West 8th Avenue. Mr. Bowser asked if the Mayor was driving the weiner mobile in the parade the other day.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter indicated there is no president's report.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter asked for a report from the Mayor.

**REMARKS --**

**MAYOR MAGNETTA** Mayor Magnetta stated he had no report.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter asked for a report from the Chief of Police.

**REMARKS --**

**CHIEF VAKULICK** Chief Vakulick stated he had no report.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter asked for the manager's report.

**REMARKS --****BORO. MGR.**

**GUTONSKI** Borough Manager Gutonski stated our engineers got approval for the start of the Fourth Avenue bridge. He indicated they will be starting the design phase of that project. He stated the job must be completed by October of 2016

Borough Manager Gutonski stated a construction company is coming in to do preliminary work on the West 7th Avenue water line issue to find out the proper way to fix the line. He stated there is a deepening that's getting close to completion down at water intake. He said that work hasn't been done for about 15 years. He said there's about 16 feet of water that is at the intake. We were down to about final 3 feet. He said that will get cleared out to improve the function of our water plant and the quality of the water. He said we will not have to use as much chemicals.

Borough Manager Gutonski indicated there was a comment made there at the last agenda meeting stating that that borough was out of control. Borough Manager Gutonski said his first seven months was to be training. It wasn't. He stated he has great support of the staff at the Borough. He stated he feels the Borough is in complete control.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter asked for the Solicitor's report.

**REMARKS --**

**SOLICITOR CLARK** Solicitor Clark said the Borough has not been served regarding the lawsuit that's been levelled. The sheriff came to make service on the Borough at lunchtime and was not able to serve the documents. The party for the plaintiff had alternative service motion granted. He said the Borough should be receiving certified mail on the lawsuit. And he asks the manager to forward that to the

insurance company.

**REMARKS --**

**BORO. MGR.**

**GUTONSKI** Borough Manager Gutonski stated the current insurance company is not the same company as we had at the time of the lawsuit. He said they will send us a letter informing us of that. We will have to go back to the insurance company at the time this was filed.

**REMARKS --**

**SOLICITOR CLARK** Solicitor Clark said he was presented with a number of sworn statements in the form of Affidavits. He indicated that at the meeting something was said that there was a personal vendetta against our current manager. He stated he advised the Affidavits should be put in his personnel file to protect him.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter asked for the Committee reports. Administrative Employee Relations Finance committee.

**RESOLUTION**

**TO PAY BILLS** Upon motion by Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Finko, **RESOLVED**, this Council approves the payment of the December 2015 bills.

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** All Council members present were in favor and the Resolution was adopted. Councilman Varos was absent.

**RESOLUTION**

**2016 BUDGET** Upon Motion by Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Kerr, **RESOLVED**, this Council approves the 2016 proposed budget.

**REMARKS --**

**BORO. MGR. GUTONSKI** Borough Manager Gutonski stated there were questions about the Budget at the agenda meeting. He stated Rich Hill, the accountant, would give his opinion.

**REMARKS --**

**RICH HILL** Rich Hill, Merge & Hill, P.C., said he compared to audited numbers of 2014. Everything seemed to be in balance, everything was there. Nothing missing. He indicated he did not prepare the numbers for 2016; he has not audited '15 yet. He said everything seems to be in order from the prior year, expenditures from 2014 prior.

He said he did have a few questions to go over with

Alice. He said Alice answered all his questions.

**REMARKS --**

**BORO. MGR.**

**GUTONSKI** Borough Manager Gutonski said our budget will have no utility increases, no tax increases. He said we will be in the black.

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** All Council members present were in favor and the Resolution was adopted. Councilman Varos was absent.

**RESOLUTION**

**ORDINANCE 16-01** Upon motion of Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Davidek, RESOLVED, this Council approves motion to advertise ordinance 16-01 setting tax millage at 5.48 mills. (No change).

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** All Council members present were in favor and the Resolution was adopted.

