

ETNA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

TUESDAY, August 20th, 2024, at 7:30 P.M.
For approval on September 17, 2024

An Executive Session was held at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular meeting which began at 6:45 p.m., to discuss negotiations. The Executive Session was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Etna Borough Council was held on August 20th, 2024. President Becki presided and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Roll was called, and members present were Mrs. McElhaney, Mr. Trader, Mrs. Gabriel, Mrs. Tuñón, Mrs. Schaefer, Ms. Semler and Mr. Iannuzzi and Mr. Burke was out of town. Also present were Mayor Tuñón, Manager Ramage, Police Chief Rodman, Administrative Assistant Birks, and Public Works Director Joe Balistrieri. Solicitor Rushford and Assistant Fire Chief Todd Lunn and Shaler Hampton EMS Executive Director Eric Schmidt was absent.

Mayor Tuñón led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Treasurer's report was presented and a motion to accept and file the Treasury's report was made by Gabriel and seconded by Tuñón. Motion Carried.

Fund 01 General Account	\$ 143,482.05
Fund 05 Education Account	\$ 000.00
Fund 03 Payroll Account	\$
Fund 04 Police Fund	\$ 000.00
Fund 21 Hockey	\$ 000.00
Fund 30 Capital Improvement	\$ -----
Fund 33 Christmas	\$ 775.00
Fund 34 Etna Senior Center Fund	\$ 916.67
Fund 35 Liquid Fuels Account	\$ 5,601.11
Fund 36 War Memorial Fund	\$ 20.00
Fund 38 Sanitary Trunk Line Account	\$ 000.00
Fund 39 Middle Street Escrow Account	\$ 000.00
Fund 42 Capital Reserve	\$ 000.00
Fund 44 Sewer Account	\$ 000.00
Fund 45 Project Escrow Account	\$ CLOSED
Fund 46 Riverfront Park & Trail	\$ 000.00
Fund 48 Etna Green Streetscape	\$ 000.00
Fund 50 GI Account	\$ 000.00
Fund 51 Fire Escrow Account	\$ 000.00
Fund 52 Infrastructure Account	\$ 000.00
Fund 53 Youth & Recreation Fund	\$ 000.00
Fund 54 American Rescue	\$ 195.78

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	\$ 144,998.61
Total Bills Paid	\$ 46,803.28
Total Balance Due	\$ 191,801.89

A motion as made by Mr. Trader and seconded by Schaefer to pay all bills. Motion carried.

Committee reports.

Police Chief's Report

Police Chief Rodman provided a report regarding Police Stats: Simple assault 5, disorderly conduct 3; non NIBRS offense 4 (not in Custody); 1 (Arrests); intimidation 1; theft from building 1; non-traffic citations 2; parking tickets 9; traffic-filed 19; warning notice 2; next police committee 9/3/24 at 7 p.m. at

the borough building; hiring process began applications due September 4th; 2 overdose deaths; pool incidents; 2 juveniles banned from pool; 1 death on Cherry Street; several retail thefts and 288 total police citations

Engineer's Report

Engineer provided a report regarding: C-43001-2406 source flow reduction Consent Order Compliance;– CDBG Year 49 grant applications; CDBG year 50 grant applications; Dewey & Spring Street sewer separation project; streetscape phase 5.1; streetscape phase 5.2 and Etna 2024 MS4 program.

Public Works Director's Report

Public Works Director Joe Balistrieri submitted a report regarding: Camera purchase to locate and repair sewers (used already on Prospect Street, waiting for a proposal for town clock repair; cleaned filter basins; cleared sewer grates of debris; cleaned runs of any blockage; repaired damaged split rails on Nature Trail; installed "No Weapons" signage on borough building and pool; repaired ropes in pool; designed and replaced adjusting rod to improve regulating pool filter valve; and installed mirror on Jones Street's blind spot.

