

CITY OF MCKEESPORT

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY

7:10 P.M.

APRIL 7, 2021

The regular meeting of Council was called to order on the above-stated date at the above-stated time after the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence in memory of Ricky Stanoszek and former Mayor Lou Washowich by President Dellapenna.

President Dellapenna called for roll call by Secretary James.

The following Members of Council were present:

RC-1 PRESENT: JIM BARRY, TIMOTHY BROWN, RICHARD DELLAPENNA, BRIAN EVANS, JILL LAPE, LUETHEL NESBIT, KEITH SOLES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

President Dellapenna asked for a Motion to Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of January 6, 2021.

MOTION: Mr. Soles moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, “to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 6, 2021.”

RC-2 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE (0)

COMMUNICATIONS:

Secretary James reported that we received both the Police and Fire Reports for the month of March 2021.

CITIZENS IN THE AUDIENCE:

President Dellapenna announced next, we are going to ask for the Citizens in the Audience. They are all on the phone. Solicitor Elash said Secretary James needs to read her script.

Secretary James announced that McKeesport City Council has received written comments which will be entered into the official record of this meeting and have been provided to each Council Member and the Mayor. We received written comments from the following individuals:

1. Janina Riley, regarding police accountability and the events of December 20, 2020.
2. V. Fawn Walker-Montgomery, regarding police accountability and the events of December 20, 2020.
3. Olivia Bennet, regarding police accountability and the events of December 20, 2020.
4. Amber Webb, regarding police accountability and the events of December 20, 2020.
5. Eliana Beigel, regarding police accountability and the events of December 20, 2020.

Now we will take comments from the following individuals who have requested to speak to Council over the phone:

1. Kyna James, the Alliance for Police Accountability – Phone: XXX-XXX-XXXX (caller could not be heard clearly at times and was inaudible at times during the conversation)
President Dellapenna said your 3 minutes is starting. Kyna James said hi. I am speaking in regard to the incident that happened with Koby Francis. We understand how serious the situation was but how McKeesport Police treated a McKeesport resident was completely and utterly uncalled for.(caller was inaudible).....the person calledin the middle ofoutside half-clothed and I am sure that myself and the others on this call would like to know what we are going to do to get justice for the community's rights as people and what are we going to do to hold the McKeesport Police accountable for their actions. They can't say that they were doing a good search because every single person that they mistreated was not an accomplice. So, yea, we just want to make sure you

know like that we do the due diligence for the citizens of McKeesport because how they were treated was not ok at all. We are all citizens of Allegheny County and we all have rights and you know the Police Officers just going into people's homes like we didn't just watch what just happened to Bryona Taylor where like 8-10 people die a year by accident from getting their homes ran into by the Police Officers. We got to do better and you know we need justice for these people. That's all I have to say.

President Dellapenna said thank you sir and can you please state your name and address.

Mr. James said I am a coalition organizer for the Alliance for Police Liability and we represent the entire Allegheny County but our office is 841 California Avenue 15212 and my name is Kyna James.

President Dellapenna said ok thank you Mr. James.

2. Bonnie Fan, Phone: XXX-XXX-XXXX

Go ahead Bonnie your time is starting.

Bonnie said my name is Bonnie Fan and I am a researcher at Carnegie Mellon University, studying public meeting flexibility during COVID-19 and we will be featuring the case in McKeesport in my work. Barricading the public from a public meeting was a violation of the Sunshine Act and using COVID-19 as an excuse for the entire year of 2020 was held in person until calls for accountability reached the Council is precisely why preventing the public from giving comment is illegal. What's more it shines an even brighter light on the illegal searches and seizures conducted on black families in McKeesport who were suddenly caught in a Marshall Law Zone of 10 Police Departments. The fact that the public was redirected to make individual complaints when these were Department wide violations makes the idea of the Department holding themselves accountable absurd. Now that McKeesport has been spotlighted, this is the time for Council to take long-term measures toward healing trust and building

communities by expanding the area of police and putting that budget toward new programming to end the cycle of violence. Thank you.

President Dellapenna said thank you Ms. Fan.

3. Courtney Jayann Thompkins, Phone: XXX-XXX-XXXX

President Dellapenna said hello Courtney can you please state your name and your address for the record and then proceed you have three minutes.

Courtney said Courtney Thompkins, 1806 Freemont Street, McKeesport, PA 15132. President Dellapenna said thank you and Courtney said you are welcome. President Dellapenna then told Courtney you can proceed.

