

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF GLASSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL, March 19, 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, absent; Kowalski, present; Nabors, present; Norelli, present; Stecak, present; Trunzo, present; Colecchi, present; Jr. Council Harmon, present; Mayor DiMarco, present.

An executive session meeting was held at 6:00 PM to discuss real estate matters and a meeting with Kickball was held at 6:30 PM.

A presentation was made to Glassport Lanes for being in business for 50 years in the borough.

Motion made by Stecak second by Nabors to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2024.

6 – Yes 0 – No Motion Carried

Motion made by Norelli second by Kowalski to approve the Safety Meeting Minutes of February 29, 2024.

6 – Yes 0 – No Motion Carried

Committee Reports:

Delinquent Taxes/Sewage and Administration – Councilman Angelo Norelli

Total Collections from MBM Collections for February	\$ 11,899.14
Year to Date Collections from MBM Collections for delinquent Real Estate tax	\$ 26,218.00
Total Delinquent Sewage Collections for February	\$ 46,991.69
Year to date collections	\$ 66,091.40

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

Read Street Department report.

Motion made by Kowalski second by Nabors to advertise the Public Works F250 pickup truck for sale.

6 – Yes 0 – No Motion Carried

Crime Watch, Parks & Recreation GDC – Councilman Dave Kowalski

Crime Watch – Just a reminder that if you ever have a problem and need a police officer, make sure you call 911. This will ensure that the call is officially logged and it creates a paper trail for the incident.

Motion made by Norelli second by Stecak to have the Solicitor prepare the necessary paperwork for the Borough to include the Ninth Street Ballfields in the development plans with the South Allegheny School District for the stadium property.

Rosemary Bradley – Does this mean in the development plans with the school district for the stadium property? I thought we already had a plan. Is this for the property up above? You call both of them the same thing.

Skiba – This is for the Ninth Street Ballfield. The property above is the Ninth Street Park.

Bradley – So what are you going to do with this property?

Colecchi – We are going to work with the School District to have the stadium and ballfield demolished to make it more attractive to a developer.

Bradley – Whenever the stadium was given to the school district when we became part of the South Allegheny, there was an agreement that when the school district was no longer going to use them, the property went back to the borough. Why isn't the property being given back to the borough so that we can develop it. For what reason would the school district be developing the property.

Colecchi – it is my understanding that this would occur if the school district stopped maintaining the property. The district has continued to maintain the stadium property to date.

Bradley – It is a white elephant. They should be asking you if you want it back so the borough can develop it themselves. Solicitor, you are quiet up there.

Muscante – The school district was going to turn it over to the borough; however, the borough did not feel it was equipped enough to get a good developer in here whether it be a grocery store or something else. The school district has a vast network of resources and are in a much better position to market the property. This would not only benefit the school district, but the borough as well.

Bradley – Don't you think the residents of the borough should have been notified about this before tonight's meeting?

Muscante – This has been discussed at the last several meetings.

Roll Call: DeVerse, absent; Kowalski, yes; Nabors, yes; Norelli, yes; Stecak, yes; Trunzo, yes; Colecchi, yes.

6 – Yes 0 – No 1 Absent Motion Carried

Buildings – Councilwoman Amy Nabors

All public Borough Meetings will be held here at the Senior Center until further notice.

The appraisal for the Youth Center has been started, and once it is completed Council will discuss selling the property.

In regard to leasing the current Senior Center at 544 Monongahela Ave. for \$1.00 to the Senior Center, it was discussed that the Senior Center will look into becoming a non-profit organization. If this is possible, Council will explore leasing the building to them for \$1.00.

The Borough office is tentatively scheduled to move into the new building on Monday April 15th and Tuesday April 16th.

Communications and Building Inspector – Councilwoman Meghan DeVerse (read by President Anthony Colecchi in her absence.)

Occupancy Inspections and permits for the month of February are as follows:

- 5 Certificates of Occupancy issued
- 1 Failed Occupancy Inspection

Spring Cleanup will be held on Saturday April 27th starting at 9:00. The dumpsters will be in the same location as the last couple of years, 6th and Allegheny. Supplies and a signup sheet for volunteers will be available for residents on the 27th starting at 9:00. This information will be put on the electronic sign, our website and social media.

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

There is no fire report this evening.

Senior Citizen’s Report – The center cannot afford the insurance or utilities at 544 Monongahela Avenue so this topic is still ongoing.

Free tax preparation will be on Thursday, March 28th at the center. There are still a few slots available.