Fire Departments Report

Etna Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD) Assistant Chief Todd Lunn provided a report: Safety Standby for Shaler Fireworks; Public Relations Events (Cherry City Street Fair, Mayor Tom Rengers Day); Honor Guard (Funeral Detail); 11 Fires; 13 Rescue & Emergency Medical Service; 3 Hazardous Conditions; 7 False Alarm & False call and 34 Total Incidents for the month.

Assistant Chief Lunn added that the house that caught fire on Vilsack is not being torn down, the owner is still dealing with his insurance company and that can take a while. Manager Ramage reported that there are procedures here in the borough that he will have to follow in order to repair it properly or sell it and to receive the insurance proceeds. She added that the Borough had adopted a Fire Escrow Ordinance and insurance proceeds for fires came to the borough and were held in Escrow until the property was either fully repaired or demolished and any unpaid property taxes could be withheld from the payment as well. She added that the owner stopped in and he said he is trying to sell it, as is. If he does not sell or make repairs, the borough will have the ability to use the money to repair or demolish. She was asked what the time frame for that was and replied that as a time frame wasn't listed but that the borough would probably give at least 90 more days from receipt of the insurance proceeds.

Hampton / Shaler EMS Report

Executive Direction Schmidt stated that he appreciated the opportunity as always and gave the following information in his report: EMS did 58 calls, and that was a decrease of 10 from the previous July; EMS had 386 calls in the borough for the month; 503 calls total, and for the year 3,832 calls total. For the month of transports, 402 increase of 14 and 2,792, an increase of 292 transports for the year. Mr. Schmidt shared that on a typical average day there are about 16 calls that the EMS answers. In the 1st month of the 1st week of this month EMS had a daily range of 32 calls and transported 24 patients and had a day where they responded to 12 calls and transported 6 patients. He also reported that this week EMS received, in the matter of just a few days, 4 letters from patients or patients' families, which he shared with Council and those present.

The first letter thanked Kevin and Tony, who were working on the morning of August 10th, the letter writer went on to say it was their first time needing an ambulance, and these two people were just awesome and they were so patient and the amount of pain they were in, just made entire experience as lovely as intense pain in an ambulance possibly could be. They went on to say it was wonderful, knowing that amazing humans exist and helping care for people out there in the world, right in their own neighborhood. Director Schmidt stated that Kevin's a little bit of a seasoned paramedic and used a KED device which he applied to this patient in a unique way to bring her comfort and protect her spine. It worked so well that the hospital they kept our device on her for 2 days. The next card the EMS received was from Mr. Smith stating that the writer's father had passed away recently and but on the day he passed he was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital by two members of SHEMS team, Christian and Brian. They wanted to extend their heartfelt thanks for the kind and compassionate way they took care of him and that they went above and beyond. They also sent a monetary donation as a thanks for all the organization does. Director Schmidt reminded all present that EMS does have a transport unit, and in this case the gentlemen did not want to be in the hospital when he passed so EMS were able to step up and help. Matt had 2 crew members who really made him as comfortable as they could be in the process. Another card received was from Maddie and Brian who were grateful for the EMS staff that gave medical attention to her husband, Marion on July 6th promptly, and worked diligently, doing all they could. The note added that they

supported her during such a stressful time and her family appreciated all they did. The final card was received on August 3rd and outlined how the writer’s brother and best friend had a medical emergency and unexpectedly died. They said they wanted to thank the EMS team that tried to help save him that night who were so kind, compassionate and added that having never experienced this in their lifetime, she can't say enough about them. She wished she could remember their names but thought one was Mo and a man with tattoos.

Director Schmidt wanted to point out these cases because in 3 of the 4 that were read were where the patient didn't survive. One of the names mentioned twice in these letters was Mo. She is one of the paramedics who has developed a class specifically on how to interact in those situations with families when we can't do any more medically, and how to take care of the people that remain and something he was very proud of is training that all of their staff have been through and done with Mo. It’s a hallmark of a really quality oriented, very community-oriented ambulance service.