Courtney said ok I had some couple issues about the incident that happened with Koby the day that the officer got shot. The issues were that you know you could see it all on Facebook and so at that night around 8 o'clock I had told my boyfriend who was on his way to work to be careful because you know they are pulling people over. Still not thinking it would even come to our home because there was no reason. The way they came to my home and harassed him and then came to my home with guns drawn was just unnecessary when all they had to do was knock on my door and I would have let them in with no problem. I think this house was profiled because my sons who haven't even lived here for like the past 10 years, they automatically profiled my home because my son, Devon, hangs with Koby but Koby has never been to the house so there was just no reason why for them to come to my house with guns. It was very dramatic because they even in my home they still had the guns pointed to me when I said there wasn't a problem to check it. So, I have a problem with that because I still, it's ok to canvas the neighborhood but you need to do it correctly and safely because the gun could have went off, any sound could have happened and someone could have gotten hurt. So, I am just hoping in the future you know if anything like this happens again which I hope it don't, there's a better

process and procedures and respect to the community. To make it even worse, two doors down is where a lot of the activity that they needed to investigate was there and he was sitting down in Crawford while you are up here harassing people that don't even have anything to do with it. So, I just think better skills, you could have put my sons social security numbers in the system and seen that they were in jail. There was no reason for you to come guns drawn here or at my boyfriend on the way to work. I just think it was really a bad situation. How could you even sleep because like a gun is drawn at me? So that was my one issue and then.

President Dellapenna said mam you only have a few more seconds.

I had an issue about profiling our young black men without even investigating the situation and I think that needs to be changed too.

My third was before this all happened, I just had some problems with the City Works issues on my street but I don't know if can I talk about that, or no?

President Dellapenna said you are out of time now mam.

Ms. Thompkins said ok that's fine.

President Dellapenna said you can call the Mayor's office though and speak.

Ms. Thompkins said I did that plenty of times but thank you so much.

Mayor Cherepko said if I may comment, she did call my office and we made sure her street got paved.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

President Dellapenna asked for the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Cherepko said I do want to start off by acknowledging the very unfortunate loss of our former Mayor Lou Washowich. He was without question a dedicated public servant who really did his very best and put forth all the efforts he could during one of the most

difficult times in our City's history when those mills went down in '82 he was the leader of our community and continued to work tirelessly to make sure that McKeesport was on it's best stable ground as it possibly could be. People don't realize the time and energy it takes to be in one of these positions and to know that he did it for 15 years is extremely incredible and without question he will be missed and our City will be forever indebted to him for his service to our community. So, without question, make sure you keep the family, they have my deepest sympathy, please keep them in your prayers as they go through the grieving process.

Just a brief comment, I am not going to go into too much, the last speaker in regard to that was the first person that actually said something from personal experience. There's a lot of very inaccurate allegations that are going on in regard to this. I am not going to get into all of those, maybe at some point if there's litigation or something we will get to the bottom of it. What I will tell you is here in the City of McKeesport there's a reason you don't see many of the issues that you see in the world around us. We take pride in this town. Our officers reside in our community. Their kids go to school in the community. Many of our officers coach or have other types of relationships with our youth throughout the community, from our Police Chief all the way down to officers, whether it's Little Tigers or wrestling, or baseball, whether it's working at the Boys & Girls Club, whatever the case may be. There's a community aspect that is embedded in our officers. I will tell you that the feedback that I received that night from our officers was incredible. Through that difficult time I talked to my brass that were out there, the supervisors, and in just about every case they were blown away with how cooperative the community was. I am not saying that there may be an instance out there that may have made someone feel uncomfortable for whatever reason and I can't speak for all the officers that were there but all the crews that were out with our officers as I said their words were the cooperation was unbelievable. So, we will continue to work on things in our Police Department. We

work each and every day to continue to build upon our community and police relations which we have a tremendous relationship compared to many of the places that you may see in the world around us. I had a conversation with the President of our NAACP Chapter in McKeesport as late as today and to their knowledge no one has filed a complaint in writing; no one has called; Luethel who sits on this Council as well is Vice Chair I believe is her role still with the McKeesport Chapter, they have access to me directly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We will continue to work with our Local Chapter. We are very fortunate; many communities don't have their own branch of the NAACP. We will continue to work with them in every capacity that we come across to make sure we build upon relationships; we address any racial concerns in our community and other concerns as well. We take a lot of pride in this Police Department as I said. That night was just a horrific night for all parties involved and we are very, very fortunate and blessed that no one was killed that night. The officer, we were able to make sure that Koby Francis was brought in without harm as well and I think those were the goals from the very beginning. As I said, without question it was an extremely unfortunate incident. It's not an incident that I for one would hide from I should say but I was out there as well that evening, all night, and several evenings after, and it's something that I truly hope we never have to endure in this community ever again.

