

Workshop Meeting Minutes
Verona Borough Council
Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

ZOOM COVID19

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call

President Pat McCarthy

Dr. Carpenter

Mr. Forbeck

Ms. LoAlbo

Mr. Matlin

Ms. Provenza

Mayor Ricupero

Mr. Sucheich

Mr. Alexander N/A

Mr. Pitsch NA

Mr. Kenna

I. Registered Comments from the Public

- a. Council will hear comments on **agenda** items at this time. Please approach the podium and clearly state your name & address and limit your comments to **three (3) minutes**.
 - 1. Trish Hredzak Showalter-440 North Ave- briefly talk about park updates.-
 - a. Upgrades on Riverbank Park.
 - b. Community Garden Project-outline on what goes into doing the community garden.
Showed slides regarding the Community Garden. Main thing a vote to send a letter for the garden 2021. Also, a vote on a space for the garden. Water will be a cost. Liability insurance. Some funding from Grow Pittsburgh. Support from community we have quite a bit. Manpower-main site coordinator, gardeners etc. Grow Pittsburgh will give \$25,000 to \$30,000. Verona Graden Club, etc will be helping.
We will not be able to use some vacant land because of income.
Borough owned lots would be the best. Private vacant lots with (3 or more years taxes not paid) Top three we are looking at, 851 2nd Street, Vogels Lane former Shiloh Baptist church, 246 West railroad Ave. In order to have a spring build we will need applications by January.
Takes at least 6-9 months.
Dr. Carpenter-is there a deadline for the application and pick of the lot. (In order to have a spring build we would have to have a January deadline or fall build by May.)
Would the Borough have to pay back taxes and purchase the vacant lot.
Jerry, we can take it by eminent domain. We would have to pay the owner for the property.
Pay for legal fees etc.?
Dave Matlin, question how to get the water set up to the lot? Trish & Grow Pittsburgh answered.
Mike Forbeck, we need have conversation regarding purchasing about this going forward.

Ray-will we be liable if we see that it is too expensive?

Jerry- If we do not have the volunteers in the future would we have to hire another streets guy. We would advise change the planting-so it will not be extra work. It would be left to the volunteers.

Decision would be determined for the location.

Angela-it is quite simple- you will not have to pay back taxes. You will not have to hire lawyers. The owner will be notified-you have to have a closing company-you send \$500 deposit with application to the County they come appraise the property. After it is closed its yours free and clear. Closes in about 9 months. Homeowners have first choice but if no one is interested then you can purchase it. Motion to agree to go forward with the project pending later picking a site, 1st Dave Matlin, 2nd Dr. Carpenter, all ayes, motion passed.

2. Joseph Kramer, regarding being charged rental permit late fees for 5 years without ever being notified or billed? Not on.

3. Laura Jacko, North Ave.-tree update, North Ave got trees and replaced two in the business district. Fall pushed back to 2021. Don Worf would like to drop off the tree commission. Kimberly Roller would like to take Don's place. Letters need to be submitted.

II. Comments from the Public

III. Reports and Correspondence

a. Borough Manager's Reports: Jerry Kenna

1. Meeting Minutes September meeting Motion to accept, 1st Sylvia Provenza, 2nd Ray Suchevich, All Ayes, motion passed
2. Council needs to hold a hearing on Miller's consolidation 3 lots on Penn St.-will advertise Oct 13th. 6:30PM. Motion to have consolidation hearing 1st Ray Suchevich, 2nd Mike Forbeck, All Ayes, motion passed
3. Removing Royal Oak Recycling bins from parking lot, – should we get them removed? Research to find another company (Mike Forbeck)
4. Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collection KEYSTONE.... Would like to switch delinquent tax to KEYSTONE has a better system than Weiss, Burkhardt, Kramer. Think about it and I (Jerry) will know more at the next meeting.

b. Mayor's Report: David Ricupero

1. Halloween – we will have trick treat 6:00-8:00 Saturday October 30th .
2. Christmas Parade-November 21st at 4:00 but no food etc. on the street in Oakmont or Verona.
3. ARB/Center crosswalk will talk more next meeting. We will have a police officer there. Also a sign saying right turn only watch pedestrians.

c. Council President's Report: Pat McCarthy

1. Misc.

IV. Council Committee Reports

a. Engineer: Mr. Matt Pitsch-N/A

b. Solicitor: Mr. Craig Alexander

c. Public Works/Refuse/Sewers: Dave Matlin

1. Cross walks-local municipalities are responsible to maintain
2. County Hauling violation notice-Violation notice sent from the Health Dept. Sept 3rd cease and desist. Council has been made aware and we are waiting for the DEP.
3. Tree pruning draft bid spec-West RR between Allegheny & Fairview-Wildwood and around the business district.
Ray Suhevich asked Is West RR the Railroad property, and it shouldn't be touched? Railroad has its own rules.
Jerry Kenna was able to reach out to the Railroad and they basically said no. They do not have a problem with Verona taking care of it. We just need to let them know. Matt & Dave will get bids.
3. Stop signs update-got input from residence-Matt will review. We will need a traffic study and an ordinance.
4. Using GIS/mapping for blighted properties-webinar on blighted properties.

d. Ordinances: Dr. Nancy Carpenter

Update from Sept 28 ordinance meeting.

