

BOROUGH OF TARENTUM COUNCIL MEETING IN BOROUGH COUNCIL CHAMBERS <u>Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.</u> Regular Meeting Minutes



ORDER: <u>6:00</u> p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG:

ROLL CALL: Raymond Kerr, Maggie Smith, Susan Clark, Scott Dadowski, Kevin Bertocki, Lou Ann Homa, Brian Nolan, and Mayor Bob Lang.

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Solicitor: Eric H. Dee; Borough Manager: Dwight D. Boddorf; Code Enforcement Officer: Anthony D. Bruni; Police Department: Lieutenant Mark Glogowski

Motion to Amend agenda to include emergency door repair for Highland Fire Department at \$4,000.00 RK/SC; 7-0

Statement from Council President on National Police Week:

CITIZEN COMMENT: N/A

EXCEPTIONS TO OPEN MEETINGS (65 Pa.C.S.A. § 707):

The following executive sessions were held: 05/07/2024 for personnel matters

MINUTES: 04-09-24 Regular Meeting MS/SC; 7-0

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. Letter from Congressman Deluzio's Office
- 2. Letter from Allegheny County Council

COMMITTEE and DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor Report	49 Major Crimes and 176 other calls. Arrest: 5, Summons: 11, Warrants: 3, Traffic Citations: 12, Non-Traffic Citations: 12
President Report	The next ACBA Board of Directors meeting is on June 13. I wanted to thank our manager publicly for organizing our first dumpster day. It is our first time doing something like that, and the response was overwhelming. We will go back to being bigger and better in the future.
Solicitor Report	Working on the street opening ordinance with the engineer.



BOROUGH OF TARENTUM

COUNCIL MEETING IN BOROUGH

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

<u>Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.</u>



A Hegheny Valley NY	Regular Meeting Minutes	Attesheny Vialtey NVV
Police Chief	N/A	
Report		
Code Officer Report	2024.04 Monthly Report N/A	

	2024.04-Engineer Report		
Engineer Report	Maintain the grass height in your yard at 3 inches or more. Longer grass is healthier and requires less fertilizer.		
Manager Report	Finance Update:		
	 \$900,000 for Water Plant submitted for federal appropriations 		
	 Audit is ongoing 		
	Upcoming Events:		
	 Night Market 		
	 Summit Community Cookout. 		
	Saturday, June 8th, from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. You can pick it up at the Fire Department		
	or have it delivered by calling 724-224-2555.		
	Other Updates:		
	 ALOM Banner Community Award 		
	 Zoning Map and Ordinance update (sent to County for 45-day review) 		
	 Conditional Use on Veterans. Update the ordinance to define communal homes, sub- letting, Air B-n-B, etc. 		
	We do not feel that conditional use is appropriate after reviewing the solicitor's		
	recommendation and the landlord's application. As presented by the landlord, the proposal		
	essentially has room subletting or communal homes, and our current Borough ordinances		
	and definitions do not address these specific situations. Instead, I propose that we focus on		
	updating our ordinances and definitions to clarify permitted and conditional uses related to		
	such arrangements. This update will provide clear guidelines for property use, ensuring		
	consistency and addressing any ambiguities in our regulations. We are not recommending		
	for or against the proposed use at this time. It is important to note that there are currently similar setups in the Borough, such as multi-roommate situations, which further highlights		
	the need for clear and updated ordinances.		
	 10th and Corbet. Testing finished on 5/9, and we will submit for reimbursement 		
	 WTP Shift Change: 		
	Also, thank you to the water plant staff for working with the DEP on any and all necessary		
	updates and repairs and for working with us on these operational changes.		
	 Riverfront Planning Grant 		



BOROUGH OF TARENTUM COUNCIL MEETING IN BOROUGH COUNCIL CHAMBERS

<u>Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.</u> Regular Meeting Minutes



areas. A key priority of this phase is to enhance public access and amenities for fishing and boating, ensuring that these activities are more enjoyable and accessible for all residents and visitors. By developing our riverfront in a phased approach, we aim to maximize the use of space and resources, creating a lasting impact that will benefit our communities for years to come. HR Manual Update Snack Shack window construction is scheduled for 5/20 and should take approximately two days.

