

# ETNA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:30 P.M.  
For approval on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

The regular meeting of the Etna Borough Council was held on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Chairman Becki presided and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Roll was called, and members present were Mr. Iannuzzi, Ms. Semler Ms. Schaefer, Mrs. Tuñón, Chairman Becki, Mrs. Gabriel, Mr. Trader, Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney, and Mr. Burke. Also present were Mayor Tuñón, Manager Ramage, Police Chief Rodman, Assistant Manager DeSantis, Public Works Director Joe Balistreri, Assistant Fire Todd Lunn, Shaler Hampton EMS Executive Director Eric Schmidt, Junior Council Member Yarnot, and Solicitor Rushford. Engineer Rick Minsterman was absent.

Mayor Tuñón led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Becki asked if there were any questions, suggested changes, or corrections to the March Meeting Minutes. Ms. Semler stated she wanted it clarified that while herself, Mrs. Tuñón, and Mrs. Gabriel organized the 'Etna Is for Everyone' signs, it was Mrs. Tuñón who solely organized the webinar and wanted to ensure she received the recognition she deserved.

*A Motion to correct the Minutes and accept as Amended was made by Mrs. Gabriel, Seconded by Mr. Trader. Motion Carried.*

Chairman Becki stated that Council received a copy of the Treasurer's Report and asked if there were any questions. There being none, the accounts are reported as follows:

Fund 01 General Account	\$ 685,445.36
Fund 05 Education Account	\$ 692.35
Fund 03 Payroll Account	\$ 265.60
Fund 04 Police Fund	\$ 12,627.03
Fund 21 Hockey	\$ 1,448.91
Fund 30 Capital Improvement	\$ -----
Fund 33 Christmas	\$ 7,684.43
Fund 34 Etna Senior Center Fund	\$ 733.52
Fund 35 Liquid Fuels Account	\$ 99,074.25
Fund 36 War Memorial Fund	\$ 5,043.21
Fund 38 Sanitary Trunk Line Account	\$ 159,584.38
Fund 39 Middle Street Escrow Account	\$ 6,488.16
Fund 42 Capital Reserve	\$ 327,952.25
Fund 44 Sewer Account	\$ 86,025.32
Fund 45 Project Escrow Account	\$ CLOSED
Fund 46 Riverfront Park & Trail	\$ 474.55
Fund 48 Etna Green Streetscape	\$ 21.48
Fund 50 GI Account	\$ 1,168.99
Fund 51 Fire Escrow Account	\$ 60,452.28
Fund 52 Infrastructure Account	\$ 95.54
Fund 53 Youth & Recreation Fund	\$ 4,387.45
Fund 54 American Rescue	\$ 373,618.00

*A motion to accept and file the Treasurer's Report was made by Ms. Semler, seconded by Mr. Trader. Motion carried.*

A check register by fund (bills already paid) as well as outstanding accounts payable (bills due) were given to each member of Council.

Total Owed	\$ 399,111.81
Total Bills Paid	\$ 278,495.32
Total Balance Due	\$ 120,616.49

*A motion to pay the bills was made by Ms. Gabriel, seconded by Ms. Schaefer. Motion carried.*

### **Police Chief's Report**

Police Chief Rodman provided a report regarding: March Stats; Police Officer Position; Rain Events; Dementia Training.

Chairman Becki asked if there were any questions regarding this report. Mayor Tuñón stated that there is an event prior to the next Council Meeting and asked Chief Rodman if he would like to share information regarding it. Chief Rodman stated that Mr. Schmidt would be reporting on this. Report was accepted.

### **Public Works Director Report**

Public Works Director Joe Balistrieri submitted a report regarding: Flood Gates; Assisted Road Closings; Cleaned Runs (Parker Street); Nature Trail Clean Up; Plumbing Repair (Ballfield & Pool); Riverfront Electrical Supply Completed; Raked & Dragged Fields; Posted Signs on Ballfields (No Pets); Street Cleaning; Garbage; Cleared Sewer of Debris; Water Meters Will Be Turned On 4/15/2024.

Chairman Becki asked if there were any additional questions regarding this report. There were none, report was accepted.

### **Engineer's Report**

Engineer Richard Minsterman had provided a report regarding: Source Flow Reductions Consent Order Compliance and ALCOSAN Transfer Agreement; CDBG Year 49 Grant Applications; CDBG Year 50 Grant Applications; Dewey Street and Spring Street Sewer Separation Project; Etna Streetscape Phase 4; Etna Streetscape Phase 5.1; 18 Catherine Street Emergency Demolition; Etna 2023 MS4 Program.

Chairman Becki asked if there were any questions regarding this report. There were none, report was accepted.

### **Fire Department Report**

Etna Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD) Chief Porter provided a report regarding: Breakdown by Major Incident Types, All Zones – 3/1/2024-3/31/2024; Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type; Personnel and Events for Event Type for Event Category – 3/1/2024-3/31/2024.

Chairman Becki asked if there were any questions or additional comments regarding this report. Resident Kate Zidar stated that she was unaware that the EVFD was involved with flood response and is curious about this. She was made aware through Mayor Tuñón's Instagram post, and as a property owner she appreciates all that they do. Assistant Chief Lunn stated that over the previous two (2) weeks, there were preparations made for the flooding. Depending on location, they gather and coordinate items such as pumps and boat trailers. During the first round, the station was staffed for several days. When there are emergencies, the County can become overwhelmed and goes into 'Storm Mode', and they coordinate with the Chief and Mayor. The Borough is good at posting information online, and everyone keeps a list of calls with locations of flooding in homes. When possible, they will pump out the residence, depending upon depth and creek level. The following week, the storm was different in that it was shorter duration, but the creek became higher. Members with Swiftwater Training were called in, which is approximately twenty (20) members, and they responded to calls all over the area, including Oakdale which was hit harder than Etna. Crews were also on station and monitoring calls for water in the home, and a crew supervising the fire calls. Assistant Chief Lunn stated that they assisted in several of these calls, including a house fire in Cherry City and calls related to power surges. There were approximately twenty-five (25) members running through various operations, including dealing with normal emergency calls. Chairman Becki stated that when a high-water event is predicted, a special team in Etna, including Manager Ramage, Police Officers, Firefighters, the Mayor, and Public Works, and watch the water and always monitoring the situation. Residents should be assured that there are many eyes watching the creek and reporting. This has happened many times, and the Borough is experienced enough to know which sewers back up and which streets to be more aware of potential issues. Manager Ramage stated that it reached that level. Chairman Becki thanked Assistant Chief Lunn for his report and service during these events. The report was accepted.