Moving onto some other things. I do just want to touch on, I am going to do so quickly, I don't want to sound like I am flying through it, but I don't want to bore everyone either. We have a lot of good things going on as we come closer to the end of this Pandemic. I shouldn't say end, but at least to get us back to some sort of normalcy. We were very fortunate to have Governor Wolf join us today at the Bethlehem Baptist Church, Rich Fitzgerald our County Executive, Senator Brewster, and Representative Austin Davis were there as well. Reverend Coleman who has been a part of this community for quite sometime does what she can to reach outside

of the community, outside just those doors of the church, they stepped up and that's going to be the site of a vaccine clinic that we are going to have right here in town to make sure communities like McKeesport, not just McKeesport but the whole region around us, that are many underserved communities filled with individuals that don't have the transportation wherewithal to get to other places for vaccines, the accessibility has been difficult, registering on line has been difficult, so we are hoping that this is really going to be a tremendous asset to our City as we work as with everyone else in the Country for that matter in this world to get back to some sort of normalcy. So, we will have, we will put things on our social media, on the Mayor's Office page for anyone that is interested in a vaccine when we get the information. I believe the Health Department is working through people on a waiting list right now. We do have other clinics as well. We had a clinic today at the Palisades that we put on the Mayor's Facebook Page. We were working with a pharmacy that was able to give 160 or so shots today. We are looking to partner with them again. We will also be partnering with UPMC which we will be having a follow up meeting early next week so we are planning to have a date somewhere in the middle of this month. We are excited, you know the 19th the date for everyone that wants a vaccine to be eligible for one, has been pushed back to the 19th, Governor Wolf did so here in the State and President Biden also put that out there I believe requiring all states to come within those guidelines as well. So, as we encourage everyone to look out for more than yourself, this is for mankind in general I guess, just for other people. All too often people say well I am not worried about it it's not going to affect me but if you do get it and you don't have symptoms you can pass it onto someone else that maybe didn't have the vaccine yet and things like that, it's literally a matter of life and death in some cases. So, if we want to get back to that normalcy, we had a year ago that many of us couldn't even imagine in our wildest dreams could ever be taken from us. I don't think there's anyone if you would have said that we'd be in a situation that we are in now that was going to happen to us, I don't think there's anyone that

would have ever believed it. We will get through this, not just here in McKeesport and the Mon Valley but to have a location in the Mon Valley is going to be a true asset to this region as far as accessibility for people that do want to get the vaccine to have access to it.

We will be continuing with, well I will do development last. We have license plate readers and cameras up probably pushing close to 150 cameras throughout our community now. We are pleased to announce, I guess not officially, it's not fully up and running, but we now have "Shot Spotter." Shot Spotter is up and running through the vast majority of our City right now. You are talking about a system that will identify where shots are fired within a matter of feet. It will tell you how many, what caliber and it will allow our officers to respond much more quickly than someone calling in to 9-1-1 on a shots fired call. Keep in mind when you call into 9-1-1 someone could have heard those shots from three streets away so you still don't have a good idea of where it's at and many times whoever may have fired the shots are on their way. But it is up and running. It's another resource that we invested in to help make McKeesport each and every day we work to make it safer and a better place to live, a better place to work, and we will continue to do that.

You may have seen, we haven't gotten the details of it yet, but with the American Rescue Plan, the Federal Government, we are looking to most likely have 27.3 Million Dollars allocated to the City of McKeesport. When you talk about prayers being answered, I couldn't be any more grateful. It's money that is much needed here. It's money that will continue to allow us to push the McKeesport Rising we have been doing for years with all the demolitions and the paving projects. I have talked to some Council people, just Luethel the other day about maybe instituting, allocating some of that money, we will see when we see what restrictions are on it, into like Grants for those that might want to buy a lot next to them to cut down on the costs like we had years ago. I think it was an incredible idea that Mrs. Nesbit mentioned, we talked about some other things as well, and I have talked to some other Council people, I don't want

to get all through the details especially if we don't know what we can do and what we can't but I encourage Council if you have any ideas don't hesitate to share them with me. We will have more on the guidelines when they come in but I think the most important thing is we will continue to invest in cleaning up our neighborhoods; getting properties ready for development; taking ownership of properties through the McKeesport Rising to sell them to businesses that want to come in; to continue to build homes, we have another home that is going to be built up across from Twin Rivers Elementary School after we demolish. We are partnering with Rebuilding Together as they continue to rehab houses to get in the hands of homeowners. Also, to homeowners that can't afford to rehab their homes, they can apply, contact my office to get it started, and they can apply for Grants based on income to help rehab their homes as well. The Action Housing partnership has been incredible. We are continuing to build upon that and we are very excited for the McKeesport Rising. I will tell you we are hoping we will be able to build that and take that even further along than we can because it's amazing what happens. You know, we've torn down now probably 400 or more homes in the last 5 years, probably closer to 500, McKeesport Rising alone is probably close to 400 and what we were doing prior to that. The streets being paved, we plan on doing projects as well. So, we will continue with McKeesport Rising and those types of much needed repairs and upgrades to our community.

Development end of things, our Pure Penn, who sold to True Leaf, they have expanded 500% increase to their operations and they are literally, not to go into too much, looking to go probably 10 times more than that at least, if not much more, size wise. They are really looking to grow here which will create more jobs, life-sustaining jobs, to support families on and raise families here in the City of McKeesport, not only for our current residents but for new residents that may get employed there and find out that housing here in McKeesport is very affordable. We need to continue to add

businesses and add residents to our community and increase that tax base as we move forward.