Junior Council – Chazdine Harmon

The SA Varsity & JV Baseball Teams have returned to Myrtle Beach to participate in the Ripken Baseball Experience. They’ll play games daily competing against top talent from across the US at Ripken’s state-of-the-art facilities.

Mr. Mance is the newly hired South Allegheny Middle/High School Technology Education teacher. He comes to us with seven years of teaching experience from Mon Vally Career & Technical Education School in Charleroi. Welcome Mr. Mance.

Girls Flag Football is an exciting new chapter in South Allegheny Sports thanks to the Pittsburgh Steelers. The first home game will be on April 28 at 3:00PM at Gladiator Stadium.

Police Committee, Safety Committee – Council President Anthony Colecchi

The Creative Communities Grant that we applied for has been rejected. Our letter of interest and application have been moved onto another grant. It is a One Time Project Grant that will provide \$13,000. I will keep everyone updated on the progress. This will be a great thing to put in our town to make it more attractive.

The next Safety Meeting will be held Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 3:00 PM.

The Police Report will be read by Mayor DiMarco.

Police – Mayor Keith DiMarco

There were 1,628 calls for service in the month of February with 8,120 miles patrolled.

The police report is available upon request.

Borough Manager’s Report – Elaina Skiba

Motion made by Stecak second by Norelli to acknowledge that the Borough has received the TRI-COG Land Bank’s Notice of Proposed Property Disposition for the properties located at 435 Iowa Avenue, 316 Fifth Street and 310 N. Monongahela Avenue.

6 – Yes 0 – No Motion Carried

Motion made by Nabors second by Kowalski to sign a letter of support from the Steel Rivers COG to the Federal Government regarding the intended sale of U.S. Steel pending Council’s Review.

6 – Yes 0 – No Motion Carried

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

Motion made by Norelli second by Stecak to adopt Resolution #1 (3-19-24) to approve the sale of the 2017 Ford Police SUV to the City of McKeesport for \$5,500.

6 – Yes 0 – No Motion Carried

Motion made by Nabors second by Kowalski to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Allegheny County District Attorney regarding Body Worn Camera Footage.

6 – Yes 0 – No Motion Carried

Written Reports of Borough Officials:

Tax Collector – Jennifer Bell

Report available upon request.

Treasurer’s Report – Elaina Skiba

Council has received the Treasurer Report for the month of February, 2024 and there are copies on the desk available for the public.

Motion made by Norelli second by Stecak to approve the Monthly Financial Reports.

6 – Yes 0 – No Motion Carried

Motion made by Nabors second by Kowalski to approve and pay General Fund bills for February in the amount of \$426,021.21

6 – Yes 0 – No Motion Carried

Motion made by Norelli second by Kowalski to approve and pay Sewer Revenue Fund bills for February in the amount of \$42,277.36.

6 – Yes 0 – No Motion Carried

New Business:

Council needs to appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator. Once the Job Duties are compiled, we will start to actively work on this.

Public Comments:

Rosemary Bradley – The main thing I was to talk about is the article that was in the Daily News about the St. John’s Church. That was in 2015. I was involved in getting the church for a Youth Center and it is not to be sold to anyone else but to be used for the children of our community. Our children shouldn’t have to be taken to Port Vue or Liberty Boro. We should take care of our own children. Saying that the AIU is using it does not cut ice. We should not be using our tax dollars for everyone else’s children to come to the Youth Center and our children aren’t able to use it for what it was intended to be. We paid the church \$20,000 for the building and they donated the money back to different organizations in the borough. We have 772 children that ride the bus that could be using that and learning how to play basketball and having an after-school program and maybe a little library. There are a lot of delinquent taxes in the borough and I hope we don’t have to sell this to get the money to balance our budget after we spent all of that money on that building, we just bought.

Jamie Trunzo – We received a letter the third week of February while we were on vacation stating that the original space that we were shown at the new building would have to have some alterations, and that we would now have to share the kitchen area with the possible renters in the building. When we returned from our vacation, we had a meeting with several council members and the borough manager and I had a lot of questions and I was told that over the next several weeks we would have meetings to try to work some of the issues out. AS of today, I have not heard from anyone. After last week’s workshop meeting, I was told that the borough wanted us to apply for a 501 C3 tax status so that they can rent us the building for \$1.00. Prior to that, after looking at our finances here, I had