### **Shaler Hampton EMS Report**

Chairman Becki stated that Shaler Hampton EMS (SHEMS) Executive Director Eric Schmidt is also in constant communications regarding these events and prepared to assist at moment's notice. Mr. Schmidt stated that the EVFD and Police Department deserve a large amount of credit for their work during the flooding event. Mr. Schmidt stated that he had technical difficulties and was unable to print his report but would provide it via email to Council after the meeting. There were thirty-eight (38) calls in Etna in March, a decrease of fifty-four (54) year over year. Five hundred forty-three (543) total calls for SHEMS in March and transported a total of three hundred ninety-three (393) in March as well. Regarding response time, there was a twelve (12) minute response time for an E-1 call, but no adverse outcomes due to that extended time. Mr. Schmidt stated that he presented at the Allegheny League of Municipalities



(ALOM) conference, regarding EMS in Crisis, and a large delegation from Etna, Hampton, and Shaler, came to support him, so many thanks to everyone who came to support the lecture. A large reason as to why SHEMS is flourishing is due to the support provided by the communities they serve. Mr. Schmidt stated that the subscription program is well under way, and thanks to all who support their organization and mission. Mr. Schmidt stated that regarding the Bike Rodeo, this is sponsored by the EPD, Shaler Police, Millvale Police, and SHEMS; and will be May 18 at Kiwanis Park in Shaler Township, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. There will be free fittings for bike helmets for kids, mechanics available to perform safety checks, and bicycle safety explanations by Police Officers. This is a nice event and is always very well attended. On May 17, he will be presenting at the Shaler Library regarding ambulance services, EMS capabilities, and the like. Chairman Becki stated that while Mr. Schmidt's presentation at ALOM painted a somewhat dismal picture of EMS, luckily, SHEMS, is not in that category and doing well. Mr. Schmidt stated that all aspects, unfortunately, boil down to funding. Through great business practices, community participation and support, SHEMS is in great shape. The report was accepted.

### **Public Audience**

#### 1.) PNC – Pension Update

Chairman Becki stated that municipalities are required to support employee pension funds, and representing PNC regarding the Police Pension, Mr. Craig Grecni is here to update Council regarding this. Mr. Grecni thanked Council for the long-standing relationship with the Borough, and while he will not go into each slide in detail tonight, a report has been provided and he is available for communication should any questions come up after the meeting. Mr. Grecni stated that he will focus on what has happened in the market, what is projected going forward in the economy, and how this relates to the pension fund. The Federal Reserve has raised rates, and in terms of percentage moved in 2022, he has not seen anything like it in his over forty (40) year career. They were late to tighten, and measures of inflation had been approximately eight (8%) percent. This does highlight, however, the resiliency of American consumer spending. Relating to consumer balance sheets, during the pandemic the consumer could not spend any money outside of things similar to home remodeling. This pent-up demand created supply imbalances, and thus caused inflation. There was a lot of money chasing goods, and the consumer is still currently spending at high rates. The consumer is seventy (70%) percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This started with consumers having a positive balance sheet but has resulted in diminishing savings accounts and rising credit card delinquencies. Credit card rates have essentially tripled due to the increase in Federal Reserve rates. Additionally, the resilience of the American consumer can be attributed to the strength of the job market. Traditionally, when the Federal Reserve increases rates to slow the economy, the unfortunate consequences are that unemployment rates increase, consumers reduce spending and cut back on demand, and inflation comes down. Currently, jobs are there for those who want them, and the layoffs are in Tech and high-paying similar industries. This industry over hired due to demand during the pandemic and are now having to return to a balanced level of employment. Additionally, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is assisting people and companies in relation to productivity. This is important as many companies in their earnings reports will state that AI is directly responsible for this increase in productivity. Ms. Semler asked if, in relation to AI, are additional employees being laid off. Mr. Grecni stated that this is not necessarily the case currently, as where the current impact the technology is in relation to technology and research, such as law firms. But could potentially impact manufacturing in the future.

Mr. Grecni stated that in addition to high levels of consumer credit card debt and delinquencies, commercial real estate is under pressure as well. One can look at vacancy rates in downtown Pittsburgh to observe this. The focus of this is in relation to office space as many firms have become remote or hybrid, however, commercial real estate in relation to medical use or hospitality have remained steady or increased demand. There are many projected real estate loan refinance rates projected for 2024 and had previously been done at significantly lower interest rates. At present, rates will be higher, and spaces are leased at significantly lower levels, thus creating pressure in this sector. Additionally, multi-asset volatility, or large movements in the market, has elevated. This is bad as it can create emotion in retail or single investors and will cause them to sell their assets as well. Mr. Grecni stated that an overwhelming economic recovery in China is also the cause for concern, as they are the second largest economy in the world, and their commercial real estate pressure is worse than in the United States. This is intertwined with the American markets in that there is an effect on the portfolio from an overall market standpoint, as are geopolitical conflicts. There are commodity issues and logistics effect the American markets and the economy, particularly the cost of oil, shipping routes being unsafe, and the like. This is important to understand, as the Federal Reserve cannot control these issues, are potential explanations for sticking inflation. Mr. Grecni stated that, at present, the economy is gridding along. Inflation is not yet under control and the Federal Reserve has made comments implying that rates would be higher for longer, and this is reflective of how PNC positions the portfolio. Mr. Grecni stated that, in relation to market volatility, pullbacks are a healthy, normal part of long-term investing. By sticking to long-term goals and investing, this will bode well for the pension plan. As of February, sixty-three point six (63.6%) of the allocation is in Total Equity, with the major holdings in Large Cap Equity in large U.S. companies. The total international exposure is nine-point one (9.1%) percent, and this coincides with what PNC sees



going on in the world as they favor large U.S. companies. Thirty-two-point nine (32.9%) percent of the portfolio is allocated to fixed income, and three point six (3.6%) is allocated towards short term. These are money market funds and are by design. While the target of the portfolio on short term is zero (0), the yield on this is over five (5%) percent and is a difficult yield to pass up. Mr. Grecni stated that for the calendar year of 2023, the portfolio was up by fifteen point zero three (15.03%) percent, and through February of 2024 the portfolio is up two-point nine (2.9%) percent and off to a good start for this year. Anticipate continued exposure to large U.S. firms and low international exposure. Mr. Grecni thanked Council for their confidence and continued relationship.