A discussion was held regarding the regular council meeting day.

**RESOLUTION --**

**ADVERTISE MEETINGS** Upon motion of Councilman Davidek, seconded by Councilman Stelmach, RESOLVED, this Council approves setting the regular council meetings to the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** Upon roll call, the Resolution was adopted with five (5) affirmative votes and one (1) negative vote. Councilman Firko voting no. Councilman Pete Varos was absent.

A discussion was held regarding Committee Meetings.

**RESOLUTION --**

**COMMITTEE MTGS.** Upon motion of Councilman Davidek, seconded by Councilwoman Josefoski, RESOLVED, this council approves to set the agenda meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. before the regular council meetings.

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** Upon roll call, the Resolution was adopted with five (5) affirmative votes and one (1) negative vote. Councilman Firko voting no. Councilman Pete Varos was absent.

**RESOLUTION --**

**ADVERTISE MEETINGS** Upon motion of Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Greg Schmitt, RESOLVED, this Council approves to set the Recreation Board meeting the first Thursday of each month, as needed; the Civil Service Board the third Wednesday of each month, as needed; the Planning Commission the fourth Tuesday of each month, as needed; the Zoning Hearing Board the fourth Thursday of each month, as needed. All meetings will take place in the Borough Council chambers.

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** All Council members present were in favor and the Resolution was adopted. Councilman Varos was absent.

**RESOLUTION --**

**SET TAX COLLECTOR'S**

**RATE AT 2%** Upon motion of Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Schmitt, RESOLVED, this Council approves to set the 2016 tax collector commission rate at two (2%) percent for current year taxes.

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** All Council members present were in favor and the Resolution was adopted. Councilman Varos was absent.

**RESOLUTION --**

**HIRE SOLICITOR** Upon motion of Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Kerr, RESOLVED, this Council approves hiring Charles T. Clark, Esquire, as Borough Solicitor for the year 2016.

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** All Council members present were in favor and the Resolution was adopted. Councilman Varos was absent.

**RESOLUTION --**

**HIRE AUDITOR FOR**

**2016** Upon motion of Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Kerr, RESOLVED, this Council approves hiring Merge & Hill, P.C. as the Borough Auditor for the year 2016.

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** All Council members present were in favor and the Resolution was adopted. Councilman Varos was absent.

**RESOLUTION --**

**HIRE ENGINEER** Upon motion of Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Davidek, RESOLVED, this Council approves hiring Gibson Thomas Engineering as the Borough's Engineers for the year 2016.

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** All Council members present were in favor and the Resolution was adopted. Councilman Varos was absent.

**RESOLUTION --**

**RE-APPOINT**

**JOSEPH DAVIDEK TO**

**PLANNING COMMISSION** Upon motion of Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Kerr, RESOLVED, this Council approves motion to re-appoint Joseph Davidek to the Planning Commission, 4-year term, starting in 2016.

**RESOLUTION --**

**RE-APPOINT**

**KAREN MARIETTI**

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION** Upon motion of Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Schmitt, RESOLVED, this Council approves the motion to re-appoint Karen Marrietti to the Civil Service Commission, 6-year term, beginning in 2016.

**RESOLUTION --**

**RE-APPOINT**

**ROLAND FIGURE**

**ZONING HEARING BOARD** Upon motion of Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Schmitt, RESOLVED, this Council approves the motion to re-appoint Roland Figure to the Zoning Hearing Board, 5-year term, beginning 2016.

**RESOLUTION --**

**RE-APPOINT**

**CHARLES BLACKBURN**

**VACANCY BOARD** Upon motion of Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Schmitt, RESOLVED, this Council approves the motion to re-appoint Charles Blackburn to the Vacancy Board, annual appointment, for the year 2016.

**VOTE AS TO ALL RESOLUTIONS** All Council members present were in favor and the Resolutions were adopted. Councilman Varos was absent

**RESOLUTION --**

**HIRE HOFFMAN'S**

**BOARDING KENNELS** Upon motion of Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Kerr, RESOLVED, this Council approves the motion to hire Hoffman's Boarding Kennels as the Borough's dog catcher for the year 2016.

