



Homestead Borough Council
Legislative Session

April 15, 2021 Minutes
6:00 PM

Call to Order at 6:04 pm

Roll Call

President Dais	X	Vice President Cunningham	X
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	X
Minister Burwell	X	Mrs. Burwell	X
Ms. Nesby	X	Mayor Esper	X
Borough Manager	X	Solicitor	X
Police Chief Desimone		Fire Chief Eads	X
Code Enforcement	X	Public Works	N/A
Engineering	X		

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment – Items on Agenda No comments

Department Reports

Public Safety

1. Police Chief's report – Sgt. Adams gave report.
 - a. Discussed crime statistics for month of March 2021.
 - b. Several officers out on WC
 - c. Still following COVID protocols
 - d. Department completed M.I.S.T. training held in the building.
 - e. Civil Service police officer candidate tests have been certified and a ranking list posted.
2. Fire Chief's report
 - a. 70 incident call outs for March
 - b. Average response time 0:08:00
3. Mayor's report
 - a. Bells Across America – 7:00 pm on May 2, 2021
 - b. Salvation Army Fresh Market Produce is the last Tuesday of every month starting April 27, 2021 running through October 26, 2021.
 - c. Homestead Grays Banners – Allegheny County gave new banners and would like to present them around Father's Day weekend.

Department Reports

1. Engineering
 - a. West Street Paving – 17th to 8th will begin with storm inlets and handicap ramps, the last week in April with milling and paving in May.
 - b. CD 46 McLean Playground Drainage Project – SRCOG will open bids on April 27, 2021.
 - c. CD 46 Street Reconstruction – El Grande Industries will be taking over the project for McKee’s price. They will start the project which includes paving E. 13th from West to Glenn and Mifflin to McClure plus Maple from 17th to 8th Street, in May.
 - d. West & Plum Inlet Project – Satira Construction will repair the catch basin at West & Plum Way by the end of May.
 - e. GTRP Recreation Grants – due by May 31 and would be a match for the Fishing Pier/observation deck project.
 - i. Council gave consensus to apply for this grant.
 - f. Hazel Way Sewer Separation Project – design work is ongoing on this project that will remove storm water from the combined sewer system along Hazel Way.
2. Building Code
 - a. Recommended the 2 emergency demolitions happen, Esper Lot (101 E. 9th Avenue) and 106 E. 15th Street retaining walls.
 - b. Recommended the tabling of the emergency demolition at 333 E. 11th Avenue as it has a potential buyer.
 - c. Highly recommends Allegheny County’s Vacant Property Recovery Program.
3. Parking – report in packet
4. Public Works – report in packet

Agenda Items:

1. Motion to approve April 2021 bill list in the amount of \$92,664.32.

Motion: Ms. Nesby

Second: Min. Burwell

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	YES
Minister Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes: 6 - 0

2. Motion to approve April 2021 payroll in the amount of \$207,585.22 (3 pay periods in April).

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

Second: Ms. Nesby

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	YES
Minister Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes: 6 - 0

3. Motion to approve minutes for March 8, 2021 and March 11, 2021.

Motion: Ms. Nesby

Second: Min. Burwell

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	YES
Minister Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes: 6 - 0

4. Motion to authorize the Steel Rivers COG to apply to the Allegheny County Act 152 grant program with a joint application with Munhall and West Homestead for the demolition of 20 properties throughout the 3 boroughs, with 8 in Homestead.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

Second: Mr. Borcik

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	YES
Minister Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes: 6 - 0

5. Motion to approve the emergency demolition of the retaining, exterior wall at 106 E. 15th Avenue, and at the Esper Lot in Homestead, PA.

Motion: Mr. Borcik

Second: Mr. Cunningham

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	YES
Minister Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes or fails: 6 - 0

- ~~6. Motion to approve emergency demolition of garage at 333 11th Avenue, Homestead, PA.~~
TABLED per request of Building Inspector as the house has a potential buyer.

7. Motion to approve the Pennsylvania Water Shut-off Notice letter.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

Second: Mr. Borcik

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	YES
Minister Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes: 6 - 0

8. Motion to approve staff Vacation Policy to be effective April 16, 2021.

Motion: Ms. Nesby **Second: Min. Burwell**

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	NO
Minister Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes: 5 - 1

9. Motion to hire Debra Felton as a School Crossing Guard based on Police Chief's recommendation and dependent upon return of all clearances.

Motion: Ms. Nesby **Second: Mr. Cunningham**

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	YES
Minister Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes: 6 - 0

10. Motion to ratify the submission of a DCNR grant application for the Monongahela River Fishing Pier observation deck project due April 14, 2021 by the Borough Engineer.

Motion: Ms. Nesby **Second: Mr. Cunningham**

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	YES
Minister Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes: 6 - 0

11. Motion to approve updating the Homestead Borough website using our current provider, Chroma for \$3,250.

Motion: Ms. Nesby **Second: Mr. Borcik**

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	YES
Minister Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes: 6 - 0

12. Motion to approve Barrier Commercial to install a new security system at the Borough Building in the amount of \$1,713.94 with a monthly fee of \$35.00.