### Agenda

#### 1.) Etna Community Organization (ECO) – Use of Playground for Lunch & Programming

Chairman Becki stated that Council is in receipt of a letter from ECO, requesting use of the Playground to continue programming from last year of a free lunch program and additional programming. Mrs. Tuñón stated that, last year, ECO worked with North Hills Cares for a free lunch program for children eighteen (18) years and younger, Monday through Friday, and are looking to continue this programming again for this upcoming summer. Additionally, there were corresponding activities for kids at the playground, and it helped with increasing participation numbers throughout the summer. She is requesting use again for this upcoming summer for the same types of lunches and programming.

*A Motion to permit ECO use of the Playground as per this request was made by Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElharry, Seconded by Ms. Semler. Motion carried.*

#### 2.) Handicap Parking Request – 46 Wilson; 6 Gardner

Chairman Becki stated that Chief Rodman has researched these locations and asked for his recommendation. Chief Rodman stated that regarding 46 Wilson Street, they have off-street parking with a flat surface, a handicap parking sign two (2) doors down from this residence, the church parking lot is across the street, and they have a garage in the rear. Therefore, he is not recommending 46 Wilson receive the parking spot. Regarding 6 Gardner, while they do have a parking pad in the rear, but there are twenty-one (21) steps to get up to the rear of the home. Additionally, there is a spot that can be utilized as a handicap space in this area and is therefore able to recommend this location receiving a handicap parking space. Ms. Semler asked if St. Matthew's parish is enforcing the updated parking signs in their lot. She lives on Wilson, and there is someone who parks in the alley near the parking lot, and this is worse, and has anyone been in correspondence with the church regarding this. Manager Ramage stated that the comment from the church is just that these are new signs, which replaced the signs that had the previous name of the church, and that this would be their only comment about it. All churches received new signs after the merger, and the extent of their comments would be that they are new signs. Chairman Becki stated that when a request for a handicap parking space is received, it must be investigated. The population is aging, and sometimes people ask for spots for convenience over need, and the number of spots on a given block must be controlled so as the other residents have ample parking as well. Mr. Trader asked if the additional handicap parking space near the end of that street an issue would be. Chief Rodman stated that that space is for a compact car only and would have no effect. Chairman Becki stated that this is no one individual private handicapped parking spot, and is a public parking space, but it is being placed as close to the requesting resident's address as possible.

*A Motion to install a handicap parking space near 6 Gardner Street was made by Mrs. Gabriel, Seconded by Mr. Trader. Motion carried.*

#### 3.) Heart & Soul Program – M.O.U. With Etna Community Organization (ECO)

Chairman Becki stated that Council has been presented with a Memorandum of Understanding between the Borough of Etna and the Etna Community Organization (ECO). In February, Manager Ramage reported that there was a large amount of work via this program, through resident participation as to what they would like to see in Etna in the future. ECO has volunteered to gather this information under the guidelines of this program, and this MOU is that the Borough will be paying five hundred (\$500) per month for this service, over the next two years. There are many guidelines under the Heart and Soul Program, and this is in relation to the Comprehensive Plan. Manager Ramage was able to acquire a large grant to use this Heart and Soul program to help develop the next Comprehensive Plan. Manager Ramage stated that this money will also come from this grant, and not additional taxpayer funds. Mrs. Tuñón stated that ECO is receiving the stipend, and it will in no way affect her salary, which is paid through a private foundation. Additionally, the ECO Board decided that these funds will be used for another program through the Heart and Soul Program, so it will be recycled back into the community. Chairman Becki stated that this MOU was generated by the Solicitor, so all is in accordance with legal practices.

*A Motion to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Borough of Etna and the Etna Community Organization was made by Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElharry, Seconded by Mr. Burke. Motion Carried. Mrs. Tuñón abstained.*

#### 4.) Key Box Update – Ordinance

Chairman Becki stated that there was a fire on Butler Street in January. As a result, the Fire Chief Porter and Police Chief Rodman approached Council and asked them to consider an Ordinance to install key boxes on all commercial and residential properties above three (3) units. The box is an outside box, which has a specific and secure key to be held by the Police and Fire Departments to open them, and the owners will be required to place keys to the building inside the lock box in the event of an emergency. This will save time, and perhaps human life. An excellent letter has been sent to all business owners and operators, as well as appropriate landlords, explaining the concept and benefits. Neighboring municipalities have had these concepts for years. A draft ordinance has been presented to Council; however, it will not be placed on the agenda until feedback from the business community has been gathered. There will be a meeting scheduled with the business community to answer any questions. Manager Ramage stated that the Etna Economic Development Corporation (EEDC) has offered to host this meeting at their next meeting, which is May 14. To date, no businesses have requested a meeting. Chairman Becki stated that Council does not like to pass Ordinances that impose potential costs to anyone without speaking with the community, as this has been learned through previous experience.

#### 5.) American Rescue Funds – Schedule Meeting

Chairman Becki requested to move agenda item five (5) to after agenda item number eight (8), as funds can be discussed back-to-back.

#### 6.) Rental Inspection/Code Enforcement Officer – Schedule Meeting

Chairman Becki stated that an MOU or Intergovernmental Agreement has been being worked on between Etna and Sharpsburg, to find a Code and Rental Inspection Officer. By sharing the cost with Sharpsburg, salary can be increased, and better candidates can be recruited. Council has previously agreed to an MOU in January, but now the time has come to hire a candidate. A resume has been provided to Council. This employee will technically be an employee of Sharpsburg for legal purposes, but Etna will be sharing the costs equally with Sharpsburg. Manager Ramage stated that the employee will split time evenly between Etna and Sharpsburg, with twenty (20) hours physically spent in each municipality. Chairman Becki stated that no Etna position is to be eliminated, and that this is an additional employee to be added onto staff. Manager Ramage stated that this will also be helping the Police Department, as it will take the burden of these duties off them. Mrs. Gabriel thanked Manager Ramage for covering this position and for the intergovernmental collaboration. Mr. Trader asked that under the essential job duties in this position, it does not list that they would be scheduling the inspections for all rental units. Manager Ramage stated that the duties included for this position are to inspect rental properties, and that scheduling them would be an implied part of this duty. However, she would be sure to explain that in detail to the employee.