PW Updates:

Painting bandshell railing and brick cleanup in the park Painting curbs all over town

I wanted to thank Public Works for the outstanding job you did cleaning up the bricks in the park and repainting most of the curbs around town. Your efforts have greatly contributed to beautifying our region, making it a more pleasant place for everyone. A clean town with freshly repainted curbs and buildings may seem like a simple achievement, but it has a significant impact. It not only enhances the visual appeal of our community but also promotes a sense of pride and well-being among residents and visitors.

final approval and sign-off on all necessary paperwork. This ambitious project is structured to unfold in 3 to 4 phases, with this particular grant focusing exclusively on the development of our shoreline

IT Changes

Due to our previous IT vendor relocating out of state, I am recommending switching to a new IT service provider. While the previous company served our community exceptionally well for many years, the relocation has led to increased response times and a decline in the reliability of their service. Over the past year, we have strived to maintain this relationship, but it has become clear that a change is necessary to ensure the continued efficiency and reliability of our IT services. As a local government that provides two essential utilities, having dependable and local IT support is crucial to our operations. We are committed to ensuring that our services remain uninterrupted and meet the high standards our community expects and deserves. We look forward to working with our new IT vendor and continuing to provide excellent service to all our residents and utility customers. We will phase the old vendor out over the next 90 days while we integrate the new vendor.

COPS Hiring Grant

The COPS Hiring Program (CHP) grant is an initiative by the U.S. Department of Justice designed to support law enforcement agencies in their efforts to increase their policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. This grant provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies to hire new or rehire additional career law enforcement officers. In doing so, the grant aims to enhance community policing capacity and crime prevention initiatives. The funding can be used to cover salaries and benefits for new officer positions or positions that have been unfilled due to budget constraints. By applying for the COPS Hiring Program grant, Brackenridge aims to offset the costs associated with hiring additional police officers. This would strengthen our local law enforcement capacity and support our ongoing efforts to ensure community safety and foster trust between the community and police officers. The addition of new officers is anticipated to help deal with specific crime issues more effectively and promote a safer community environment.

Electric Contract Pricing

We recently issued our first Request for Proposals (RFP) for energy supply and received a bid at \$68.00 per MWh, which is significantly higher than our current rate of \$38.00 per MWh. Given this substantial difference, we have decided to issue another RFP. This time, we will collaborate with



BOROUGH OF TARENTUM COUNCIL MEETING IN BOROUGH COUNCIL CHAMBERS

<u>Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.</u>



Regular Meeting Minutes

American Municipal Power (AMP), a respected organization that many other boroughs utilize to secure more competitive energy supply rates.

By partnering with AMP for our next RFP, we aim to secure more favorable energy rates and gain access to a host of additional benefits. These include mutual aid, engineering design services, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), and other supportive services that can enhance our operational efficiency and reliability. This strategic approach will help us better manage our energy costs while improving our service capabilities for the community.

Dumpster Day Review

Our first Dumpster Day did not go as smoothly as we had hoped. We encountered challenges, including illegal dumping the evening before the event and higher demand than anticipated, which unfortunately led us to close early. We appreciate the community's enthusiasm and participation, and we are committed to improving this service. To better accommodate our community's needs and prevent similar issues in the future, we are planning another Dumpster Day for the fall with several important changes. We will increase the number of dumpsters available to ensure we can handle a larger volume of disposal. Additionally, we will require residents to RSVP to better manage the flow and capacity. To address the issue of illegal dumping, we will either monitor the dumpsters more closely or opt for a same-day drop-off and pick-up system.

I am grateful for the community's feedback and patience as we learn and adapt. We are confident that these changes will help make the next Dumpster Day a success, providing a valuable service to our residents in a more organized and efficient manner.

Spray Park opening

I am excited to announce that our spray park is scheduled to open around Memorial Day. The exact opening date may adjust slightly before or after the holiday, depending on the weather conditions. We aim to provide a fun and safe environment for all to enjoy and will ensure that the spray park is ready to welcome families as soon as the weather permits. Keep an eye on our announcements for the specific opening day, and we look forward to kicking off the summer season with you at the spray park!

Vacant Property Program from 2022-present

Allegheny County is contacting everyone on Tarentum's property list to update them on their current status and next steps. Out of 17 parcels, 12 have recently been appraised and are ready for Conditional Agreements of Sale. Two parcels are in litigation, one is awaiting applicant action on a Conditional Agreement of Sale, one was withdrawn, and one is still under review by Tarentum. With the hurdles faced in 2023 now resolved, all 16 active properties should make good progress this year. Delays were previously caused by the high volume of appraisals needed, but with progress in that area, many parcels are expected to move through litigation and be transferred for rehabilitation by fall.