The transportation center, which we know how big and important public transportation is to the City of McKeesport. You can see an overhaul going on at the Port Authority on Lysle Boulevard. Right across the street from there is our NPP Project, which that whole block is pretty much blighted. That entire block will be coming down and demolished which will be prime for development as the properties there touch both Lysle Boulevard and Fifth Avenue. A hundred yards down from there you have our parking garage. The parking garage project will finally get started this year and it's amazing, people talk, I don't believe what people say because there's often times many comments that are made out of ignorance and people just don't know, but you are right, maybe for the last 20 years we didn't need a parking garage at that capacity downtown but I will tell you now that we will need one. We can use it now as a matter of fact with the development that is happening.

The Daily News Building is occupied with tenants. Across the street, the Peoples Building is getting ready for tenants. The Executive Building that has been vacant for over 5 years, the entire first floor, that developer has the entire first floor with store fronts already. The commitments are already made. We will have tenants there this year as we already have one or two in there as we speak right now. But, when you look in the downtown area, the First Commonwealth Building is a building that was handed over to the Redevelopment Authority. We are appreciative of First Commonwealth, although they did decide to close their branch here, they want to continue their partnership with the City, they do so by a \$100,000 a year commitment under the NPP program and they did it by donating a building. Do we know exactly what is going to take place in that building? No, but I will tell you is one of the biggest obstacles that we have in the City of McKeesport are buildings and property that is owned by private parties. Some parties are wonderful to work with and others are very difficult and they want to hold onto their

buildings, properties, hoping to strike it rich someday when someone comes in and gives them top dollar for everything. When you get a building like First Commonwealth, we can assure you from the redevelopment standpoint that if we have a business interested, we will make sure the deal gets done rather quickly. So, that's the reason we are starting to take properties over on Walnut Street as well, from 9th Street to 13th Street. All of the vacant properties you see to the left and right are coming down. This year a contract is going to go out. We will be coming to Council within a month or two for approval. But, in addition to that, our Redevelopment Authority is going to secure those properties so that when we have someone coming to us, like we have so many now, we have people knocking on our door, the unfortunate part is we don't own a lot of properties. We will be in a position now to say here you go this is what you are looking for, you like the location, let's negotiate. The Redevelopment Authority negotiates and sells the property and the development will be ready to go. That's just some of the downtown area.

Housing wise, Centennial School, which could have been another vacant building, who knows what it could have turned into, maybe eventually demolished, a building that was never on our tax rolls for that matter, will become the home of Senior Citizen housing with the contractor, Brandon Kucich, and his company, so it will now be a building on the tax rolls as well, a building that can offer nice housing for the senior citizen population that we still have here in the City of McKeesport. Any time you can do that because we still have a high percentage of senior citizens here, it becomes another asset here in the community and that's only a block down as we talked about earlier with housing that is being built and in that same vicinity of the whole cultural and educational sector of the City of McKeesport where we tore down many homes, where we have Action Housing working to build homes and Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh to rehabbing homes. Rehabbing homes for existing owners, through Grants, and rehabbing homes to keep them on the tax rolls and to

sell them to future homeowners. So, there's a lot of things going on in the downtown area.

There's also a lot of things on East Fifth Avenue. You will see the Giant Eagle Project starting. I think I said this earlier, not to be repetitive because I truly try not to be, for those that might be listening and this is on the official record of the regular Council meeting I should say, it's more than just a gas station, it's more than just a place to go grab food. It becomes a destination point. It becomes an opportunity when you bring more people into that area it increases the chances of another development that we had that ended up dying a few years ago of a fast-food restaurant. Dunkin Donuts is still in that area and doing wonderful. We are looking to apply for funding to fix the bottleneck down there as far as traffic flow goes which too will increase the numbers of people which is already a great number. We can have anywhere from 25-40,000 people come through that corridor on any given day. So, it's ripe for development.

On the Christy Park Section, the street light signal, the Biros Development which has been going on forever, with that mall there, we are getting very close now to have that opened up to where that street light will go into his complex which will then be ready and make it very accessible so you are going to be more likely to get tenants in there because we know tenants that are interested as we speak as we do in other parts of the community as well.

The Trail, the Renzie Park Development, we do have the Trail, and I could go into other things as well but I am not going to go through everything and be repetitive but the Trail we are excited with some of the upgrades, not only to the walking Trail in McKeesport that is used in Renzie Park pretty much 365 days. I see people out there trotting through snow sometimes. We are going to have better access to our pavilions, more parking to the pavilions as well as we complete this Trail soon so, please excuse the inconvenience of the

Trail under construction but without question it will be a tremendous reward when it is all said and done.