#### 7.) C.D.B.G. Resolution Dewey Street Demolition – Adopt

Chairman Becki stated that Council has been presented with a Resolution, which is in relation to the demolition of the previously mentioned 151 Dewey Street. In October of 2023 there was a public hearing to condemn the property, an asbestos inspection has also been completed, and are now ready to move forward with this demolition. As Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are being requested, a Resolution is required.

*A Motion to approve the Concurring Resolution 1395N to apply for twenty-five thousand four hundred sixty-five (\$25,465) dollars of CDBG Funds was made by Mrs. Gabriel. Seconded by Ms. Semler. The Resolution reads as follows:*

Adopted this 16th day of April, 2024, by the

Borough of Etna

Operating Agency/Municipality

President

Title

Signature (Must not be same as Authorized Official)

David Becki

Printed Name

the filing of an application for CDBG funds with Allegheny County Economic Development.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Etna

is

desirous of obtaining funds from Allegheny County Economic Development in the amount of \$ 25,465.00

CDBG Funds

under the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1970, as amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough of Etna does hereby formally request CDBG funds from Allegheny County Economic Development.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough of Etna does hereby designate Lynnee Eklund as the official to file all applications, documents, and forms between the Borough of Etna and Allegheny County Economic Development.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough of Etna

will assure, where applicable, the provision of the full local share of the project costs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough of Etna

will assure, that the project will be awarded or under construction within 180 days after contractual execution.

*Motion carried.*

#### 8.) Streetscape IV Bid Opening – County C.D.B.G. Grant

Chairman Becki stated that a bid has been sent out for the Phase 4 Streetscape. The bids received were above what was expected. If the low bidder has a reputable record for this type of job, the contract is awarded. However, the low bidder for this project has asked to have their bid withdrawn due to a mathematical error on their part. The next lowest bid is well over one hundred sixty-six thousand (\$166,000) dollars higher than what would have been the lowest bid. Chairman Becki asked Solicitor Rushford to explain what next steps can be taken. Solicitor Rushford stated that the timeline for submitting their error must have been met, and a mathematical error legitimately meets the criteria for bid withdrawal. As these have both been met, this bid can be legally withdrawn. The next steps are that the bid can be awarded to the next lowest bidder, or all bids can be rejected and sent back out again to bid. Solicitor Rushford stated that his recommendation would be to reject all bids and send it back out, as the next lowest bidder is significantly higher. While that would cause a delay, the cost difference is significant. Manager Ramage stated that the grant is for five hundred thousand (\$500,000) dollars. The engineering estimate was for five hundred twenty-five thousand (\$525,000) dollars, a fifty-five thousand (\$55,000) commitment for engineering, and had anticipated putting in between seventy-five thousand (\$75,000) dollars to one hundred thousand (\$100,000) dollars. With that low bid, the Borough would have been putting in an additional forty thousand (\$40,000) dollars over this, and the next lowest would have been a total of approximately two hundred thousand (\$200,000) dollars to put in. Manager Ramage stated that Solicitor Rushford has provided Council with a letter with his suggestion, and that she has reached out to the County was told that there are no additional funds available to the Borough for this, as they sometimes have and must spend. Manager Ramage stated that she agrees with Solicitor Rushford's recommendation. She will sit down with the engineer to attempt and see what can be done within the scope of the grant, to potentially lower the costs, but keeping it to look the same as the other streetscapes. Mr. Trader asked if there was a time limit on the grant. Manager Ramage stated that, regarding CDBG funds, they have the goal to use all funds as they are federal dollars and must be spent to receive more. However, these would still be good for another year. A quick turnaround would be preferable to get it out within the bid season, but there is some time if not. Mrs. Tuñón asked for clarification on the location of this phase. Manager Ramage stated that the funds related to this portion are for the location from High to Maplewood. These had initially been earmarked to complete with American Rescue Funds, but this is more than those funds.



*A Motion to Reject all bids and allow Manager Ramage to begin the process to re-bid this project was made by Mrs. Tuñón, Seconded by Mrs. Gabriel. Motion carried.*

5.) American Rescue Funds – Schedule Meeting (CONTINUED)

Chairman Becki stated that these funds are presented to Council monthly on the Treasurer's Report and need to be committed to projects by the end of this year and spent by the end of next year. Several ideas had been previously discussed as use of these funds. After some discussion, Manager Ramage stated that this should be the first of several meetings for it to be thoughtful and thorough, and she would like to not delay the scheduling of this one. After additional discussion, April 25, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. was chosen. Chairman Becki stated that this is a Workshop, and anyone is welcome to attend. Mr. Trader asked if there were any pressing issues for the Planning Commission, as this date is earmarked for that. Manager Ramage replied that there was nothing that required their attention.

9.) Ceasefire Resolution – Adopt/Resolution

Chairman Becki stated that at the previous Council meeting, several Members of Council and residents spoke out in favor of drafting a Resolution that would call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. It was agreed that a Resolution would be developed by Solicitor Rushford and discussed openly at this meeting. Chairman Becki stated that discussion is now open, and anyone, including members of the audience, are welcome to let their voices be heard at this time. Ms. Semler asked if Residents should be heard from first. Chairman Becki stated that residents are permitted to speak on any item at any time. Manager Ramage asked if the residents knew what the Resolution says, or if it needs to be read for them. Solicitor Rushford stated it would be a good idea to read it out for the audience. Chairman Becki asked that Ms. Semler read the Resolution into the record:

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**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ETNA URGING THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO WORK COOPERATIVELY TOWARDS AN IMMEDIATE DEESCALATION AND CEASE-FIRE IN ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED PALESTINE**

WHEREAS all members of the Etna Borough community share a common humanity.