Summit Roof

Standard Operating Procedures

Over the past year and a half, the Borough has diligently collected and documented various processes and procedures with the aim of creating a comprehensive Borough-Wide Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). We have made significant progress toward this goal, developing a unified framework that will streamline and standardize operations across all departments. Though much work remains, we are well on our way to completing this important project. Establishing a Borough-Wide SOP is beneficial for several reasons: it enhances efficiency by providing clear guidelines and expectations, reduces the potential for errors, and ensures



BOROUGH OF TARENTUM COUNCIL MEETING IN BOROUGH COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.



Regular Meeting Minutes

consistency in the quality of services we provide to our residents. Additionally, a unified SOP facilitates easier training for new staff and improves our ability to maintain continuity in operations, even as personnel change.

Planned outages for pole replacement

We would like to inform residents of planned power outages in the Borough from May 20, 2024, through May 29, 2024, due to necessary utility pole replacements. These outages are essential for enhancing the reliability and safety of our electrical infrastructure. We understand the inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience and cooperation as we perform these critical upgrades. Please plan accordingly for these interruptions, and rest assured that we are committed to restoring power as quickly and safely as possible. Further details about the specific times and areas affected by the outages will be provided closer to the date. Thank you for your understanding as we work to improve our community's power supply.

PILOT

I respectfully request that the Council consider formally approaching Allegheny County and the County Housing Authority to review and potentially revise the current Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) structure. In recent times, we have seen a dramatic rise in the costs associated with our emergency response services. Coupled with the immediate financial needs of Eureka EMS, it has become increasingly clear that the compensation provided by the County does not sufficiently offset the expenses incurred from frequent first responder calls to County housing facilities within our Borough. Given this financial strain, I believe we should engage in discussions with the County to explore all available options for addressing these challenges. A meeting with County representatives could allow us to negotiate terms that better reflect the realities and demands placed on our local emergency services. This step is essential to ensure that we can continue to provide the necessary safety and support to our residents effectively and sustainably.

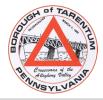
Governors Award

We are honored to announce that Tarentum has received the 2024 Governor's Intergovernmental Cooperation Award for our collaborative efforts in shared policing services and communication platforms. This recognition stems from our community's resilient response in the aftermath of last January's tragedy, showcasing our collective commitment to safety and unity during times of turmoil. This award is especially significant as it reflects the strength and solidarity of our community members and local governments working together under challenging circumstances. It highlights how collaboration can lead to innovative solutions that address immediate crises and strengthen our community's fabric for the future. We are proud of how our community rallied to support one another and thankful for this acknowledgment of our joint efforts. This award motivates us to continue fostering strong partnerships and resilience in facing any challenges ahead.

Read by Tarentum Council President Scott Dadowsk: "As the President of the Tarentum Borough Council, I am writing to express our profound disappointment in the editorial choices of your publication, particularly in relation to the oversight of a significant accolade recently awarded to both Tarentum and Brackenridge Boroughs. This accolade, the Governor's 2024 Award for Local Government Intergovernmental Cooperation, recognized our joint efforts in the wake of a deeply tragic event—the untimely death of Brackenridge's police chief. The award acknowledged our immediate and cooperative response, as both boroughs worked tirelessly together to implement shared policing strategies and a joint communication system. These initiatives were not merely reactive measures but proactive steps toward ensuring our communities' enhanced protection and safety. Seeing such a



