

CITY OF MCKEESPORT
WORKSHOP MEETING

WEDNESDAY

6:30 P.M.

JUNE 1, 2022

The Work Session portion of the Council Meeting was called to order on the above-stated date by Vice President of Council LuEthel Nesbit.

Secretary James read the following proposed Bills:

Bill #35 - Introduced by Keith Soles – A Resolution of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Recognizing the Steel City K-9 Emergency Response Team as a Civic and/or Service Association Under the Local Options Small Games of Chance Act, as Amended.

Mayor Cherepko said this is an organization as always when they apply for a Small Games of Chance License, we have to authorize them by City Council.

Mr. Barry asked is that our canine organization? Mayor Cherepko said no, it is not ours.

Bill #36 –Introduced by Brian Evans – A Resolution of the City of McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Awarding the Bid for the McKeesport Rising Demolition Project Phase 7 to American Demolition, and Authorizing the Proper City Officials to Execute all Documents Necessary to Enter Into an Agreement with American Demolition LLC for an Amount Not to Exceed \$265,800 for Phase 7.

Vice President Nesbit asked for any discussion.

Mayor Cherepko said this is Phase 7, I told you we would have Phases 7, 8 and 9 put out to bid. This is Phase 7, 38 I think there were, somewhere around there, 38 properties, lower wards, lot of Soles, Evans, you do have your list in your packets as well. As we continue, this is a different company too which is good. We had a different group win this which means that will be multiple contractors we have tearing homes down. That was always our biggest fear if you have the same contractor, it will take longer to tear down homes. But once we award this there is no reason they can't start. So, even though it is Phase 7 there might be a house on Phase 7 being torn down before 6 or 5 or whatever.

Vice President Nesbit then asked for Council Reports.

Council Reports

Mr. Evans – nothing

Mr. Barry – nothing to report

Ms. Nesbit – I have one report to make. There is an air conditioning pilot program that starts under the LIHEAP crisis program. It starts June 1st. It is similar to the emergency heating program. If families qualify for that program where they can get their furnaces repaired or replaced, they will qualify for the air conditioning program as well. What this will do is look at if the air conditioning is connected to the furnace, don't beat me up on the technicality of it, but if it's connected to the furnace, we will check the furnace and check the air conditioning; make sure the system is working; if not, it will be repaired or replaced. If they do not have an air conditioner that is connected to their furnace, we can give two air conditioners or two fans or a combination of one air conditioner and one fan to each home but they must meet the income guidelines of the LIPHEAP program. That's all I have at this time.

Mr. Soles – nothing for me thanks

Vice President Nesbit asked for the Mayor's Report.

Mayor Cherepko said thank you Madam President. June 11th we will have our youth fishing derby at Lake Emily at Pavilion 1, that's from 8:00 a.m. to noon. So, I do appreciate the REC Board and all their efforts with organizing all of the events. The fishing derby will be the next one we have.

Youth Tennis Clinic on Saturday, June 18th. That starts at 10:00 a.m. and will go until about noon at out the tennis courts at Renzie Park.

Obviously, at the beginning of Summer, we have the Spray Park open and those run from the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. so hopefully you get a chance on these hot days to get out there and see the kiddos enjoying the Spray Park.

We are looking to, many of you may have seen the Grand Opening of Get-go. Once again, it's a story we talk about all too often when businesses open up in McKeesport how they typically exceed expectations. I did have the opportunity to meet the General Manager for the region along with the store and others and

already since they have been opened, they doubled their expectations in sales from food and things inside the store. That is typically a pattern here in the City. All too often people look at the demographics and look at all the other tangibles when it comes to bringing a business into town but what we typically find is how successful the businesses end up being. Out of 15 Get-go's in the region they are the number one performing Get-go out of the 15 stores in the Southwestern Region so I think that speaks volumes about the potential here in McKeesport when it comes to businesses.

Many of you may have seen they finally started taking down the block that will be coming down across from City Hall, right across from the new transportation center. We also have large commercial buildings on Shaw Avenue being torn down as we continue to eliminate the blight throughout the City but down in the downtown area specifically.

Mayor Cherepko said the concerts will start, 4th of July I believe. We look forward to enjoying the concerts in the park. There will be a Move in the Park on June 24, Friday, out at the bandshell as well.

We had a youth baseball tournament at the park this weekend. I think there was upwards of 80 teams. So, as we continue to try to market the City, and we continue to try to really change the perception of what many on the outside of the City may have based on what they see on Channels 2, 4 and 11 that typically comes out and covers the negative parts of the City, I have been saying for a few years now, well for the last few years, with these baseball tournaments you are really giving people from so many communities, if you had 82 teams pretty much all of those teams, none of them come from the same community, so they are made up of kids and parents from multiple communities. So, when you have a chance to let them come and see another part of McKeesport that they typically don't get to see and you get the positive feedback we have gotten, whether it's through social media, text messages, word of mouth of how well the tournament is run, being in the park and things like that, it really helps to change that perception that outsiders all too often have. I mean don't get me wrong we realize we have our issues and our challenges here in the City but I can assure you that what you see on 2, 4 and 11 covering the negative ends most certainly does not define who we are as a City.

We are looking for, down at the Christy Park Section of town, we did get a bid but we didn't put it out yet, probably looking at next Council meeting, to finish that traffic signal at the end of Walnut Street and 48 and what that can mean to the development of the Biros property and others as well in that particular area.

We will be going out to bid for the parking garage, we are actually looking to secure a bid and hopefully at the Council meeting in July we will be able to award that parking garage to get that under way as well and then move onto the Trial.

Other than that, if you have any questions for me or anything, that concludes my Report. I won't have anything to say during the meeting then.

Mr. Barry said I just want to say something I forgot. The LaRosa Youth Club will be hosting a Summer Day Camp Program, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It begins June 13th and runs through August 19th. Registrations are still going on up until the first day so if anyone is interested, reach out to the club and you can sign up.

Vice President Nesbit asked if they are still looking for people to work at the camp that Mr. Barry mentioned at the last meeting and did he want to mention that again.

Mr. Barry said yes, so they are still looking for folks to work at Camp Soles which is the former YMCA McKeesport Camp. They are still looking for a couple counselors if anyone knows anyone that might be interested. They are looking for kids 18-22 for all summer.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice President Nesbit said that concludes the Caucus meeting at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette James
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

APPROVED:

LuEthel Nesbit
Vice President of Council