Agenda

1. Minimum Municipal Obligation

Chairman Becki explained that this is a state law that each of our municipal pension plans, Non-Uniform and Police, are required to have a Minimum Municipal Obligation from the municipality annually paid into those each year and that this was to be included in the yearly budget . The borough will acquire some of that money through annual State aid which is used towards these MMO’s. These were required to be presented to Council by September 30 of each year, the Manager added and must be accepted by Council.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabriel and seconded by Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney, and the motion carried.

**BOROUGH OF ETNA NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION
FOR 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

A. <u>Normal Cost</u>	
1. Normal Cost as a Percent of Payroll	7.710%
2. Estimated 2024 Payroll for Active Participants	\$ 463,388
3. Normal Cost (A1 x A2)	\$ 35,727
B. <u>Financial Requirement</u>	
1. Normal Cost (A3)	\$ 35,727
2. Anticipated Insurance Premiums	0
3. Anticipated Administrative Expense	420
4. Amortization Payment, if any	16,657
5. Financial Requirement (B1 + B2 + B3 + B4)	\$ 52,804
C. <u>Minimum Municipal Obligation</u>	
1. Financial Requirement (B5)	\$ 52,804
2. Anticipated Employee Contributions (3.0% of Estimated Payroll)	13,902
3. Funding Adjustment, if any	0
4. Minimum Municipal Obligation (C1 - C2 - C3)	\$ 38,902

NOTES:

1. 2025 General Municipal Pension System State Aid may be used to fund part or all of the municipal obligation and must be deposited within 30 days of receipt. Any remaining balance must be paid from municipal funds.
2. Deposit into the Plan’s assets must be made by December 31, 2025 to avoid an interest penalty.
3. Any delinquent Minimum Municipal Obligation from prior years must be included in the 2025 budget along with an interest penalty.

I hereby certify that the above calculations, to the best of my knowledge, are true, accurate, and conform with the provisions of Chapter 3 of Act 205 of 1984.

Certified By:

Chief Administrative Officer

Date

Prepared using the 2023 Valuation (by PMRS).

2. Crossing Guard Salary

Chairman Becki stated that while he had not been at last month's meeting, he knew that Council had received a letter from the crossing guards requesting an increase in their pay. He went on to explain that the guards are not paid hourly, as the letter implies but by salary that is divided out over the course of the school year pay periods. This was at the request of the guards who wanted a consistent paycheck so that during periods of extended breaks such as Christmas and Easter, they were not short in their pays and could count on a fixed income. So, they are more or less not salary but paid as salaried employees. He also commented on their comments about what neighboring communities are currently paying however, we have learned that the neighboring communities pay crossing guards based on when they actually work and not during holidays, etc. The Borough pays them an amount over 42 weeks of school year, whether they're off for Christmas and Thanksgiving vacation etc. He was requesting for more time to review how many hours and days they actually are on the job to see how we truly compare to our neighbors using crossing guards within our school district. He said perhaps than an adjustment could be made or since we are very close to Budget time, include this in the 2025 budget when we consider other employees pay rates. He also reminded everyone that an annual budget increase is given to these employees as part of the regular budget process. He added that some of the guards are comparing a City of Pittsburgh School Crossing Guard's pay rate versus a small community like Etna. Chairman Becki said that a little more time is needed to work with Manager Ramage and staff to put together some numbers for the council to review, and then we can talk about this again.

President Becki, asked for a motion to table this item, and a motion was made by Councilwoman Tuñón and seconded by Councilwoman Semler. Motion Carried.

3. Public Works Hire

President Becki stated the borough solicited applications some time ago and ended up acquiring basically 17 applications that the committee, which included Mrs. Gabriel, Mr. Iannuzzi and Public Works Director Balistriero reviewed. The number went from 17 and it was cut down to 5 based upon committee recommendations and withdrawals of some of the candidates. He said the committee contacted all 5 individuals and in the end only 2 were still interested in seeking employment with us. Those 2 were interviewed on Wednesday, August 7th, which the Chairman did not attend.