BOROUGH OF TARENTUM COUNCIL MEETING IN BOROUGH COUNCIL CHAMBERS <u>Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.</u> Regular Meeting Minutes



	 positive outcome of intergovernmental cooperation go unnoticed by your paper, especially considering the ample coverage provided during the tragic and controversial phases of the incident, is disheartening. While we understand that news outlets operate under the prerogative to select stories that they believe will interest their readers, it is crucial to question whether focusing predominantly on contentious or tragic events provides a balanced view of our community's narrative. By omitting the recognition of our joint efforts that have significantly improved public safety, your publication inadvertently contributes to the erosion of trust in local media. It is essential for a healthy democracy that our news sources not only inform us of our challenges but also celebrate our achievements. This award represented a critical turning point for our communities, showcasing the strength and resilience that can be accomplished when communities come together for a common good. The lack of coverage of such a positive outcome paints an incomplete picture of the realities we face and the progress we make. We hope that your publication will consider the broader impact of its editorial choices moving forward. Reporting on the challenges and achievements of local governance fosters a well-informed citizeny and nurtures the trust essential for community cohesion and mutual respect. Through balanced reporting, we can truly represent the multifaceted nature of our lives and work towards a more united community." Reports and Updates: 2024.04 - League Link: March 2024 (last update) 2024.04 - NELRAS Update 2024.04 - DMEAe-Newsletter
	2024.04 Sale Results
Business	 Postponed Business: N/A New Business: Motion to pay the Borough bills for the month of April 2024.
	 RK/BN; 7-0
	 Motion to approve contract amendment for A.Bruni amending sections 5.a and 7. SC/LH; 7-0
	 Motion to approve updated <u>HR policy manual (Section 6)</u>. MS/SC; 7-0
	 Motion to approve Resolution <u>#24-09</u>: RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TARENTUM, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE ACQUISITION AND SUBSEQUENT DISPOSITION OF NUMEROUS PARCELS OF VACANT PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK AND LOT NUMBER 1223-D-297 WOULD BE IN ACCORD WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF TARENTUM BOROUGH.



BOROUGH OF TARENTUM COUNCIL MEETING IN BOROUGH COUNCIL CHAMBERS Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting Minutes



*Note: Summit Street RK/BN; 7-0

Motion to approve Resolution #<u>24-10:</u>

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TARENTUM, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING A DRIVEWAY PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

Implementing a formal process to approve driveway permits is essential for maintaining safety, consistency, and organization within our Borough. Such a process ensures that driveways meet established standards for design and construction, preventing potential hazards and ensuring proper drainage and accessibility. It also helps manage the impact on public infrastructure and neighboring properties, preserving the overall aesthetic and functionality of our community. By establishing clear guidelines and a streamlined approval process, we can promote responsible development and safeguard the interests of all residents.

LH/BN; 7-0

Motion to approve Resolution <u>#24-11:</u>

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TARENTUM, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA SETTING THE AMOUNT AND METHOD FOR FEES FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY THE BOROUGH, ITS EMPLOYEES AND TAX COLLECTOR FOR VARIOUS SERVICES PERFORMED FOR THE CITIZENS, RATE PAYERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS AND SETTING THE AMOUNT AND METHOD FOR FEES OF OTHER BOROUGH PERMITS, LICENSES AND COSTS. **RK/SC; 7-0**

Motion to approve Resolution <u>#24-12</u>:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TARENTUM, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, PERMITTING MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES ON VACANT LOTS BY PROSPECTIVE OWNERS PARTICIPATING IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY'S VACANT PROPERTY PROGRAM Allowing prospective owners to maintain vacant properties they are applying for through Allegheny County's Vacant Property Program IF they so desire. This approach ensures better property upkeep, reduces the financial burden on the Borough, and fosters community pride. Prospective owners have a vested interest in maintaining these properties, preventing decline, and accelerating revitalization. This proactive strategy helps prevent blight, enhances property values, and brings our community new life and economic activity.

- BN/MS; 7-0
- Motion to approve Resolution <u>#24-13:</u> RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TARENTUM, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE ACQUISITION AND SUBSEQUENT DISPOSITION OF NUMEROUS PARCELS OF VACANT PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK AND LOT NUMBER 1224-J-162 WOULD BE IN ACCORD WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF TARENTUM BOROUGH. Note: 617 3rd Avenue. **RK/LH; 7-0**

 Motion to approve Resolution <u>#24-14:</u> RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TARENTUM, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, REQUESTING NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY TO REPAIR ROADWAY AT LOCK STREET
 SC/BN; 7-0