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** All Council members present were in

**RESOLUTION --  
REPLACE WORDING  
IN SEC. 8 OF**

**A.F.S.M.E. CONTRACT** Upon motion of Councilwoman Josefoski, seconded by Councilman Firko, RESOLVED, this Council approves replacing the wording in Section 8 of the current A.F.S.M.E. Contract from "Probation Period" to "Training Period" in order for new permanent full-time employees to be eligible for pension benefits upon date of hire.

**REMARKS --**

**SOLICITOR CLARK** Solicitor Clark indicated Council has to reorganize January 4 and suggested Council may want to have the regular meeting January 4 also, and begin having agenda meetings and regular council meetings on Tuesdays in February of 2016.

**AMENDED MOTION --**

**AGENDA/COUNCIL MTGS.** Upon amended motion of Councilman Davidek, seconded by Councilman Schmitt, RESOLVED, the Council approves the amendment to the previous motion that council meetings/agenda meetings for the first Tuesday to start in February.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter asked for the Water Committee report.

**RESOLUTION --**

**WATER COMMITTEE** Upon motion of Councilman Davidek, seconded by Councilman Kerr, RESOLVED, this Council approves the final pay estimate from Rudzik Excavating for the isolation water valve replacement project.

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** All Council members present were in favor and the Resolution was adopted. Councilman Varos was absent.

**REMARKS --**

**BORO. MGR.**

**GUTONSKI** Borough Manager Gutonski said that grants are not free money. The Borough is still responsible for a good portion of that grant. With this grant, the Borough will be responsible for \$40,000. A question was asked, "How much is the grant for." Borough Manager Gutonski indicated \$87,000.

**RESOLUTION --**

**WATER COMMITTEE** Upon motion by Councilman Davidek, seconded by Councilman Kerr, RESOLVED, this Council approves the quote of Kukurin Contracting in the amount of \$10,250 for preliminary excavation and camera work for West 7th Avenue bridge waterline replacement project.

**REMARKS --****BORO. MGR.**

**GUTONSKI** Borough Manager Gutonski said this work has to be done before a company can come in. He said this will determine the exact way to repair the line. He said they are not sure how it's going to be repaired until they get in there and put a camera in to see how the actual line is running. Borough Manager Gutonski said that the line has broken a few times. He said this is a PennDOT bridge. He said PennDOT informed us they do not want to have any more breaks in the water line. He said as long as we don't have anymore problems with the water line there shouldn't be anymore problems with the bridge. He said the funds are coming from a bond that we had in place. It will not affect the budget.

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** All Council members present were in favor and the Resolution was adopted. Councilman Varos was absent.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter asked for the Electric Committee report.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN KERR** Councilman Kerr stated he had no report.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter asked for the Public Safety and Civil Service Committee report.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN FIRKO** Councilman Firko said bids were discussed for the guardrails and safety rail for Alter Avenue and Pearl Street.

**REMARKS --****BORO. MGR.**

**GUTONSKI** Borough Manager Gutonski said that Councilwoman Josefoski mentioned that there were a few areas in the Borough that she was concerned about traffic. One of was to have guard rails placed at Alter Avenue, East 6th Avenue and Pearl Street. Borough Manager Gutonski said that they are



very expensive, \$24,000 for these guardrails. He suggested working with Bob Betz regarding guardrails.

A discussion was held regarding guardrails.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN FIRKO** Councilman Firko said the November 2015 incident report for the Eureka fire Rescue, responded to 23 calls in November representing 63 personnel hours and 5 of those were mutual aid responses to Harrison, Frazier and East Deer Townships. The EMS side, 237 calls, representing 1,012 personnel hours. The total company training for the month was 48 hours.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter asked for the Property and Zoning, Library and Health Committee report.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN KERR** Councilman Kerr stated he had no report.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter asked for the Streets and Sanitary Sewer report.