Other than that, I mean I could go on and on but being that we are running pretty late now, the last thing that I am going to pretty much just comment on is the goal of the City of McKeesport is to have the Summer events take place. I have no intentions right now of closing or not holding our Summer Concerts in the Parks. I think we can do it safely through vaccinations; through masks; through social distancing so our goal is to have the Concerts in the Park. The goal is to have International Village. The goal is to have the Rib Fest over the Labor Day Weekend and pretty much everything else that we have that goes on in our summer months. That's where we are heading right now. The goal is to get there and when you hear me try to encourage a little bit about the vaccinations, the bottom line is that's what we are dealing with right now. Some people look at the numbers increasing and it's a concern in Allegheny County but I think what you are looking, it was said earlier at the event I think it was a perfect way to describe it, it's a race right now. It's a race between vaccinations and race between those numbers and we think the vaccination race is winning. With what they are about to roll out the number of vaccines being available and that's what we are hoping for. That's what we are betting on and I think it was Governor Wolf that actually mentioned that earlier when asked you know, he opened up across the State bars and restaurants are pretty much normal service with the exception of 75% capacity, but we are encouraging everyone to do their due diligence to hope that we can get back to some sort of normalcy.

Other than that, I could go through other developments, but I think I have covered a lot . Other than that Mr. President, that concludes my Report. President Dellapenna said thank you Mayor.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-004 – Bill #7 - Introduced by Keith Soles – An Ordinance of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Approving the Editing and Inclusion of Certain Ordinances as Part of the Various Component Codes of the Codified Ordinances of McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Nesbit “to approve Bill #7.”

President Dellapenna asked for questions or comments and there were none.

RC-3 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 021-005 - Bill #8 –Introduced by Timothy Brown - An Ordinance of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Authorizing the Proper City Officers to Enter Into a Contract with the Service Personnel and Employees of the Dairy Industry, Teamsters Local Union No. 205 of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, Representing the Clerical Workers of the City of McKeesport, Setting Forth the Terms and Conditions of Employment Including Compensation, Hours, Working Conditions and Other Benefits for a period of Three (3) Years, Commencing January 1, 2021, and Ending December 31, 2024.

MOTION: Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Mr. Barry “to approve Bill #8.”

President Dellapenna asked for questions or comments and there were none.

RC-4 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 021-006 - Bill #9 –Introduced by Jill Lape - An Ordinance of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Authorizing the Proper City Officers to Enter Into a Contract with the Service Personnel and Employees of the Dairy Industry, Teamsters Local Union No. 205 of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, Representing the Public Works Department of the City of McKeesport, Setting Forth the Terms and Conditions of Employment Including Compensation, Hours, Working Conditions and Other Benefits for a period of Three (3) Years, Commencing January 1, 2021, and Ending December 31, 2024.

MOTION: Mr. Soles moved, seconded by Mr. Brown “to approve Bill #9.”

President Dellapenna asked for questions or comments to Bill #9 and there were none.

RC-5 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE (0)

ORDINANCE NO. 21-007 – Bill #10– Introduced by Jim Barry – An Ordinance of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Amending the Rules and Regulations of the Civil Service Commission Relating to Hiring and Promotions within the Police Department of the City of McKeesport.

MOTION: Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Mrs. Lape “to approve Bill #10.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-6 **YEAS:** BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE,
NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE (0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-004 - Bill #11 –Introduced by Brian Evans – A Resolution of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Approving a Conditional Use Request from Lance Greenwood, to Operate an Automobile Repair Shop Located at 1661 5th Avenue (Lot and Block 380-E-10), McKeesport, PA 15132. The Property Exists in a C-3 Zoning District.

MOTION: Mrs. Nesbit moved, seconded by Mr. Barry “to approve Bill #11.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-7 **YEAS:** BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE,
NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE (0)

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-005 - Bill #12– Introduced by Luethel Nesbit – A Resolution of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Authorizing and Directing the City Administrator to Submit An Application for a Traffic Signal Approval to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

MOTION: Mr. Barry moved, seconded by Mr. Soles “to approve Bill #12.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-8 **YEAS:** BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE,
NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-006 - Bill #13– Introduced by Keith Soles – A Resolution of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Authorizing the Proper City Officers to Enter into a Contract with Sable Kennel for Animal Control in the City of McKeesport for the Period Beginning February 25, 2021 and Ending February 25, 2023.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Nesbit “to approve Bill #13.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-9 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-007 - Bill #14– Introduced by Timothy Brown – A Resolution of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Authorizing the Proper City Officers to Enter into a Contract with Kraken Chemicals for Weed & Vegetation Control for a One Year Term.

MOTION: Mr. Barry moved, seconded by Mr. Evans “to approve Bill #14.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-10 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-008 - Bill #15– Introduced by Jill Lape – A Resolution of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Authorizing the Proper City Officials to Enter into a Contract with DTI Development, Incorporated for a One Year Term for Grant Applications.