WHEREAS the Borough of Etna is committed to cultivating a climate that is welcoming and inclusive for all people, and

WHEREAS we condemn the horrific attacks by Hamas on Israeli civilians, and we also condemn the Israeli government's brutal and disproportionate collective punishment on millions of Palestinians. The answer to violence is not more violence. The answer is not military response and more killing of thousands of innocent children and women, and

WHEREAS all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians, no matter their faith or ethnicity, is a violation of international humanitarian law;

WHEREAS, between October 7 and April 15, armed violence has claimed the lives of over 33,797 Palestinians and over 1,139 Israelis, including Americans, and wounded thousands more, and

WHEREAS hundreds of thousands of lives are at imminent risk if a cease-fire is not achieved and humanitarian aid is not delivered without delay, and

WHEREAS, Etna Borough Council condemns antisemitic, anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, Islamophobic, and all xenophobic rhetoric and attacks, and

WHEREAS the Federal Government holds immense diplomatic power to save Israeli and Palestinian lives

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Etna Borough Council call upon our Congressional Delegation, both in the Senate and House of Representatives, to join us in:

1. Urging the Biden administration to immediately call for and facilitate de-escalation and a cease-fire to urgently end the current violence and calls upon the Biden administration to promptly send and facilitate the entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza.
2. Calling upon the Biden administration to promptly send and facilitate the entry of humanitarian assistance at the scale needed into Gaza, and

3. Supporting all of its residents and condemning all forms of racism, bigotry, and discrimination, and
4. Advocating for the dignity and safety of residents in every community, and
5. Affirming its commitments to combating antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, homophobia, xenophobia, and ethnic discrimination in all its forms, and
6. Recognizing the need to address the root causes of cries for a pathway to lasting peace and justice; and
7. Calling for continued open, honest, respectful, and tolerant conversation among our local community to support our common humanity.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon passage, a copy of this resolution be sent to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Senator Robert P. Casey, Senator John K. Fetterman, and Representative Chris Deluzio.

RESOLVED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

Mr. Trader asked if we would be the first community in to pass a Resolution on this. Ms. Semler stated that would not be correct. Mr. Trader stated that he did research and was unable to find another. An Unidentified Audience member stated that State College, PA was the first to have passed a similar resolution. Ms. Semler stated that regardless of who was the first, more feedback on this issue has been received than any other issue ever, and so when constituents state that they care about this it becomes our business.

Kate Zidar of Eljrn Lane stated that she typically attends these meets via Zoom but is in person to state her case on this. She wanted to recognize Ms. Semler for saying the uncomfortable things, and all others for being willing to have an uncomfortable conversation. She recalls Ms. Koch from the previous meeting sharing her personal story, and it resonated with her and inspired her to come and speak. She is not Palestinian or Israeli, is from here, and as an historian of her family lineage and was previously proud of the history that she had come from a homesteader in Kansas. Until she learned about this history and realized that her ancestors occupied someone else's homeland and potentially causing them harm and displacement and has since become conflicted about this heritage. This is what connects her to this issue and tries to live out her values. She loves her neighbors, even those with whom she disagrees, and tries to treat them as peers. It is difficult for her to imagine anything like this happening here locally, and in the information age we live in it is possible to learn more information very quickly. Her values also include supporting the generation coming after and doing what she can to keep them safe. A ceasefire resolution keeps everyone safe. It is important for us to do this, even though it is not happening directly here in Etna.

Sophia Kachur, currently residing in Falls Church, Virginia but originally from Etna, spoke via Zoom. Ms. Kachur stated she is speaking in support of a ceasefire resolution. When reading the Resolution, she sees the values of the Etna Community extended across the world. It made her think of when she assisted in the formation of the world's first Eco District in Etna, concepts of equity, food, water, energy, air quality, and mobility. These are concepts that drive Etna's community action, and these are being denied of the people of Palestine. Israeli's military actions are causing an ecological crisis, polluting the air and poisoning the ground and water, the effects of which will last for decades. Transportation infrastructure has been destroyed, access to other countries is limited, and movement within the area is stopped by the Israeli government. There can be no question of equity when there is no freedom. When land is no longer arable or traversable because it is littered with mass graves and strewn with bodies, how can the crisis before us not be recognized when the fundamental necessities for life are denied to the Palestinian people. These same fundamentals that were agreed upon as essential to Etna, are being ripped away from Palestinians. We would never allow another country to do this to us, so why should it be permitted to allow Israel to do this to Palestine. If even one county is allowed to be tortured, then no country can be free from fear of the same. If this can happen now, then it will happen again. Palestinians deserve better and this is not just philosophical, and the Federal Government is permitting this to happen by making and selling weapons to Israel. President Biden is defending the lie that the genocide of the Palestinian people is an act of a sovereign state defending itself. The Eco District was formed to share collective ideas and to have access to partners across the world who had those same values, and we are now able to help. She is requesting that Council support this resolution as everyone deserves equitable access to air, food, water, and mobility, and this Resolution affirms that across the world. We must ensure a lasting and immediate ceasefire so peace can be arranged in the region. Manager Ramage stated that Ms. Kachur previously served as a Junior Council Member several years ago.



Resident Keith Moore, via Zoom, stated that when he saw this on the agenda, he felt moved to speak in favor of the Resolution. This is one of the most important things happening in the world now and wanted to partially read from a statement made by Amnesty International. Mr. Moore read that the unparalleled escalation of hostilities between Israel and Hamas has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties and mass destruction in the Gaza strip is unprecedented. Countless lives have been shattered, ripped apart, and upended. In January 2024 the international court of justice ordered Israel to implement six (6) measures to protect Palestinians in Gaza against a real risk of genocide. With each day that passes, more lives are lost and the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza is getting worse. Israel's ruthless bombardments continues to kill Palestinians in Gaza at a staggering rate, over thirty thousand (30,000) Palestinians in Gaza have been killed in just four (4) months, and over sixty thousand (60,000) people have been wounded. Including thousands left permanently disabled. Much of northern Gaza has been destroyed, seventy-five (75%) percent are internally displaced, and the entire healthcare system has been destroyed. At least one hundred (100) Israeli hostages, taken by Hamas, are still being held in Gaza and remain in danger. With each Israeli bomb that falls, women, children, and hostages are at risk. This shockingly high death toll, widespread destruction, engineered hunger and malnutrition, deliberate denial of humanitarian aid as part of an illegal siege, racist and dehumanizing rhetoric by Israeli officials, and the wider context of Israel's apartheid system, are all warning signs of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. Meanwhile, the United States has abused its veto power to block the UN security Council resolutions to alleviate suffering in Gaza. With no end in sight, now, more than ever, humanity must prevail. Mr. Moore stated that as Americans, knowing how tax dollars are being spent, have a responsibility to voice opinions and let it be known what we believe. He believes in a politics of compassion and no way this can be resolved without a ceasefire. It is our responsibility to let representatives know how we feel and get that information all the way up to the President.