1. STR comments and Animal Control ordinances
2. Nuisance call- Craig has written ordinances for other committees and we will adjust the ordinance.
3. Stop sign ordinances-

e. Police/Fire: Mike Forbeck

1. Police Vehicle-did not specifically Motion to purchase police car-1st Mike Forbeck, 2nd Ray Suhevich, we need to ratify the purchase, Dr. Carpenter and Sylvia Provenza abstained. Mayor Ricupero – can we use the equipment from the old car? We need price on what we are spending.

Roll call –

President McCarthy-yes

Dr. Carpenter-abstain

Mike Forbeck-yes

Janet LoAlbo-yes

Dave Matlin-no

Sylvia-abstain

Ray Suhevich-yes

Motion passed

2. Police Committee discussed -Camera update-high definition ARB/Center and there should revamp the Borough building camera.

Contact Zappala's office and they will accept letter from Council to purchase cameras. We can discuss at the next Council Meeting.

Cribbs Pavilion camera purchase under the existing grant. Get together with Chief, Jerry Kenna and Matt Pitsch to see what to get.

Sylvia Provenza-in touch with Mr. Zappala regarding body cameras.

f. Finance/Budget/Grants: Raymon Suhevich

g. Parks/Recreation: Janet LoAlbo

1. Pickleball courts- updated-Saturday appreciation day. Tournament Oct. 31, 2020 9:00AM-2:00PM. Possibly have a food truck for about an hour. Raised money from GO FUND ME, to do more things for the courts.
2. Saturday Oct. 3, 2020 at 10:00AM a Fall bake at Beachwood Farm.
3. Movie in the Park Saturday Oct. 16th. -6:30 PM
4. Community Dinner-Wednesday Sept. 30th
5. Community Dinner-Oct. 28 for Council to donate.

- h. Communications: Sylvia Provenza
 1. Newsletter- veronanewsroom@gmail.com any articles to Don Worf.
 2. Farmers Market every Thursday 2:00-7:00 thank you to all.
 3. Chamber of Commerce will have a meeting October 20th Tuesday, at the Pavilion. Time to be announce.

V. Reports of Special Committees

- a. Allegheny League of Municipalities: (ALOM)-read information letter from ALOM to Council
- b. Council of Governments: (COG)-talked about the CDBG projects, Matt submitted the next 4 application for projects.
- c. Tax Collection Committee:

VI. Comments from the Public

Council will hear comments on public-related items at this time. Please approach the podium and clearly state your name and address, limit your comments to **three (3) minutes**

1. Dan Showalter-440 North Ave-if a property is sold in the Borough and who makes the decision if one can change to multi family. Would go through the Zoning Hearing Board.
2. Eric Spaar-209 Penn St-pickle ball courts great. Comment on animal ordinance. I support bunny & rabbits and ducks.
3. Jessica Varone-722 Brunot St- she had issues of people not wearing masks. She has issues that the agenda is not out earlier. She wants minutes also.
4. Laura Jacko-437 North Ave.- Halloween-issues to do CDC guidelines. She has issues about people not wearing masks. Concern about County Hauling and recycling. 443 North Ave issues about the house being sold and make apartments. Talked about the animal control ordinance.
5. Vince Flota, 323 Penn St-thank council and street crew fixing the basketball hoop Riverbank Park. Last Council meeting regarding police car-issues about how it was ordered.
6. Kimberly Roller-453 1st St, thank Mr. Matlin support of Community Garden. Applaud the Council for doing it.
7. Jennifer Marasco-North Ave- thank you for the Community Day -Community Garden. Issues that the agenda is not posted. Issues that people are not wearing masks. Need lines on North Avenue. We need parking lines ASAP. She has parking issues. Animal Ordinance
8. Rhea Homa-742 Brunot- thank you for the Community Garden, keeping ducks and chickens in Verona. Disappointment in not having minutes and agenda.
9. Kat Hought-443 North Avenue-living in the house. Upset about the sale of house and not able to buy the house. Minutes/ Agenda issues.

X. Adjourn-1st Ms. Provenza 2nd Mr. Sucheovich, all ayes, meeting adjourned.

XI. Upcoming Public Meetings

<i>Day and Time</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
1 st Tuesday/month @ 7:00PM	Parks & Rec Board Meeting
2 nd Tuesday/month @ 7:00 P.M.	Verona Council Public Session

Quarterly 2 nd Tuesday/month @ 6:30 (Beginning 1-12-16)	Shade Tree Commission
3 rd Tuesday/month @ 7:00 P.M.	Verona Chamber Meeting
Final Tuesday/month @ 7:00 P.M.	Verona Council Work Session
4 th Wednesday/month @ 4:00-6:00 P.M. Methodist Church, Center Ave.	Community Dinner
3 rd Thursday/month @ 7:00 P.M.	Verona Historical Society Meeting
4 th Wednesday @ 7:00 Harmarville	COG
1 st Wednesday @ 6:30 PM	Lower Valley Athletic Foundation Meeting