MOTION: Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Mr. Barry “to approve Bill #15.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-11 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-009 - Bill #16– Introduced by Jim Barry – A Resolution of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Recognizing the McKeesport Little Theater as a Local Non-Profit Organization and a Federally-Recognized 501c3 Organization Under the Local Options Small Games of Chance Act, as Amended.

MOTION: Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Mrs. Nesbit “to approve Bill #16.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-12 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-010 - Bill #17 - Introduced by Brian Evans – A Resolution of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Approving a Reverse Subdivision Request from Giant Eagle, Inc., 101 Kappa Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15238, to Combine Lot & Blocks 380-D-181, 380-D-209, 380-D-208, 380-D-207, 380-D-196, 380-D-168, 380-D-174, 380-D-173, 380-D-170, 379-S-388, 379-S-346 and 380-S-358. The Combined Parcel will Become 380-D-181. The Property Exists in a C-3 Zoning District.

MOTION: Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Mrs. Nesbit “to approve Bill #17.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-13 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

ORDINANCE NO. 21-008 - Bill #18 - Introduced by Luethel Nesbit – An Ordinance of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Vacating a Portion of McKeesport Commons Drive, a 50’ Public Right-of-Way Beginning at the Right-of-Way Line of Locust Street and Extending in an Easterly Direction of Approximately 876.61 Lineal Feet to the Terminus of McKeesport Commons Drive Right-of-Way in the Fourth Ward of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Evans “to approve Bill #18.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-14 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-11 - Bill #19 - Introduced by Keith Soles – A Resolution of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Adopting the Allegheny County 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan as the Official Hazard Mitigation Plan of the City of McKeesport.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Barry “to approve Bill #19.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-15 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

ORDINANCE NO. 21-009 - Bill #20 - Introduced by Timothy Brown – An Ordinance of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Establishing an Official Stop Sign on Sulphur Springs Sports Complex Road at Tulip Drive, to Regulate Traffic in the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

MOTION: Mr. Barry moved, seconded by Mrs. Lape “to approve Bill #20.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-16 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

President Dellapenna then asked for a Motion to Amend the Agenda to Add Bills 21-23.

MOTION: Mr. Barry moved, seconded by Mr. Evans “to amend the Agenda to Add Bills 21-23.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-17 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

ORDINANCE NO. 21-010 - Bill #21 - Introduced by Jill Lape – An Ordinance of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Vacating a Portion of Tube Works Street to 10th Street, a 10’ Public Right-of-Way in the 3rd ward of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Beginning at the Southerly Right-of-Way Line of Tube Works Street and at a Point of Common Corner to Lands Now or Formerly as Philip and Alisa Cupelli as Recorded as Allegheny County Tax Parcel 307-N-170.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Soles “to approve Bill #21.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-18 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

ORDINANCE NO. 21-011 - Bill #22 - Introduced by Jim Barry – An Ordinance of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Regulating Bee-Keeping and the Keeping of Apiaries in the Boundaries of the City of McKeesport.

MOTION: Mrs. Nesbit moved, seconded by Mr. Barry “to approve Bill #22.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-19 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-012 - Bill #23 - Introduced by Brian Evans – A Resolution of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Proclaiming the Month of April 2021 as “Fair Housing Month” in the City of McKeesport.

MOTION: Mr. Barry moved, seconded by Mrs. Lape “to approve Bill #23.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-20 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

Solicitor Elash said at this time I need a Motion of Council to Confirm the Approval of Resolution No. 2020-045 from September 2, 2020, Regarding the Reverse Subdivision Request from Eugene and Wendy Riazzi, 2721 Grandview Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15132, to Combine Two (2) Lots (464-H-116 and 464-H-151-1) Into One (1) to record the Plan.

MOTION: Mr. Barry moved, seconded by Mrs. Nesbit “to approve the Motion to Confirm the Approval of Resolution No. 2020-045.”

President Dellapenna asked for any questions or comments and there was none.

RC-21 YEAS: BARRY, BROWN, DELLAPENNA, EVANS, LAPE, NESBIT, SOLES (7)

NAYS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

President Dellapenna said I would like to thank everyone who tuned in and thank everyone who came. That concludes the Council meeting and good night.

The meeting then adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette James
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

APPROVED:

Richard Dellapenna
President of Council

/das

McKeesport City Council has received written comments, which will be entered into the official record of this meeting and have been provided to each council member and the mayor.

