

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF GLASSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL, April 16, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of Glassport Borough Council was called to order by Anthony Colecchi, President of Council.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: DeVerse, present; Kowalski, present; Nabors, absent; Norelli, present; Stecak, present; Trunzo, present; Colecchi, present; Jr. Council Harmon, present; Mayor DiMarco, present.

Motion made by Kowalski second by DeVerse to add a motion to close Monongahela Ave. between Fourth and Fifth Street on Sunday, April 28, 2024.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

There was an Executive Session held prior to the meeting at 6:00PM to discuss personnel matters.

RFP's were accepted until the close of business today for medium and large truck towing. The bids will now be opened.

Nickolich Towing:

Medium Duty Rate – Class 3 -- \$125-\$175 per hour
Class 4 -- \$150-\$200 per hour
Class 5 -- \$175-\$200 per hour
Medium Duty Towing -- \$125 -- \$175
Medium Duty Storage -- \$100 per day
Inside Storage at the request of the Police Dept. -- \$150 per day
Heavy Duty Rate – Class 7 -- \$200 - \$550 per hour
Class 8 -- \$225 - \$750 per hour
Heavy Duty Wheel Lift Towing -- \$200 -- \$550 per hour
Heavy Duty Storage -- \$150 -- \$170 per day

There is no bid bond or certified check with this proposal as required by the RFP.

C & D Towing and Recovery:

There is a certificate of liability insurance for each occurrence in the amount of \$1,000,000. There is also a certified check in the amount of \$3,000.

Medium Duty Rate – Class 3 -- \$150 per hour
Class 4 -- \$150 per hour
Class 5 -- \$150 per hour
Medium Duty Storage -- \$75 per day
Inside Storage at the request of the Police Dept. -- \$100 per day
Heavy Duty Rate – Class 7 -- \$250 per hour
Class 8 -- \$250 per hour
Heavy Duty Wheel Lift Towing -- \$250 per hour
Heavy Duty Storage -- \$100 per day

A brief Executive Session was held.

Motion made by Stecak second by DeVerse to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2024.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Motion made by Norelli second by DeVerse to approve the Safety Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2024.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Committee Reports:

Delinquent Taxes/Sewage and Administration – Councilman Angelo Norelli

Total Collections from MBM Collections for March	\$ 7,203.00
Year to Date Collections from MBM Collections for delinquent Real Estate tax	\$ 33,421.00
Total Delinquent Sewage Collections for March	\$ 34,278.69
Year to date collections	\$ 100,370.09

The Liquid Fuels audit was completed on Tuesday, April. 2, 2024. The Borough Secretary provided all of the requested information and no issues were found. The Auditor was satisfied with the audit.

Public Works – Street and Sewage Departments – Council Vice President Mark Stecak

Monthly Street Department Report was given.

Glenn Engineering will be working to get core samples scheduled for Summit Avenue. We have lost more of the street after these last heavy rains.

Motion made by DeVerse second by Kowalski to advertise for additional summer help on the Street Dept.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Crime Watch, Parks & Recreation, GDC – Councilman Dave Kowalski

Cleanup day will be held on Saturday April 27, 2024. Supplies will be available at the Senior Center starting at 9:00 AM. The dumpsters will be located at 6th & Allegheny Ave. and marked with what is not acceptable.

Motion made by Norelli second by Trunzo to donate \$200 to Citizen’s Hose Company No. 1 for their annual golf outing.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Motion made by Trunzo second by Stecak to donate \$150 to Saints Joachim and Anne Parish for their Community Festival.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Buildings – Councilwoman Amy Nabors (Read by Meghan DeVerse in her absence).

The appraisal for the Youth Center has been completed. The building was appraised for \$185,000.00.

Motion made by Norelli second by Kowalski to proceed with the legal process of listing 509 Seventh Street for sale and authorizing the proper Borough Officials to sign all required documents

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Communications and Building Inspector – Councilwoman Meghan DeVerse

Occupancy Inspections and permits for the month of March are:

- 11 Certificates of Occupancy
- 1 Failed Occupancy Inspection
- 11 Conditional Use Certificates
- 1 Building Permit

Fire Department and Senior Citizen’s Center – Councilman Paul Trunzo

There is no fire report at this time.