**RESOLUTION --**

**ADVERTISE BIDS  
FOR REPAIRS TO**

**SEWER LINES** Upon motion of Councilman Schmitt, seconded by Councilman Davidek, **RESOLVED**, this Council approves the motion to advertise bids for repairs of sewer lines located at 2nd and Wood Street, Meuser Way in West Tarentum.

**REMARKS --**

**BORO. MGR.**

**GUTONSKI** Borough Manager Gutonski said that money for these two projects will be paid through the EPA account. That will not affect our budget.

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** All Council members present were in favor and the Resolution was adopted. Councilman Varos was absent.

A discussion was held regarding purchasing a dump truck.

**RESOLUTION --**

**PURCHASE DUMP TRUCK** Upon motion of Councilman Kerr, seconded by councilman Schmitt, **RESOLVED**, this Council approves the purchase of a new dump truck for the public works with a four-year lease agreement of \$17,791.06

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION** All Council members present were in favor and the Resolution was adopted. Councilman Varos was absent.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter asked for the Parks and Recreation Committee report.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILWOMAN JOSEFOSKI** Councilwoman Josefoski said there was no meeting this month. Carrie and the Parks and Rec Board would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and happy holiday.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter asked for the AVN/COG Committee report.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILWOMAN JOSEFOSKI** Councilwoman Josefoski stated there was no report.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter asked for the Redevelopment and Revitalization Committee report

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN KERR** Councilman Kerr said there was no report.

**REMARKS --**

**SOLICITOR CLARK** Solicitor Clark said he wanted the record clear that Council is having the regular meeting January 4th and thereafter, starting in February, go to the first Tuesday of the month. Regular meeting for January will be on January 4th.

**REMARKS**

**BORO. MGR.**

**GUTONSKI** Borough Manager Gutonski said a comment was made health care has gone up for the Borough, approximately 26 percent, 75,000. It was asked why aren't our employees paying a share because of the increase. He said Representative Ed Gutonski will explain.

**REMARKS --**

**MR. GUTONSKI** Ed Gutonski, Union Steward for Tarentum Borough, said when we negotiated our last contract insurance was low than what we were paying if we accepted UPMC. If we

accepted UPMC, we would not have to pay for our benefits. And as long as the benefit amount never went above what it was at that time, 2012 numbers, then we did not have to pay any of those years following. And I'm taking it that it was brought back to council that way because our contract was approved with that stipulation. The police definitely have it in their contract.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN DAVIDEK** Councilman Davidek said that a Tarentum magazine that he receives is going to be discontinued. He said he is sorry to see it go.

**REMARKS --**

**MAYOR MAGNETTA** Mayor Magnetta said that the wall behind Mr. Davidek is bare. He said the pictures of Council members were picked up by Mr. Rossey's the last Tuesday. He said we took them out of the frames because he spent \$400 on frames for the pictures. He said he knows the pictures were donated by Bob Stoebner, by his Dad years ago to Tarentum Borough. He thinks we ought to get them back.

A discussion was held regarding return of the pictures.

**REMARKS --**

**SOLICITOR CLARK** Solicitor Clark said that he can write a letter demanding that they be returned.

**REMARKS --**

**MS. HOMBURG** Cindy Homburg, 538 East 10th Avenue. Regarding Tarentum History and Landmarks Foundation, Ms. Homburg said she had a hard time finding people to be on the board and to write stories. She said that Tarentum History and Landmarks has disbanded. She said she opened a Facebook page called Tarentum History with Cindy. She said she is putting anything anybody sends to her will go on this page. She said if Council wants pictures, she will give to Council.

**REMARKS --**

**MR. KUHNS** Mr. Kuhns asked who the dump truck will be purchased from.

**REMARKS --**

**BORO. MGR.**

**GUTONSKI** Borough Manager Gutonski said the dump truck will be purchased through A and H Equipment. Mr. Gutonski said without the help of Mr. Kuhns, he wouldn't have a bid.