We received written comments from the following individuals:

1. **Janina Riley**, regarding police accountability and the events of December 20, 2020
 2. **V. Fawn Walker-Montgomery**, regarding police accountability and the events of December 20, 2020
 3. **Olivia Bennet**, regarding police accountability and the events of December 20, 2020
 4. **Amber Webb**, regarding police accountability and the events of December 20, 2020
 5. **Eliana Beigel**, regarding police accountability and the events of December 20, 2020
-

Now we will take comments from the following individuals, who have requested to speak to council over the phone:

- ✓ 1. **Kyna James**, the Alliance for Police Accountability, 412-923-8386
- ✓ 2. **Bonnie Fan**, 970-893-5970
3. **Courtney Jayann Thompkins**, 412-414-4834

Name	Organization	Address	Phone	Topic	Written or Phone?
Kyna James	Alliance for Police Accountability		4129238386		Phone
Janina Riley		1403 Yester Square McKeesport Pa 15132	412-818-1714	Police Accountability (Dec. 20th)	Written
Bonnie Fan	7227 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15208		970-893-5970	1) Police Accountability, 2) Public Engagement	Phone
Courtney Jayann Thompkins		1806 Freemont St, McKeesport, PA 15132	412-414-4834	1) Dec 20th, 2) Police Profiling, 3) City Public Works	Phone
V. Fawn Walker-Montgomery	Take Action Mon Valley	3509 Mayfair Street		December 20th	Written
Olivia "Liv" Bennett, BS	Take Action Mon Valley, Allegheny County Council		412-584-1640	Police Accountability (Dec. 20th)	Written
Amber Webb		1008 Washington Street	412-609-6173	Police Accountability (Dec. 20th)	Written
Eilana Beigel				Police Accountability (Dec. 20th)	Written

Jennifer Vertullo

From: Janina Riley <aninja.riley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Jennifer Vertullo
Subject: Re: Meeting tonight

Sorry about that my address is 1403 Yester Square McKeesport Pa 15132 and and phone number is 412-818-1714.

On Tue, Apr 6, 2021 at 3:42 PM Jennifer Vertullo <jen.vertullo@mckeesport-pa.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon, Ms. Riley. The meeting is Wednesday evening. I will have your remarks entered into the record. Thank you.

May I have your address and phone number? Residents normally fill that out on a form before speaking during the in-person meetings.

Jennifer R. Vertullo,

Assistant to Mayor Michael Cherepko

City of McKeesport

500 Fifth Avenue, Suite 201

McKeesport, PA 15132

412-675-5020, ext. 605

From: Janina Riley <aninja.riley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 2:15 PM
To: Jennifer Vertullo <jen.vertullo@mckeesport-pa.gov>
Subject: Meeting tonight

Hello, my name is Liv Bennett and I am a community organizer for Take Action Mon Valley and also serve as a County Councilwoman for Allegheny County, District 13. I am writing today as a show of support and to seek accountability for those in McKeesport and surrounding communities who had their rights violated the night that a McKeesport officer was shot.

As a community organizer for Take Action Mon Valley, the calls from residents of McKeesport came in swiftly as homes were being searched and cars being stopped and searched in the hunt of the alleged shooter. The shooting of a police officer does not suspend the rights of the community in the name of searching and capturing the alleged shooter.

The traumatization that was experienced by the residents of McKeesport and other surrounding communities is still felt today. Police officers are supposed to be the protectors and servants in our communities not terrorists who enter homes without explanation and leaving both adults and children distressed.

There seemed to be no process or procedure in how McKeesport Police should operate when one of their own are shot. If there is a procedure, what is it? Was it followed? By the impact that these searches had on the greater community it does not seem if there was a process that it was followed.

The police department works for the residents of McKeesport and therefore should meet with the residents to share what was the process in this situation and how to file complaints against officers. Furthermore, there has been a history of racial profiling in the McKeesport police department and that also should be addressed in the meeting with community members.

Finally, I would like to share my disappointment with the fact that this is the first McKeesport Council meeting since this incident happened which was in December. As a person who sits on a Council also, it is unheard of that meetings are canceled because the body does not like what the residents have to say after being violated by police. You are elected to serve the people and one of the lowest bars of doing that is having public meetings. It is required by law, for goodness sakes. Your constituents should not have to sue you to have their voices heard. Do better!

Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Vertullo

From: V. Fawn Walker-Montgomery <electvfawnwalker@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 4:15 PM
To: Jennifer Vertullo
Subject: McKeesport City Council Comments

Hello-

Please see below for comments to be read at the McKeesport Council meeting.

On December 20th McKeesport police Officer Jerry Athans was shot by Koby Francis. Officer Athans has recovered and thanks to all of YOU, using your voices, Mr. Francis was brought in ALIVE. After the officer was shot people had their rights violated by illegal searches done without warrants within their homes and vehicles. Furthermore, the residents of McKeesport/Mon Valley had to deal with intrusion and over policing (over 10 police departments). Yes over 10 police departments showed up to implement their own form of martial law on various Black Mon Valley communities. Systemic & police violence are historical issues that affect Black people. Therefore, the reality of black experiences in this situation must be acknowledged and TAMV WILL NOT shy away from doing this. The shooting of one officer does not erase the fourth amendment rights afforded to every single resident of the Mon Valley. Not to mention that the police resources utilized in this situation would go a long way if used toward solving the unsolved homicides and helping families seek justice. As a result, we are asking:

1. That the process be reviewed for when this happens in the future (if there is a process).
2. McKeesport City Council and Mayor have a community meeting to address the police response (in this situation), the process for filing a complaint against officers, to discuss all officers that were involved be disciplined and the harms of racial profiling. TAMV received 18 complaints and they are working with Attorney Todd Hollis to file complaints etc.
3. Defund the McKeesport police department and put it into youth programming (help kids similar to Koby).
4. McKeesport police stop profiling Black men/people in the community (pulling them over for driving certain cars and assuming they are a part of ALL crimes. Do investigations (police work) to find out who is involved and stop using profiling as the only means to solve crimes. This type of police practice leads to further criminal justice involvement and pulling them away from their families etc.