Motion made by DeVerse second by Kowalski to approve a payment of \$4,250 to assist the Fire Department pay for a Staffing Study to be conducted by the State to determine if FEMA money will be provided for the staffing of a paid fireman to the borough. The cost of the Staffing Study is \$8,500.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Monthly Senior Report.

It was made clear at the workshop meeting last week that there is no room for the Senior Center to move to the new building. Since that has been made clear, other options are being worked on for the Seniors at this time. Nick Pisciotano is aware of the issues, and we will be reaching out to him and Senator Brewster in the next few weeks.

The Center will be closed on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 for Election Day.

Junior Council – Chazdine Harmon

The National Association of Music Merchant Foundation named the South Allegheny School District as one of the 975 school districts in the United States among the best communities in the nation for music education. The award program recognizes and celebrates the outstanding efforts by teachers, administration, parents, students, and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education. Congratulations Ms. Kovacs, Mr. Ramsey and the entire music department.

Mike Michalski has been selected for the Roundball Classic which is a basketball tournament where the best of the area's basketball stars compete. Mike will be representing Class 4A. The tournament is held at North Allegheny from May 22-26.

Students at the elementary school along with "Grow Pittsburgh" have been working together to start a garden at the school. Gardening is said to teach patience, improve focus and enhance memory. This is a great way to teach children patience and improve their focus, and there's significant research that shows hands in the dirt improves mental health. Thank you, Grow Pittsburgh!

Police Committee, Safety Committee – Council President Anthony Colecchi

The next Safety Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25th at 3:00 PM.

The Police Report will be read by Mayor DiMarco.

I would like to commend the Chief for again securing another grant for the Police Department. This grant is for \$51,375.00 and will provide Dash Cameras for five vehicles.

The Jasiah Jones Replenishment Blood Drive will be held on July 1 at the Municipal Complex From 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Jasiah is a 12-year-old boy who was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor known as Intracranial Sarcoma. We are looking for at least 30 donors.

I have been meeting with Giant Eagle Mobile Market which is a traveling grocery store with 700 items on it. This program will be coming to the borough, and we will be coordinating with Clairton to be on the same day.

Police Report – Mayor Keith DiMarco

The Police Report is available upon request.

There were 1,433 calls for service for the month of March with 7,126 miles being patrolled.

Borough Manager's Report – Elaina Skiba

The COG has been in contact with Senator Casey's office for a blight/demolition grant. I have been working with the Director of the COG to have Glassport included with this grant. The properties that will be included for demolition are:

- The Social Hall at Seventh and Delaware
- The Borough Building
- 8 Residential Properties in the Borough.

A request was made to US Steel for a Community Engagement Donation to help with renovations to the new Borough Building. A check for \$400,000 was presented to the Borough. A press release was issued to US Steel thanking them for the extremely generous donation. A formal presentation will be held at a later date.

PSAB will hold a conference in Harrisburg on June 2-5. Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

Solicitor's Report – Falco Muscante, Maiello, Brungo and Maiello, LLC

Motion made by Kowalski second by Trunzo to approve Resolution No. 1 (4-16-24) for the disposition of Borough Records.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Motion made by Norelli second by Stecak to approve paying for damage to a vehicle caused by a manhole cover that was not secure upon receipt of a signed release from the vehicle owner. The amount of the damage was \$938.84.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Motion made by DeVerse second by Kowalski to award the Medium and Heavy Tower contract to C & D Towing and Recovery pending Legal Review.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Written Reports of Borough Officials:

Jennifer Bell – Tax Collector – Report is available upon request.

Treasurer’s Report – Elaina Skiba

Council has received the Treasurer Report and there are copies on the desk for the public.

Motion made by DeVerse second by Stecak to approve the Monthly Financial Reports

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Motion made by Kowalski second by Norelli to approve and pay General Fund bills for March in the amount of \$623,482.46

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Motion made by Stecak second by DeVerse to approve and pay Sewer Revenue Fund bills for March in the amount of \$375,494.32

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

New Business:

The borough has started moving into the new building. There are still renovations going on, but the office will be spending the next week getting moved in and unpacked.

