

September 5, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

6:30PM Call to order by Mayor Adams; moment of silence, Pledge of Allegiance, opening prayer by Rev. Chaffin.

Roll Call: Mayor Adams, Councilpersons Washington, Adams and Artim all present. Council person Caldwell absent.

Public Comment of Agenda items:

Kirsten Pastrick commended the City manager and Public Works Department for cleaning vacant lots. Pastrick asked questions about the Home Rule Charter. Mayor Adams and Councilwoman Washington responded. Councilman Adams explained that a PowerPoint about Home Rule is on the City Website.

Consent Agenda: Motion needed to accept the consent agenda for September 5th,

1. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – July 11, 2023.
2. Approval of Council Special Meeting Minutes – August 1, 2023.
3. Approval of Bill List ending – June 30, 2023, July 31, 2023 and August 31, 2023.

Motion by Washington, seconded by Artim to approve the consent agenda, unanimously approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Mayor's reported on the following:

- a. PA American Water fee on next workshop agenda.
- b. Cellular Company antenna fee on water tower on next workshop agenda.
- c. Codification update.
 - i. General Codes Proposal for Codification.
 1. Motion by Mayor Adams, seconded by Artim to approve the General Codes Agreement, unanimously approved.
 - ii. Steel Rivers COG – Proposal for Professional Services for Municipal Records Management.
 1. On a motion by Artim, seconded by Washington to approve the Agreement with SRCOG for Professional

Services for Municipal Records Management,
unanimously approved.

- d. Home Rule Charter on next workshop agenda.
- e. Solicitation Ordinance done through codification process.

Next meeting is September 26, 2023.

PUBLIC WORKS: Councilperson Washington's reported that Steve Arbasak started today as Public Works Supervisor. Codes Department Supervisor is still in process.

CDBG and Home Programs – Opt-in or Opt-out –

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-8 – Opt-in to the CDBG and HOME Program by Mayor Adams, seconded by Artim, unanimously approved.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-9 – Cooperation Agreement for CDBG and Home with Allegheny County (ACED) by Artim, seconded by Washington, unanimously approved.

Request to close Hillview Street on September 9, 2023 from 2 pm to 9 pm by the Collins Family on a motion by Mayor Adams, seconded by Washington, unanimously approved.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Councilperson Adams reported about the DEP Inspection Reports and the deficiencies that need addressed. Adams discussed the preliminary Water Study Report. Adams mentioned the complaints concerning the PA American Water billing and increasing fees.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Engineer's Report submitted in writing.

Water Rate Study - update.

DEP Water Supply Inspection Report.

Branthoover stated that the Paving Bid – W. Grant via LSA Grant – lowest was Tresco at \$63,685. Engineer recommends Council accept this bid from Tresco.

2023 LSA Grant for \$25,000 to \$1,000,000 is due by the end of November 2023 with no match. You can apply for a number of LSA Grants.

CD 49 Grant awarded \$75,000, Branthoover has narrowed the list to 9 properties with approval required. Branthoover covered CD50, Act 152, for 2022 and 2023 and 2023 GTRP Grant.

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCES: Councilperson Artim's reported that we received over \$7,315 in interest from PLGIT for the month of August. Artim mentioned received proposals from Heartland and MunicPay. Sulkosky added that a proposal from MunicPay and Heartland should be available within a few days.

Mayor Adams asked about how the fees would be assessed. Artim stated that an upcharge would go towards the card holder and not the City.

TREASURER REPORT: Ms. Strahl's report is available. She added that Real Estate Tax Report. Year to Date real estate tax collections was \$1.6 million with 76.58% collected YTD.

SOLICITOR REPORT: Solicitor reported that a letter was received from the County Department of Elections seeking any vacancies. City Manager's Office has the form and will forward to the solicitor for signatures. The only vacancy is the controller's position.

Mayor Adam's indicated he would send the solicitor information on the shed request by the ham operator's group

CITY MANAGER REPORT: Manager reported that refuse bids are due on September 14, 2023. A pre-bid meeting was held on August 29, 2023 with two refuse firms participating.

On a motion by Washington, seconded by Artim to approve the proposal and agreement of \$6,230 with an annual maintenance of \$465, unanimously approved.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Shaw's report is available in writing. Shaw reviewed the reports. Shaw discussed the situation Overland and the need to

review the traffic ordinance. Mayor indicated the state traffic and vehicle code can be enforced currently.

Shaw led a discussion about the two vehicles (Explorer and Tahoe) that the City Manager and Public Works Department secured new or newer engines for both vehicles. The Public Works mechanic is installing the replacement engines and should be finished in a few weeks. At least one of those vehicles was to go to the Public Works Department. A discussion occurred on the two newer vehicles that were damaged and needed repairs. The City Manager reported that the claims were approved initially and were going through the final approval process with the insurance company.

ACT 47 COORDINATOR REPORT: George Dougherty reported that final approval to exit Act 47 is pending. Dougherty reported that the City Manager was exploring a DCED STMP Grants through Bethany Williams. The STMP Program does allow for low income communities that may reduce the match from 50% to 10%.

A lengthy discussion occurred about the Home Rule Charter and when that would or should occur. A Home Rule Study Commission would need to be elected. The form of government can vary widely including the total make up of Council and ward or at large elections. The election rules would be based on the Allegheny County Board of Elections guidelines.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No report.

CITIZEN'S REVIEW BOARD: No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Losif Brousteyu complained about his water bill was estimated then an actual read. City Manager reported that the water department credited Mr. Brousteyu for 5,000 gallons so his issue has been resolved.

Eric Mattson, 617 Richford Street, complained about 107 Overland Avenue.

Sheldon Morris complained about 107 Overland Avenue and the parking on his sidewalk and the generator running at all hours.

Mary Alice Kline, 35 Oakmont Avenue, complained about the vacant property at 33 Oakmont Avenue right next to her house. The vacant house has been broken

into and stripped of wiring back in 2018. Council woman Washington will visit the property tomorrow.

Finally, a motion was made by Councilperson Artim and second by Councilperson Washington to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Adjourned 7:50PM

A couple citizens made comments but did not give identification information.

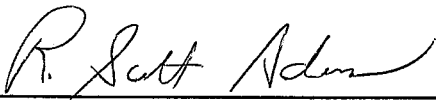
Tom Molanick talked about overgrown vegetation enforcement.


Ms. Pat asked a few questions about school lights and the clock.

Halloween will be 6-8 pm on October 31, 2023 at Polish Hill.

On a motion by Washington, seconded by Artim to go in executive session at 8:17 pm, vote was 4-0. Treasurer Strahl was asked to stay for executive session.

Mayor Adams adjourned the meeting with no further action.

Mayor R. Scott Adams 

Interim
City Manager 
Mary Louise Bittner