Koley of Christler Street, stated that three (3) of every five (5) tax dollars go towards military, deportation, or incarceration. These could be spent much better in our communities. There are many amazing projects going on in Etna, and if these tax dollars were reallocated to communities instead of wars, they would be a lot better off.

Bailey Brown of Ward 1 thanked Council for introducing this resolution and making Etna a great place to live. He is here to ask for a ceasefire as what has unfolded over the last six (6) months, really the last seventy-five (75) years, is completely horrific and unbearable to watch, let alone live through. People who work in this field say that this genocidal conflict is the worst they've ever seen. There are also many other genocides happening around the world as we speak as well, and they all deserve to be condemned. As an American and of the Jewish faith, the least he can do for the Palestinian people is to register his descent and cannot sit by while his country sits by and funds this slaughter. As being of Jewish faith, he cannot forget the ancestors that were lost in the holocaust but cannot stand for the slaughter of innocent Palestinians and will state again 'not in my name'. Mr. Brown stated that he would like to see at least one political body that represents him stand on the moral side of history.

Chairman Becki apologized to Council as a draft version of this Resolution was not presented until Friday, and a couple of corrections have been suggested by Ms. Semler. Chairman Becki asked if anyone was uncomfortable moving forward with the Resolution with the changes so noted or tabling it until next month to allow for more time to review and complete the changes. He cannot disagree with anything that has been stated but can also understand tabling it to allow for more time or corrections. This resolution is a call for peace and to see all these atrocities come to an end.

Ms. Judith Koch thanked Council for introducing the Resolution. While she has already shared her thoughts via emails to Council and spoke at the previous meeting. She is requesting that the word permanent be added to the Resolution, and while the Administration has called for a temporary ceasefire, it is important to add that wording, as anything temporary would just bring a return to the hostilities after this time frame. Real peace would be to call for a permanent ceasefire. Chairman Becki asked Solicitor Rushford if it is possible to table the resolution. Solicitor Rushford stated that there would need to be a vote.

Mayor Robert Tuñón stated that he received this Resolution on Friday, read it over the weekend, and that he was not part of the drafting of this Resolution, nor is he aware of any public process to produce it. He would like to make one comment as a resident, and another comment as Mayor. He laments the loss of life in Israel, in Gaza, and in conflicts around the world. Israel has the right to defend itself against the terrorist organization, Hamas, now and forever. But the loss of innocent lives is horrific in this current Israel-Hamas conflict - both Israeli lives and Palestinian lives; Jews, Muslims, Christians; men, women, and children. The number of innocent deaths that this conflict has wrought, the pain, the suffering, it's an absolute tragedy. Now, aid is urgently needed to reach those that need it. An end to this conflict is urgently needed to end the loss of life, and he personally wants the US Federal Government to defend Israel against Hamas, Iran, and any other aggressor. He strongly supports the US's role in stopping the Iranian government's attacks on Israel when Iran launched over 300 missiles and drones just this past Saturday, April 13th. He wants the US military to continue to protect Israel if the need arises, just as he supports the US's role in Ukraine and with our allies around

the world. To clearly state his personal position, he wants innocent civilians, in Israel, Gaza, and around the world, to be protected and to obtain the necessary aid and protection they need. Simultaneously, he supports Israel's right to defend itself with support from the US Federal Government against terrorist groups and foreign governments. As Mayor, he objects to this letter. It is more than a ceasefire letter. It is a condemnation. It is a proclamation of who is right and who is wrong. It goes further than asking for fighting to stop and aid to enter. If it said we support a cease-fire, a temporary suspension in fighting so that much needed aid could be supplied, that is a ceasefire letter, and this goes much further than that. There is an issue in terms of information sharing, and he does not know or believe that the Residents of Etna have been canvased or petitioned, nor has there been a public meeting to share this information. While there have been Council meetings, there are a limited number of people who participate in those and seem to have access to this information. Time has not been given to share what is in the ceasefire letter, and members of the community do not know what is in this letter. While we do our best to get it to the public, there has been no public process with this. He just received it on Friday. He is questioning the purpose of this letter, as it is four (4) months late. April 4, 2024, President Biden spoke to Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu, and he made clear the need for Israel to announce and implement a series of specific, concrete, and measurable steps to address civilian harm, humanitarian suffering, and the safety of aid workers. Biden also told Netanyahu that reaching an immediate cease-fire in exchange for the estimated 100 hostages that are still being held in Gaza was essential and urged Israel to reach such an accord without delay. President Biden is calling the Prime Minister of Israel and calling for an immediate cease-fire. April 10, 2024, via the Times of Israel: US President Joe Biden has urged Israel to just call for a six-to-eight-week ceasefire. Mayor Tuñón stated that he is struggling to understand who we are trying to reach with this letter, especially if President Biden is speaking with the Prime Minister of Israel and is actively working to resolve this conflict. He is concerned that this is dividing Council more than it is helping them come together, and he is not sure if this is the right thing for Etna. As Mayor, he is asking to work on things that bring everyone together and help the whole community, not just the desires of the few. As he stood with the Police Chief and washed the creek rush against the bridge, it was a tangible, real thing that is happening here. There are Syrian refugees here, in Etna, that himself, Mrs. Tuñón, and Manager Ramage are working to help support. There are things that can be done here. There are over one hundred and ten (110) conflicts going on in the world right now, if we're writing Resolutions about one, then we should equitably apply the effort in time and address all peoples that are suffering throughout the world. Chairman Becki thanked Mayor Tuñón for standing up voicing his differing opinion. He stated that he agrees with some of what Mayor Tuñón said, in that he agrees that when Ukraine was invaded nothing was said, and that a small municipality like Etna is not involved in international activities enough to pick a side. This resolution was neutral enough and is not sure what we hope to achieve with this Resolution, other than it was what most people wanted at last month's meeting. If additional time is needed to review this Resolution, or if it needs to be rewritten, that can be attempted as well.