another list of questions that I had supplied to Mr. Colecchi. He responded to all of the questions, although some of them did not have very clear answers. I received an email from Mr. Colecchi this past Friday asking me about the 501 C3 and I told him that there was no way we can afford \$1,700 to \$1,900 a year for insurance plus all of the monthly utilities. We would have to have a major fundraiser every other month to support this. I give enough of my time and energy already and I am not going to be a slave to this building or to the senior center. I come here out of the goodness of my heart. My mother took over this place 16 years ago so I have been doing this for 16 years. I feel the communication over this whole process sucked. We got a letter on vacation, how convenient was that. I was told we would talk over the next few weeks and I haven't heard anything. When I told them that even with a 501 C3 we could not afford the insurance and utilities, I was told we would talk about it, and I haven't heard anything. Like I told my seniors, it is not about Vina March, it is not about Jamie Trunzo, it is about the seniors, it is about Glassport. I knew we would be moving into a smaller space, but I understand that with the cost of everything at this building when we could have a space in the new building, I was ok with it. It is just that the communication has been very poor through this whole process. With that being said, I am announcing now that the last day of the Vina March Senior Center will be May 23, 2024. By June 30, 2024 everything that we have purchased for this building, and I have receipts for everything, will be out of this building. As of July 1, 2024, Glassport can have their Senior Center wherever they want it with whoever they want running it.

Colecchi - I would just like to comment on the communication aspect. I have had a lot going on over the past few weeks. I have been contacting you through Email's.

Jamie Trunzo – Sorry to be you. I don't have any more to say. I am done.

Gert Ormand – I would just like to comment supporting Jamie. She has done a great job keeping this center together. After Covid we lost a lot of members. We are a Senior Center. We are getting older. We have a few new members joining and we are hoping to get more. It is ashamed that a town our size with as many seniors that we have, the people don't take advantage of what we have to offer. We have lunch, exercise, crafts and every once in a while, we get to go to the casino. There's not much for the seniors to do. We don't have the clubs like we used to. The town needs to have things to do for the young as well as the old.

Shirley D'Angelo – I am a member of the center, but I don't come for lunch or any of their programs, but I do want to say that Jamie does a great job.

Jamie Trunzo– And just for the record, we have members from various communities, it's not just Glassport. We have members from Clairton, Jefferson, Dravosburg, Rostraver, Elizabeth, Port Vue, West Mifflin, so it's not just Glassport.

Pat DiMarco – I just want to say that as everyone knows I moved here from New York, and I couldn't wait to join the senior center. I fought for Vina March to have her name on this building, and I am ashamed and I regret what I did because of the way the seniors are being treated. I was 43 when I started coming here and I couldn't wait till I turned 55 so I could join. When you get to be their age, you are going to look back and say boy, what did I do. This is not just a senior center, it a family. A family that these people don't have. We put our heart and soul into this place. I do crafts and I even put my own money into getting the supplies. What is going to happen to these people. At least two day a week they have something to look forward too. Now they have nothing. They don't like change and you are putting their lives in turmoil by changing things.

Colecchi – I would just like to say it is not the borough that is changing things. We are trying to work on an amicable solution that works for everybody.

Jamie Trunzo– Well I would like it on record too that Jamie Trunzo is not shutting down the senior center. Jamie Trunzo is closing the Vina March Senior Center and what the borough decides to do after June 1, is up to the borough.

Rosemary Bradley – This location is convenient for everyone. The bank is right here, the diner is here. How are they going to get down there if they don't have a car.

Colecchi – We did not say for sure that we are moving the seniors down there. We just said we are going to work on an amicable solution that works for everyone.

Rosemary Bradley – You own this building and there is not that much that you give to the seniors.

Jamie Trunzo- \$12,000 a year is what I was told they give for this building.

Rosemary Bradley – Wow. You don't have the money, but you had the money to buy an \$800,000 building when you could have gotten it for \$400,000 and probably less than that if you would have negotiated.

Bob Miskanin – Trying to settle things down here a bit, why don't we form a committee to sit down and try to work something out that will work for everyone. I would need to see everything in writing, not just hearsay of what it costs to run this building. All this is causing is a lot of dissention and we don't need that in this borough. We have to work with each other, not hollering at each other. We need to sit back and look at the big picture. We don't need bitterness with the elderly. We need to do something with the fire department also. A week ago, there were three calls in one day and companies from other towns had to come in to handle them because we didn't have the manpower.

Pat DiMarco – There is a large crowd of people here tonight because we came for a specific matter. Just because we don't come to meetings all the time doesn't mean we don't care. We do care. We elected you guys to do what you have to do. You are supposed to have our backs. This is just like the senior center, there are people who join but they don't come around but they still care.

Motion made by Nabors second by Stecak to adjourn.

6 – Yes 0 – No Motion Carried

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Andrea G. Foster
Borough Secretary

Anthony Colecchi
President of Council