**REMARKS --**

**MS. COLLINS** Sandy Collins, 209 Main Street, asked about the

article in the Valley regarding modification to the pretreatment program.

**REMARKS --**

**MR. KUHNS** Tim Kuhns said with the Clean Water Act, we have pretreatment programs where industry has to meet certain requirements. He said a lot of pH coming into the water is 8.5. There was no wiggle room because the limits were at 9. He said they had to put acid into their water to meet that requirement. He said we asked EPA to raise that requirement.

**REMARKS --**

**POLICE CHIEF VAKULICK** comments on why Tarentum is paying for Mr. Rossey's health insurance

**MR. ALTFATHER** Walter Altfather, 917 Corbet Street. He asked if there was an agreement made for paying hospitalization for an ex-employee.

**REMARKS:**

**BORO. MGR.**

**GUTONSKI** Borough Manager Gutonski stated he retired. So under the contract, for three years, they are eligible for health care. It's in the contract.

**REMARKS --**

**MR. BOWSER** Jim Bowser, 314 West 8th Avenue. Mr. Bowser said cars are flying down the street pretty fast on the 300 block of 8th Avenue. He said they are on a cell phones, whatever. He asked the Chief if he could make some extra money, every now and then set up down there. He also said the remodeling job looks nice. He asked if you had money left over from your budget that you were able to do that.

**REMARKS --**

**BORO. MGR.**

**GUTONSKI** Borough Manager Gutonski said this is the first time since Alice has been here that we do have money at the end of the year instead of having to borrow it. He said that all the work was done by the Borough employees.

**REMARKS --**

**JIM BOWSER** Mr. Bowser said it looks like a borough's chamber now. It looks really good.

**REMARKS --**

**CHRISTINA**

**STRELLEC-SIMPSON** Christina Strellec-Simpson, 219 Lock Street. Ms. Simpson asked what happened to the rain garden and if that was a grant, was that a grant to be able to do that.

**REMARKS --****BORO. MGR.**

**GUTONSKI** Borough Manager Gutonski said the conception of the rain garden was brought to Borough Council at the time stating that it was in compliance with the storm water system that Allegheny County was requiring the Borough to work on to improve the storm drainage water. Whenever I took over as the manager, I got in contact with our engineers and found out that we are in compliance and we were already in compliance with the Allegheny County's storm system. There was no rain garden that was required. The bids came in at approximately \$14-15,000 for the rain garden. The Borough still had to pay approximately \$10,000 beyond that that council didn't know of. And then we had \$7-8,000 in engineering fees that council wasn't aware of. To complete the project would have required another \$3-4,000. It's not required. We have issues with the EPA dealing with the way it is. The line is protruding out of the river bank. So the best option for the Borough to get out of this because it's already cost the Borough thousands and thousands of dollars. Technically we do have a rain garden because the system that was in place at the time is still there. We did not remove the system.

It was suggested by our engineer to place it in a different area of the parking lot. Bill wanted it there.

**REMARKS --**

**MS. SIMPSON** Ms. Simpson's further understanding is it's to help get rain run off water so the sewers won't back flow into the river.

**REMARKS --**

**BORO. MGR. GUTONSKI** No. There's two different systems. The sewage authority is involved with dealing with federal. That's what you're referring to. Allegheny County came up with a plan called MS 4 project where it tries to make sure the communities the size of Tarentum comply with to keep storm water from creating more problems going into our river. It is a combined system. And by it going into the sewage authority system, that is what's required. The sewage authority is taking it upon themselves to further that process to improve the quality.

A discussion was held regarding Sewage Authority.

**REMARKS --**

**COUNCILMAN CARTER** Councilman Carter would like to thank Councilman Davidek, Councilman Firko, Councilman Kerr and Councilman Schmitt for their dedication hard work and

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING : REORGANIZATION MEETING MONDAY JAN. 4<sup>TH</sup> 2016 6:30PM**