Fawn Walker-Montgomery, MS
3509 Mayfair Street
McKeesport PA 15132

Jennifer Vertullo

From: amber webb webb <2true2u@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 6:05 PM
To: Jennifer Vertullo
Subject: City Council Community Questions

Just concerned about some of the tactics that may have been used violating Mckeesport residents rights during the time Koby Francis was on the run.

The whole situation albeit unfortunate I want to be sure that any practices that were illegal will be addressed in the after math.

Amber Webb
1008 Washington Street
Mckeesport, PA 15132
412-609-6173

Sent from my iPhone

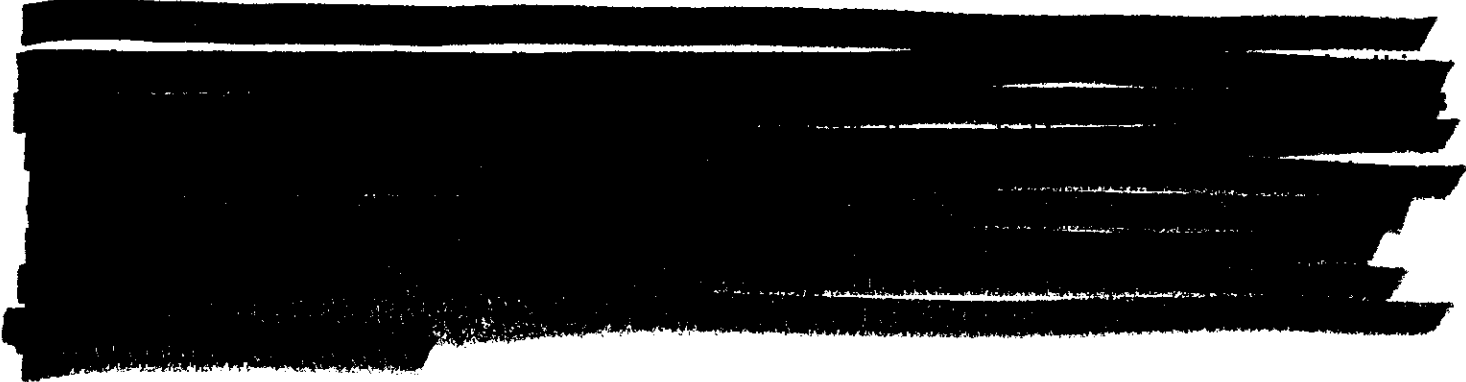
Jennifer Vertullo

From: Bonnie Fan <bonnie.y.fan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 6:09 PM
To: Jennifer Vertullo
Subject: Re: speaking at the McKeesport public meeting

on phone

Thanks Jennifer,

Please do call me. If you are unable to reach me, my comment is as follows:



On Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 4:47 PM Jennifer Vertullo <jen.vertullo@mckeesport-pa.gov> wrote:

Hi, Bonnie.

You may submit it in writing here, or we can call you during the meeting on the number you provided.

-Jennifer

From: Bonnie Fan <bonnie.y.fan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 3:57 PM
To: Jennifer Vertullo <jen.vertullo@mckeesport-pa.gov>
Subject: Re: speaking at the McKeesport public meeting

Hi Jennifer,

How should I submit my comment for tonight's meeting?

On Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 3:35 PM Bonnie Fan <bonnie.y.fan@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you,

7227 Penn Ave

Pittsburgh, PA 15208

On Tue, Apr 6, 2021 at 3:44 PM Jennifer Vertullo <jen.vertullo@mckeesport-pa.gov> wrote:

Thank you. Are you representing a specific organization or group? Also, may I please have your complete address with ZIP code?

Jennifer R. Vertullo,

Assistant to Mayor Michael Cherepko

City of McKeesport

500 Fifth Avenue, Suite 201

McKeesport, PA 15132

412-675-5020, ext. 605

From: Bonnie Fan <bonnie.y.fan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 2:05 PM
To: Jennifer Vertullo <jen.vertullo@mckeesport-pa.gov>
Subject: speaking at the McKeesport public meeting

Hi, my name is Bonnie Fan, address is 7227 Penn Ave and I would like to speak on police accountability and public engagement in McKeesport. I am at 970-893-5970