Chairman Becki then turned the discussion over to Councilwoman Gabriel to report. Mrs. Gabriel stated that the committee did the interviews, and they were happy with one candidate in particular. The candidate had a broad range of skills and the committee think he would work well with the rest of the Public Works Department, he seems very hardworking and looking to stick around. The applicant lives locally and is open to working holidays and weekends she added. Public Works Director Balistriero said the candidate knows how to run equipment, knows how the union works, and is also a mechanic and stated that he would recommend the candidate as a good fit for the public works department.

Councilwoman Semler stated that she wanted to clarify that Matthew was not related to her spouse, whose last name was Baltzer. Councilwoman Gabriel stated that the recommended hiring Matthew Balzer.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Semler and second by Councilwoman Tuñón to hire Matthew Balzer for this position. Motion Carried.

4. L.E.R.T.A

President Becki then began a discussion on the proposed L.E.R.T.A for the old Union Hotel building on the corner of Butler and Freeport Streets He added that L.E.R.T.A stands for Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Program. He continued that this program is currently for county, schools, and municipalities including boroughs that are working together with a developer to increase the value of

their property, due to renovations they are making while getting a break on the taxing of the property improvements being invested in the building for a period of time. He asked Manager Ramage to update and report on the program and she stated that it allowed for a tax abatement over a period of time for the improvements being made and invested into the property. This is for improvements after the purchase of the property, so she explained that the Assessed Value was raised at the time of the purchase to the purchase price, so real estate taxes to all three taxing bodies was already increased significantly based on the purchase price which in this case, was roughly 1.3 million dollars. This particular property, she added had been assessed at \$330,000 prior to the sale so the school district, the borough, and the county were getting taxes based on that \$330,000. Consequently with the much higher purchase price all the taxing bodies are immediately getting four times the taxes currently. The L.E.R.T.A allows the new property owner, for a certain period of time, to put investments (rehabilitation, improvements, etc.) into the building and not include those improvements in the taxable assessed value, allowing the new owner to make significant investments in the property with those tax abatements. She stated that in the meeting with the County and School District, the developer stated they intended to invest 5 million dollars into the building renovations/improvements. The L.E.R.T.A. allows for that 5 million dollar investment NOT to be taxed over a period of time but to be clear, all taxing bodies are currently and will for the life of the L.E.R.T.A still get that major increase from the sale of the property. She continued explaining that the developer was looking for a ten year time frame for the L.E.R.T.A., similar to what was provided by the three taxing bodies for the 51 Bridge Street development and asking for the same time period, which was ten years. That L.E.R.T.A. was given 100% abatement on all improvements the first year, and then in the second year, it went to 90% abatement, and a decreasing 10% each year through the ten years, where the developer would then be paying a full 100% of the assessed (new) value of the building with these improvements. The developers shared at that meeting that the plans for improvements included 4 storefronts on the first floors and then 16 apartments above and behind the storefronts, which they would be renovating. Manager Ramage explained that this process was a tool to help investors take a property that needs a significant amount of rehab into older, non-code complaint properties. She added that all three taxing bodies (School, Borough and County) must agree to participating and to the terms of the L.E.R.T.A. She stated that the School District had participated in the Zoom call as well as several council members, and she and Councilwoman Tuñón had attended in person. She also explained that the County was always the “last one in” so that the local taxing bodies could come to agreement on the terms. As part of the process should all parties agree, each governing body has to adopt a resolution laying out the terms, the timeframe and to what the base level is, which will be the purchase price. She finished up explaining that the developers were anxious to begin work on investing in the property so it is desirous that the process formally begin. Solicitor Rushford said the borough has nothing to lose, except on the improvements put into the rehabilitation plan. And he added that the borough, when all is said and done, would be collecting 4 times what they were collecting now just by the purchase of the building. This, to me he added, is a “no brainer”. He concluded stating that this process incentivizes developers to come in and take on these projects, which are very expensive and that are not attractive to many.