Motion: Ms. Nesby **Second: Min. Burwell**

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	YES
Minister Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes: 6 - 0

13. Motion to approve Fedora/Intertech to begin the monitoring of the fire alarm system in the Borough Building for 5 years at the monthly rate of \$50.99 and one-time installation fee of \$600 as they are the ones that installed it and currently services it.

Motion: Ms. Nesby

Second: Min. Burwell

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	YES
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	YES
Minister Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes: 6 - 0

14. Motion to suspend Employee #127 for 5 days without pay upon return from leave.

Motion: Ms. Nesby

Second: Min. Burwell

President Dais	YES	Vice President Cunningham	NO
Rev. Benton	ABSENT	Mr. Borcik	NO
Minister Burwell	YES	Mrs. Burwell	YES
Ms. Nesby	YES	Mayor Esper	

Motion passes: 4 - 2

Resolutions

Concurrent Resolution ACT 152: Concurring Resolution for Allegheny County Act 152 Demolition Grant. The purpose of the Resolution for is to have on record a statemen confirming that the applicant, Borough of Homestead, has formally requested ACT 152 funds, had designated an official, An Lewis of Steel Rivers Council of Governments, to perform the required duties between the applicant and Allegheny County Economic Development and has assured, where applicable, the provision of local matching funds. In addition, the applicant will comply with all other provisions of the ACT 152 application.

A resolution of the Borough of Homestead, Allegheny County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the filing of an application for ACT 152 funds with Allegheny County Economic Development.

Concurring Resolution ACT 152 Council votes

Motion: Mr. Borcik

Second: Ms. Nesby

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES				
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYES	NAYES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
President Don Dais	X			
Vice President Lloyd Cunningham	X			
Rev. Louise Benton				X
Mr. Drew Borcik	X			
Min. Connie Burwell	X			
Mrs. JouAl Burwell	X			
Ms. Mary Nesby	X			
Mayor Betty Esper				

Resolution passes: 6 - 0

Resolution 2021-04: A resolution by the Borough of Homestead of Allegheny County, PA; whereas, there are several vacant and dilapidated structures located within the Municipality of Borough of Homestead and whereas, such structures constitute a health and safety hazard to our residents; and whereas, such structures identified for demolition will undergo condemnation proceedings outlined within local ordinances and are in declaration of the property as a public nuisance and as being in a hazardous or dangerous condition; and whereas, Allegheny County Economic Development, through the Act 152 Program, has funds available for the removal of such structures; and whereas the Municipality of Borough of Homestead is desirous of obtaining such funds. Be it therefore resolved, this 15th day of April, 2021, that the Municipality of Borough of Homestead determines and declares that such structures individually and collectively constitute blighted property in the municipality as defined by the Urban Redevelopment Law (1945, May 24, P.L. 991; 1978, June 23, P.L. 556, No. 94; as amended, 1988, March 30, P.L. 304, No. 39)

Resolution 2021-04 Council votes

Motion: Mr. Cunningham Second: Ms. Nesby

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES				
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYES	NAYES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
President Don Dais	X			
Vice President Lloyd Cunningham	X			
Rev. Louise Benton				X
Mr. Drew Borcik	X			
Min. Connie Burwell	X			
Mrs. JouAl Burwell	X			
Ms. Mary Nesby	X			
Mayor Betty Esper				

Resolution passe: 6 - 0

Resolution 2021-05: A resolution of the Council for the Borough of Homestead of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, establishing a recurring bill list for timely payments of invoices.

Resolution 2021-05 Council votes:

Motion: Mr. Cunningham Second: Ms. Nesby

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES				
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYES	NAYES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
President Don Dais	X			
Vice President Lloyd Cunningham	X			
Rev. Louise Benton				X
Mr. Drew Borcik	X			
Min. Connie Burwell	X			
Mrs. JouAl Burwell	X			
Ms. Mary Nesby	X			
Mayor Betty Esper				

Resolution passe: 6 - 0

Public Comment – General Information

- Mayor Esper – where is the Solicitor’s report.
 - Mr. Matta – will be included at the next meeting.
- Gary Matta, Borough Solicitor – thank you to all of Homestead in sending prayers and thoughts during a difficult time.
- Henry White – 251 E. 16th Avenue: sidewalks are in accessible for motorized wheelchairs – not many curb cuts for mobility.
 - Mr. Matta – suggested getting the areas there are problems and have a review by Borough.
 - Borough Manager stated that PA Walkways may be a grant that we can potentially use to help survey all the sidewalks in the Borough and gave brief details about the company PathVue which surveys communities for walkability/mobility.
- Duane Schulte – asked if it was possible to have the name of the employee discussed under motion #14. Solicitor said no as it was a personnel issue.
 - Gave an update on the Civil Service test and said it was certified with 4 officers on the list.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 7:22 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

Second: Ms. Nesby

NEXT MEETING DATES

Zoning Board – April 28, 2021 6:00 pm

Planning Commission – April 28, 2021 7:00 pm

HARB – May 5, 2021 7:00 pm

Work Session/Caucus – May 10, 2021 5:00 pm

Legislative Session – May 13, 2021 6:00 pm

Approved

5/13/2021
Date


Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
Borough Manager


Don Dais
President of Council