

Borough of Westmont

07.09.2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Councilors Present: President Marc McCall, Vice – President Don Hall, Pro Tempore Chris DelSignore, Timothy McIlwain, Anthony Berkebile, William Stasko, Chad Miller

Borough Officials: Mayor Robert J. Callahan, Borough Administrator Veronica Burket, Engineer Brandon Palmer, Public Works Director Donald Blasko, Solicitor Mike Parrish, Treasurer Courtney Rykala, Codes and Zoning Officer Mark Walker.

Meeting Commenced at 6 PM. The following were guests in the audience:

Louis & Terri Schenfeld	2113 Woodcrest
Patty Greenwell	146 Clarion St.
Sarah Bantly	114 Erie St.
Dave & Cindy Peterson	920 Edgehill Dr.
Susan Klingensmith	48 Erie St.
Margaret Dorian	1555 Shelburne Pl.
Eleanors iphone (zoom)	
Russ O'Reily (zoom)	Tribune
Goldilocks (zoom)	

Minutes: Councilor Stasko motioned to approve the minutes of June 11, 2024. Motion was seconded by Vice President Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Pro Tempore DelSignore motioned to approve the codes and zoning committee meeting minutes of July 8, 2024. Motion was seconded by Vice President Hall. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Patty Greenwell of 146 Clarion St. requested permission from council to have a block party on 7/13/24 from 11 am to 7 pm between 134-146 Clarion St. Councilor Berkebile motioned to approve the block party using sawhorses from the public works department. Motion was seconded by Councilor Stasko. Motion carried unanimously.

Margaret Dorian of 1555 Shelburne Pl. requested permission from council to have a block party on 7/28/24 from 2pm-8pm blocking the road below CVS and down Shelburne Pl. Councilor Stasko motioned to approve the block party using sawhorses from the public works department, and to block the road below Duca's funeral home that day if there is a funeral. Motion seconded by Pro Tempore DelSignore. Motion carried unanimously.

Sara Bantly of 114 Erie St. addressed council with concerns of a tree that the public works department cut down & removed the stump earlier this year. She was wondering when it would be filled with dirt and if another tree would be planted. Public Works Director Don Blasko stated that when a tree is cut down, they wait for a year before planting a new tree because of the ground settling, but they will fill with dirt for time being. He also told her that if she would want to purchase a tree to replace it, they will plant it. She also addressed council with concerns to the houses near her residence with garbage everywhere and using two large 50-gallon barrels with no lids. Westmont Boroughs garbage ordinance states residents must have lids on their cans. Codes and Zoning Officer stated that he will check this out, and site the resident there if need be. She stated that another neighbor has such high grass and weeds laying around that she is concerned for rats to start coming around. Mr. Walker told her that notices were sent out to these residents.

Dave & Cindy Peterson of 920 Edgehill Dr. addressed council with concerns to the houses along Edgehill and Albright having garbage piled up, and high grass. They said they are sick of how this part of Westmont is

starting to look, and something needs to happen. Council assured her that this is an ongoing concern, and at the top of the list to find better ways to address.

Susan Klingensmith of 48 Erie St. also addressed council with concerns to the property maintenance issues along Erie St. Councilor Anthony Berkebile questioned Solicitor Parrish how they could be sterner when it comes to issues like this around the borough. Pro Tempore DelSignore stated that the codes and zoning committee is in the process of getting a rental property ordinance in to place to help the Borough know who the landlords and renters are. Solicitor Parrish stated that they could draft and revise the current code to add a ticketing ordinance. With the current ordinance it seems to drag on with sending an initial letter, giving them 10 days to remedy the violation, then 10 days to appeal to council, then letter citing them to go to the magistrate. Adding a ticketing ordinance would take away the waiting. Council informed Solicitor Parrish to get started on revising the current code expeditiously.

Authorities, Commissions, and Committee Reports:

West Hills Regional Police: Report was submitted to Council.

Fire / EMS: Report was submitted to Council. Fire Chief Kevin Schrock stated the floor project is to start tomorrow.

Finance Committee:

Councilor Stasko motioned to pay the Highway fund bills in the amount of \$12,362.83. Motion was seconded by Vice President Hall. Motion passed unanimously. Councilor Stasko motioned to pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$160,527.22. Motion was seconded by Vice President Hall. Motion passed unanimously. There were no Sewer fund bills for the month of June.

Public Safety Committee:

Councilor Miller stated that there is an upcoming meeting with DCED regarding the letter of intent.

Personnel: No Report.

Zoning/Codes:

Councilor McIlwain stated that there was a codes and zoning meeting on July 8, 2024 to discuss the proposed renter's ordinance with the landlord's association. There are some changes to the wordage which Solicitor Parrish is working on. Hoping to approve the ad at next months meeting, and approve the ordinance in September. Solicitor Parrish stated that the proposed overlay district ordinance is coming along as well. Plan to be on the agenda for approval at August's meeting. Next steps will be to get the letters out to all the residents in that area and advertise.

Stormwater: No Report.

Garbage: No Report, but Pro Tempore DelSignore stated he wants to have a committee meeting to look at opening the contract with Pro Disposal in regards to new cans.

Greater Johnstown Water Authority: Vice President Hall stated that the GJWA will be going to PennVest in September to request a loan for 22-25 million dollars for the Norfolk Dam work.

West Hills Recreation: Pro Tempore DelSignore stated the rec commission is still meeting up about the new sports complex and find out about feasibility and if the area can support something like that. Also looking at ways to secure funding.

Staff Reports:

Administration: Councilor Stasko motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2024-05. Motion was seconded by Councilor Berkebile. Motion passed unanimously.

President McCall stated that CamTran finally opened Edgehill Dr. on July 3rd, and issued an email with the current status of the Inclined Plane Project. The work is 92% complete, and the plan is to open in 2025. They may need to close Edgehill between Green and Erie St. for a short time to install the safety sheeve wheels and rims. Councilor McIlwain feels any road closure should be approved by council moving forward. Council agrees, and said CamTran needs to give 5 days' notice of closing. Solicitor Parrish is also working on setting up a fee schedule to use for any street closings in the future which comes at a cost and would hopefully deter any one from keeping a road closed for months or years. President McCall will relay the message to Rose with Cam Tran.

Public Works: Mayor Callahan opened bids for Diesel Fuel:

Bidder	Address	Amount
Glassmere	PO Box 187, Curtisville, PA	\$3.0785/gal

Vice President Hall motioned to award the Diesel Fuel contract to Glassmere Fuel approving Public Works Director and Solicitors review. Motion was seconded by Councilor Stasko. Motion passed unanimously.

Engineer: Report submitted to Council. Engineer Brandon Palmer noted that FH Construction will start the floor repair at the Fire station July 10, 2024 and have 2 months to get it done.

Codes & Zoning: Report submitted to Council. Codes and Zoning officer Mark Walker stated that several violation notices have gone out regarding temporary signs, garbage and high grass/weeds. He stated that he has a quote from a contractor to cleanup 842 Carnegie so the public works department can mow the yard. These costs will go against the property once complete.

Mr. Walker updated council about the Stackhouse Park bathroom permit stating the Zoning Hearing Board did deny this, unless they get the sealed drawings required by PA L&I.

Solicitor: Zoning Enforcement update is that it was concluded that the initial property maintenance letters can sent out of the office by the Administrator/Treasurer.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Councilor Stasko motioned to Adjourn. Motion was seconded by Councilor Berkebile. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting Adjourned at 7:11 PM

Submitted July 11, 2024

Veronica Burket

Veronica Burket, Borough Administrator