5. Draft M.O.U. Etna Commons

Solicitor Rushford stated that Etna Commons is a non-profit and therefore a nontaxable property (real estate taxes) and several years back the Borough and the Commons came an agreement to make an annual payment “in lieu of taxes for the borough providing services to the facility, such as road plowing, sewer line maintenance, police response, fire response and emergency services. He added that those who either follow the news or read the paper, they can see that the City of Pittsburgh has worked hard to try to implement this type of program with some of their nonprofits as these services are essential to these organizations just as they are to residents and other property owners. Solicitor Rushford stated the initial agreement would be expiring at the end of this year and the two parties had negotiated a proposed new Agreement for payments beginning in 2025. He added that the proposed draft would, propose to increase the payment in years 2025 through 2027 to \$12,500.00 annually, in years 2028 through 2030, the annual payment would be \$13,000.00 and in years 2031 through 2034, the payment would be \$13,500.00. He added that if the property were taxable, the tax rate would be \$14,637 and he felt this was a fair agreement.

President Becki stated, in your council packet is a “draft “agreement and if all agree with what is in the draft the borough will move forward with the Common’s new agreement. This draft had also been sent to the Commons for them to propose to their board and the borough was waiting to hear back regarding their feelings on the proposal.

President Becki asked for a motion to allow the proper officials to sign this agreement should the Etna Commons come back to the borough in complete agreement with the draft proposal. The current

Agreement had been in effect for ten years. And he added that nothing else in the language of the proposed draft has changed. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabriel and second by Councilman Trader to authorize signing should the Etna Commons agree to the Draft. Motion carried.

6. Resolution Adopting a Resolution Policy

President Becki stated that last month a request was made for a resolution on the adoption of resolutions by Etna Council to be drafted by the Solicitor. This Draft had been included in the Council packet for tonight's meeting. He added that council had discussed this at the June meeting and this would help to address situations like that which took place this past spring and would lay down some specific guidelines for the council in decision regarding resolutions in the future. He then read the following Draft Resolution and stated that after reading we would open it up for discussion and comments.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ETNA
ADOPTING A COUNCIL RESOLUTION POLICY

"Whereas Borough Council is sometimes requested to take action on matters that stand outside the Borough Service program and policy purview, and

"Whereas Council finds the need to establish a formal policy to restrict its own deliberations on matters that are outside its local policymaking, responsibility or matters where the Council lacks jurisdiction or substantial influence; and

"Whereas the within policy provides a framework for deliberations to maintain borough resources and public time, focused on matters related to issues directly impacting the Borough of Etna.

"Now, therefore, to be resolved, the Council of the Borough of Etna hereby adopts the attached "Council Resolution Policy" as set forth below.

"Resolved and Adopted this 20th day of August, 2024 by the Council of the Borough Etna".

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF ETNA

//Mary Ellen Ramage, Borough Manager

//David Becki, President of Council

Solicitor Rushford stated this was developed to try to explain that there are some things in the Borough Code, State law, County law or our own laws that requires us to act on and sometimes there are things that sound good but they're outside of our preview, or outside or area of expertise, or outside of our knowledge or ability to fully investigate the matter. Consequently, he had developed this Resolution in response to some of Council's requests and concerns for the future.

Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney stated that while something may be outside of Council's purview that perhaps Council may still want to address and adopt something regardless. She also asked that she understood that we were going to perhaps put a timeframe on such matters to give everybody a certain amount of time, just as an example for 2 months, to review before voting on matter such as these. She had thought Council had discussed but this was not necessarily putting down on paper. She thought that perhaps that could be part of the policy going forward like this Resolution allowing Council to decide on if the particular matter would be considered to know whether Council agreed that it was outside of their purview. She wondered if that needed that stated in the resolution or as an attachment to this to this resolution.

A motion was made by councilwoman Tuñón and seconded by Councilwoman Schaefer to adopt the foregoing Resolution. The motion carried with three Nay Votes from Councilwoman Semler, Councilwoman McElhaney and Councilman Iannuzzi.