Motion to advertise <u>summer help positions</u> (2). MS/RK; 7-0 Motion to accept a \$2,100.00 donation from the Elks and Atta Boy Food Service to the Police Department for CAD upgrades. **RK/BN; 7-0** • Motion to approve whistle removal from Summit Hose Fire Department for \$1,500.00 by Hilltop Roofing and Coating. *Note: getting quotes for the roof repair after the whistle is removed. MS/SC; 7-0 Motion to approve application to American Municipal Power SC/BN; 7-0 Motion to approve Master Service Agreement with American Municipal Power. **RK/SC; 7-0** Motion to sell Water Plant Vehicle for \$700.00 MS/BN; 7-0 Motion to approve new IT vendor contract **RK/SC; 7-0** Motion to reimburse Praha for the Façade Improvement grant in the amount of \$4,500.00 MS/RK; 7-0 Motion to advertise Ordinance #24-5 (Amending Ordinance 86-5) ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF TARENTUM, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ORDIANCE 86-5 TO INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION OF STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LOCK AND 4TH STREET. Currently, this four-way intersection has stop signs on three approaches, but the portion coming from the railroad tracks remains uncontrolled. This inconsistency poses a significant safety risk, as drivers may be uncertain about the right-of-way, leading to potential accidents. Adding a stop sign on the fourth approach will ensure uniform traffic control, enhance safety for all road users, and prevent confusion. Addressing this issue promptly will demonstrate our commitment to maintaining a safe and orderly community. SC/BN; 7-0 Motion to approve emergency door repair for Highland Fire Department at \$4,000.00 I am recommending that the Borough cover most of the cost for the Fire Department's broken automatic door opener. The prompt and reliable operation of fire station doors is critical for the

swift response times that save lives and property in emergencies. Covering this cost ensures that our firefighters can respond without delay, maintaining the high level of service and protection our

Crusses i the Crusses i the Crusses i the Crusses i the Crusses i the	BOROUGH OF TARENTUM COUNCIL MEETING IN BOROUGH COUNCIL CHAMBERS <u>Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.</u> Regular Meeting Minutes community relies on. This investment not only supports the safety and efficiency of o department but also reinforces our commitment to the well-being of our residents. RK/BN; 7-0	Creation of Table of the second secon
AVNCOG	Friends of the Riverfront met with the COG about trail development.	Chair: Mr. Bertocki
Business Advisory Committee	On April 24 th there was a luncheon at the Manos. It might be the last one for awhile as not many owners showed up.	Chair: Mr. Kerr Member: Mr. Bertocki
Finance & Admin.	2024.04 Budget Report 2024.04 Check Register	Chair: Mr. Bertocki Member: Ms. Smith
Parks/ Recreation	Clean up went well and there were a lot of volunteers. Tarentum Rec. Board wanted to thank the Borough Manager, Public Works and all the volunteers. No Rec. Board meeting for this month. On May 30 th is the first summer concert and food drive. Please stop to pickup the latest magazine publication and the next one comes out in August.	Chair: Ms. Smith Member: Mr. Bertocki
Property/Health / Zoning	N/A	Chair: Mr. Nolan Member: Mr. Ken
Public Safety	Past Saturday was the initiative with the smoke detectors. About 150 were installed between homes in Brackenridge and Tarentum, and all the local Fire Departments were there. Eureka: 33 Fire Calls, 191 EMS Calls. Company training for 37 hours. Community Outreach.	Chair: Ms. Clark Member: Mrs. Homa
Public Works	2024.04 Monthly Report Curb painting looks good and the side walks in the park looks really nice.	Chair: Ms. Homa Member: Ms. Smith
Redevelopment/ Revitalization	N/A	Chair: Mr. Bertock Member: Mr. Dadowski

BROWNING TARGET	BOROUGH OF TARENTUM COUNCIL MEETING IN BOROUGH COUNCIL CHAMBERS <u>Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.</u> Regular Meeting Minutes	B Consume of the second B Consume of the second Second Second Second Second Second Second Second Second Sec
Utilities	<u>Water – 2024.04 – Water Plant Report</u> <u>Electric - 2024.04 – Electric Report</u>	Chair: Mr. Kerr Member: Mr. Nolan

CITIZENS COMMENT:

Resident Cindy Homber asked about what lot we discussed on 10th. Mr. Bruni clarified it was on the upper area.

The mayor publicly thanked the Elks Club and Attaboy Food for their donations.

<u>ADJOURN:</u> <u>7:20 PM</u> MS/BN; 7-0



BOROUGH OF TARENTUM COUNCIL MEETING IN BOROUGH COUNCIL CHAMBERS <u>Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.</u> Regular Meeting Minutes