The following is the list of funds that were used to purchase the new Borough Building:

\$450,000	COVID-19 ARPA Grant
\$100,000	Sales Tax surplus from what was budgeted for 2023
\$100,000	Sewer Fund Money Market
\$80,000	Grant reimbursement from 2019 GEDF grant
\$104,000	CD’s at the credit union that were earning .5%
\$834,000	Available funds to purchase 12 Monongahela Avenue

Motion made by DeVerse second by Stecak to close Monongahela Avenue on April 28, 2024 from 9:30AM to 1:00 PM.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Public Comments:

Rosemary Bradley – Why are we just hearing now about the new building. Why didn't we have a public meeting on this. How can you take money from the Sewage Fund to pay for the building, I am going to check, but that money is only to be used for improvements to the Sewage Plant and the lines. Where is the Secretary's salary being paid out of?

Colecchi – The salary comes out of the Sewer Fund.

Bradley – Is it already planned that our Sewage Plant is going to be sold? You had a study on that also. Is that something you figure you don't have to fix any sewers.

Colecchi – The Sewage Plant sale is on hold right now.

Bradley – How can you buy a building for \$834, 000 and then put another \$400,000 to renovate it? Why didn't the people get that \$400,000 and decide where it should go.

Skiba – The request to US Steel was made by me asking if they would like to donate from their Community Engagement Money given the condition of the current borough building. They were the one's that came up with the amount of \$400,000 to donate specifically for the renovations of the 12 Monongahela Avenue.

Bradley – That's fine, but wouldn't it have been nice to include the children of the borough? There are 770 kids in the borough that are eligible to ride the bus from Glassport alone, and there isn't one thing here for the kids to do. There was a four-million-dollar loan taken out and there was money slated for Recreation. Where did that money go?

Skiba – Gave a breakdown of the loan and how it was distributed. The initial \$400,000 that was earmarked for Recreation was redirected to the construction of the Police Station only leaving \$74,000 for Recreation.

Bradley – That loan was set for certain projects and the amount was taken from recreation. Now you are going to sell the other asset for recreation. And why was that \$100,000 taken from the Sewage Fund to fund the new building. I guess we will just have to see what the auditors say about that.

Skiba – The auditors were asked that question prior to us taken the money from the sewage fund and they said that with the amount of work that is conducted out of the office for the Sewage Plant it would be allowed.

Bradley – And Mr. Solicitor, did you say it was ok to do?

Muscante - I told them that they should consult with the auditors to see if this would be permitted.

Jamie Trunzo – At last week's workshop meeting, I was asked if the Senior Center had an EIN Number. I contacted the IRS today and they confirmed that the number attached to our bank account is the

number of the Glassport Senior Citizen's Center. It is not under Glassport Borough. So those funds are the Senior Center's funds, not the borough's funds.

It was confirmed that there is no room for us at the new borough building. So, there was \$4,000 budgeted for utilities at the Senior Center for this year. For the first three months, the total for utilities was \$1,897.

We still have \$2,100 remaining for this year, plus you need to remove the Comcast money out of there which is about another \$300 so we are looking at about \$2,400 remaining for the rest of the year. So if we don't have room at the new building, what has changed? We said that the end of May was our cutoff date, but if we decide to stay here, is the borough going to still continue to pay for our utilities and insurance? I have also contacted the director of Allegheny County Community and Economic Development to see if she could help with the roof and things like that. She needs a breakdown of exactly what we are looking for. She said there is a lot of money out there through the Department of Aging and several other agencies. Some of them out be grants and some would be grants with matching funds. Would the borough be willing to come up with the matching funds if I take on the responsibility of seeking and applying for the grants so as not to burden the borough employees. What are our options? Are you closing the doors of the Senior Center?

Colecchi – We don't want to see the center close. We will continue to communicate and work with each other to work out a solution.

Dale Popovich – I am here to talk about the Senior Center as well. Most of my items have been covered. I am not a senior yet, but I will be someday. I look around and see my mom, my neighbors, and why should the seniors have to go anywhere. They built this town. I spoke with Pisciotano's office today, and they told me there are no grants out there, but Jamie spoke to someone and they said there is. So somebody is lying here. I guess we don't know. We need to take care of the seniors.

Motion made by Trunzo second by DeVerse to adjourn.

Yes – 6 No – 0 Motion Carried

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Andrea G. Foster
Borough Secretary

Anthony Colecchi
President of Council