Nicole Stemple of 32 Hickory Street stated that she sent a letter to Council in support of this ceasefire and wants to emphasize that this is real and it's happening every minute. Children are dying and she does not feel additional time is needed to consider whether more children should be killed. Chairman Becki stated that he can assure Ms. Stemple that this Resolution would not put an end to this conflict. Ms. Stemple stated that she understands the Borough does not single-handedly have the power to have a ceasefire, but that collective voices have power. If no one says anything or does anything, and people keep dying, that is also not okay. As stated in her letter, as a mother, when she watches the news, she pictures herself not being able to keep her children safe or not being there, like the seventeen thousand (17,000) unaccompanied children in Gaza right now. It's not right, and additional conversation is unnecessary. She supports the Resolution as written and does not want it watered down. Chairman Becki thanked Ms. Stemple for her time and stated that he only interrupted her to clarify that it is not this governing body's fault for allowing what is going on throughout the world. Ms. Stemple stated that it would be made clear to the constituents where Council stands if nothing else.

Tess Allred of 30 Hickory Street stated that she also sent a letter to Council on this issue. Regarding Mayor Tuñón's comments regarding the flooding, while it does take up a lot of time, effort, and concern of the local authorities, it is nothing in comparison to what is going on in Gaza. While this is happening far away, if Etna is for everyone, then it is hypocritical to not stand up for those words everywhere throughout the world.

Maura Bainbridge of Oakland Street, via Zoom, stated that she attended the last Council meeting, and that it is important to understand that we are uniquely responsible as Americans to this conflict at this time. For the Mayor to not be able to make this connection is infuriating and she is in support of everyone in the room who is speaking up. She stated it matters for Council as that many of the people who have been trying to reach out to people in higher office who are responsible for these things, and they have not been responsive. You as Council are neighbors and have no choice but to listen to them, she stated. Chairman Becki stated that Council is listening and are paying attention and appreciates the passion of those who have spoken out. However, he is looking for clarification of the effect Council can have and now people are turning against each other for not being in complete agreement with one hundred (100%) with their opinion of what the resolution should say. Chairman



Becki stated that Council does not want the Borough to be divided as in support of or not in support of a Resolution. Since the previous meeting, several things have changed from the Administration, but that wants Council to speak as to whether they want to vote on this now or not. After some discussion, Ms. Semler stated that she wants to acknowledge everyone here or who has written a letter, knows that Council cannot specifically do anything and to insinuate anything otherwise is insulting to them. Our money is funding what is happening in Gaza, as opposed to the other conflicts throughout the world, and those funds should be available to local governments to pay for much needed projects. This resolution is very measured, but with over thirty thousand (30,000) people who have died in this conflict, it is in bad faith to compare this with other conflicts throughout the world. Mrs. Gabriel stated that while this may not typically have fallen under the purview of Council, because higher elected officials have not done anything, or have voted it down in the case of County Council, then they come here to have their voices heard and that collectively they can push this upwards. Ms. Gabriel stated that she wants to vote on this Resolution tonight. Council will never be able to speak to everyone in the community, but there are people here who have written letters who are passionate and are standing up to speak, and they deserve a vote. Ms. Schaefer asked what the specific changes were, as she wants to be fully informed of the situation. Solicitor Rushford stated that updated numbers were added. Ms. Schaefer stated that she wants to be fully informed, and the best way to know one side is to know the other side of an issue. People were overwhelmingly saying that there should be a way to stop the loss of life and deescalate the issue. The probability that a ceasefire would make a change, is that Hamas has not honored ceasefires in the past. She is curious as to what all was added. Mr. Trader stated that he would like to see that there be a request for peace negotiations and try and get both sides to make a peaceful settlement. Solicitor Rushford stated that humanitarian assistance was added, the release of hostages was added, and that peace negotiations are implied in the first paragraph. Solicitor Rushford stated that, from his own experience, that he is proud of Council and the way this has played out. Everyone has been respectful, and he has worked in other places where it would not have gone this way. This is a complex issue and wants to honor Council, and the Mayor, for the respectful way this has taken place. Leaders from all over the county could learn from Etna. Ms. Semler stated that adding the wording about the hostages makes the implicit, explicit, and she understands why it needs to be explicit. Solicitor Rushford stated that he would be adding wording to the resolution, which references the immediate release of hostages. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney asked, regarding the statement 'the answer to violence is not more violence' if it is to include military response. While Council is trying to do the right thing here, the reality is that this could potentially garner a military response of Israeli, Hamas, and Iran, or is it in reference to U.S. military, as that could further divide everyone. As the active-duty military and veterans should be supported. Ms. Semler stated that this is specifically a ceasefire resolution between Israel and Palestine. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney stated that this wording leaves a little bit of question. Regarding the question of peace negotiations, the comment by Mr. Trader was more in support of the United Nations (UN) in peace negotiations, and this is not necessarily mentioned in this resolution. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney stated that while she was not present at the last meeting, she did read the Minutes and Ms. Koch brought up trust in Council. She stated that this is unfortunate, that just because they might not agree on something that she would lose trust. Ms. Koch has been present at a couple of meetings, as are a lot of people, and Council does work very hard to keep the community great. She is hurt by this as she works hard to instill trust.

Solicitor Rushford stated that the changes to this Resolution were that the numbers were updated to reflect current numbers; paragraph three (3) will be updated to reflect the demand for the immediate release of the Israeli hostages held by Hamas. Ms. Semler asked how people felt about adding the word "permanent". Solicitor Rushford stated that this would be added. Chairman Becki stated that the preparation for this Council meeting was poor, and why he was hesitant to work on the approval of the presented Resolution, as a final and correct version should have been presented. He will take responsibility for that error, as Council should have been more concise, and this should have been presented a lot earlier than the Friday prior to the Council meeting.

*A Motion to approve the Resolution 13950, with changes so noted, was made by Mrs. Gabriel. Seconded by Ms. Semler. Motion carried.*

#### **Council/Committee Members Reports**

Mr. Iannuzzi had nothing additional to report.

Ms. Semler thanked Council for the dialogue, and we are lucky to have that here. She appreciates all as colleagues and can have uncomfortable conversations. She would like to uplift the words of Aaron Bushnell, who was an active-duty military member who self-immolated in front of the Israeli embassy on February 25. His last words were "Free Palestine". If anyone wondered what they would have done during slavery or the holocaust, you are doing it right now. Years from now there will be many things said about this time, and tonight we did the right thing. Thanks to the emergency response teams, Police, Fire, and Public Works, as she lives on Wilson and evacuated during the last flooding event. It was terrifying but felt good that she knows that everyone in these positions are doing the right thing. The

Human Relations Commission (HRC) had their first Queer Game Night, and Rising Crust gave free pizza. The HRC will meet to discuss how often these will occur.

Mrs. Schaefer thanked the first responders for their response during the flooding event, Council for the thoughtful conversation, ECO for their work, and Mr. Schmidt for his presentation at ALOM. Mr. Schmidt is a fan of transparency, and this is a great running theme for all that Etna does as well.

Mrs. Tuñón thanked the first responders for their efforts during the flood event, they deserve a big shout out. Being the Mayor's wife, she has a front row seat for everything and everyone running into action. Thanks to all the speakers tonight for their conversations tonight. Thanks to Mr. Balistreri and the Public Works crew, for how great the trail looked prior to the flooding. Earth Day is coming up on April 20, and the cleanup will be 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Supplies will be available at the Borough office, and please sign up online if possible. There will be a celebration after the cleanup at the Etna Riverfront Park, and the Heart and Soul team will also be there at the same time talking about that planning project.

Mrs. Gabriel thanked the Borough Staff, Fire, Police, and Public Works for the amazing job. Thanks to residents for their passion and for coming to speak out. Thanks to Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhany for all her hard work and efforts around deck hockey, it's great to see it revived. Welcome Wednesdays will begin in May at the Garden and are fun events. Etna Riverfront Yoga also begins in May and will be Thursdays at the Riverfront Park.

Mr. Trader had nothing additional to report.

Miss Yarnot had nothing additional to report.

Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhany thanked Mayor Tuñón for opening the dialogue. It was uncomfortable for her. Thanks to residents for speaking up. They want to hear what everyone thinks. Deck Hockey is coming to an end, and she could use help with it. She can use any help, not just related specifically to hockey. Great job by Public Works and first responders. Also, thanks to residents, as there are evacuation sites, but these are safe places to go. Chairman Becki stated he wanted to add to that, as for the first time in his memory, Spring Street was almost impossible to get out of with their vehicles as the creek became so high that the storm sewers became so overwhelmed that they backed up in the area. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhany stated that not only are your lives and safety in danger if you stay, but so are those of the first responders who come to rescue you. Mrs. Gabriel stated that if residents did not receive the automated phone call alerts, sign up for them on the Borough website. Manager Ramage stated that you can also call the office or come down to the office, and the Borough Staff can assist with the sign-up. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhany stated that, thanks to Ms. Kate Zidar, there will also be another upcoming Community Care Fair, which will also include flood resources.

Mr. Burke stated that he is proud of the passion that these discussions take on, and this is a difficult conversation. While in some ways there may not be an impact, discussing it and putting thoughts into it, really makes a difference and he is proud of this Council.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Tuñón stated that Manager Ramage is working on additional grants related to storm water and is on every message chain and working on responses. He thanked Mr. Balistreri for coming down and putting the flood barriers up around the Borough Building several times. The Public Works crew is actively pulling dangerous items out of the creek as the flood waters continue to rise, to keep the residents safe. He saw this himself, as a crew member was pulling a tree out of the area using a backhoe. This crew, as well as Chief Rodman, are taking time away from their families and keeping their own families safe, to keep Etna safe. They did a tremendous job. The Fire Department has a great team as well, and there were many on duty who were also not with their families, but ready to respond. Thanks to them. Chairman Becki stated that some of these people live in the flood zone, yet are still out there protecting the other residents. Mayor Tuñón stated that after the first flood, the teams were on a strategy call to prepare for the next one. They do that for all residents, and they deserve recognition. Earth Day is a great way to help clean up the town, and Mrs. Tuñón has a sign-up available, so please assist in cleaning up the town as numbers are lower than in past years. Mayor Tuñón stated that he appreciates everything that was said tonight, including all the letters sent. He understands that people are frustrated with a difference of opinion and hopes that differences of opinion are acceptable in Etna and can walk out of this meeting as neighbors and aligned in most other things.

### **Manager's Report**

Manager Ramage provided a report regarding: Code/Zoning Updates; Greenhouse Gas Inventory; CRS/Flood Warning System; Heart and Soul; Finance Staff Update; TRICOG Land Bank/City of Bridges; A68 Sewer Transfer; ALCOSAN; Swimming Pool/Recreation Updates; MRM Insurance Updates; CRS/Mimi Sirens; Little Pine Creek Connector Trail; Part Time Office Personnel; Consent



Order/Agreement; Liquid Fuels Audit; Annual State Reports; Southwest Butler Stormwater Group; Record/Retention/Destruction; Army Corp of Engineers; Concerts in the Park.

Manager Ramage stated that if anyone has recommendations for the Concerts in the Park, to please send them her way. As a staff member, she is proud of Council, but this is uncomfortable for staff when there is conflict among Council, which can put staff in a scary and uncomfortable place. She is glad that everyone is respectful of each other, and she is proud of that.

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#### **Chairman's Comments**

Chairman Becki stated that when he first got onto Council, he and Former Chairman Ramage would butt heads every meeting, but was always professional, cordial, and friendly. No matter what the topic was, the moment the meeting ended the contentiousness ended. Chairman Becki stated that he hopes everyone can leave this meeting and have the same feelings and respect the mutual positions as members of Council. In his over thirty years of experience on Council, this is the most passionate request he has seen, and this is the most unusual position to have been put in. Thanks to everyone for attending and speaking their minds and stating their opinions.

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#### **Public Comment**

*A Motion to Adjourn the April 2024 Regular Session was made by Mr. Iannuzzi, seconded by Ms. Schaefer. Motion carried.*

Regular Session adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Mary Ellen Ramage, Manager

Date:

May 21, 2024