Mrs. McElhaney felt that a time frame should be included and President Becki stated so noted, but unfortunately the motion passes 6 to 3. He also stated that perhaps Council could talk to see if there's some way we can deal with the concerns of those who voted against the resolution adoption.

7. Bridge Street / Freeport Street

President Becki then brought up for discussion the recent Bridge Street and Freeport Street One Way draft traffic study. He continued by saying that this idea had been brought up many times, including by concerned residents for many years. He stated the borough has received a lot of complaints, and the council has had a lot of concerns about these roads also. The borough contacted PENNDOT with these concerns because Freeport Street is a State-owned Street and added that the borough can't do anything

with state roads. This study that was provided to all of Council will be also reviewed by PENNDOT for their comments. He said that basically, the study states the turning the street into a one way, will establish a counterclockwise flow. Meaning Freeport Street will be one way down from Butler Street and Bridge Street will be one way up to Butler Street and it will require some modifications of traffic signals. There will be white lines painted indicating stop here on red and it will also change where people on Freeport use crosswalks. This will also change the direction of the cars parked on Bridge Street to the factory side, because traffic will be coming up towards Butler Street. He added that no change to parking on Freeport Street would be needed. According to the study, the borough will actually pick up more parking spaces on both streets. This will not be acted on until the Borough hears back from PennDOT. He also added that with cars diagonally parking on Bridge Street, there is a possibility of gaining more parking spaces than was available from parallel parking.

Manager Ramage reported that she did not know how many spaces could be gained by the diagonal parking, when asked by the President. She also stated that she was still waiting to hear back from Duquesne Light on moving three of their poles on the factory side of the street. This was taking quite a bit of time as there are five lines on each of those poles and Duquesne Light could not easily identify the top two lines (which company they belonged to). The thought was that perhaps those poles could be moved to the other side of the street to provide additional room along the curb line on the factory side. She added that that entire sidewalk on that side was going to be replaced soon by the Developer. The sidewalk is wider than it needs to be. There is also a large wall all the way down that sticks out about 18 inches and that was being proposed to be removed as part of that new sidewalk installation. She added that with these proposals there may still be the ability or the potential for diagonal parking. She added that the poles could not be moved until an agreement is reached with each company that has lines on the poles, and that we would cover the cost of moving them, if all agreed. She said it was well over seven months now for Duquesne Light to identify those companies with those top two lines. Mrs. McElhaney stated that she felt that was quite unbelievable.

President Becki said in summary, to get the telephone poles moved, and the recognition that 51 Bridge Street may not need that sidewalk to be as wide as now is, the borough might gain another 18 inches to 24 inches. Then would that allow diagonal parking, which could possibly double the number of parking spots. The borough could move forward with these changes immediately, or after we host meetings with the residents and the business owners. The sidewalks are in the future and the borough will be visiting this again. Manager Ramage stated that this had been discussed as well but added that the cost of moving the polls, the last estimate she had been given by Duquesne Light was \$90,000 to move 3 poles. The borough realizes how much additional parking this would give our business district. She added that parking in the business district was a topic of conversation constantly and stated that when the borough put the little public parking lot near the Town Clock on Butler Street it had spent \$42,000 to put in 11 spots and that was almost 20 years ago. She added that PENNDOT was reviewing the Study and would reach back out to the Borough.

8. Public Meeting Comment Policy

President Becki asked Solicitor Rushford to update Council about the proposed policy to be drafted. Solicitor Rushford indicated that the Borough was interested in developing a written policy covering the subject of meeting procedures, in particular public comments, and so forth. The State Act outlines as to what the borough can and cannot allow, but Council felt it is necessary to put a local policy together explaining our particular procedures and that there was no action needed at this time but all should review and provide any comments.

President Becki added that it seemed like the Borough needs more and more things in black and white. Adopting such a policy would allow everybody entering the building to know what is allowed and what's not. And concluded that this was not meant to restrict anybody or prevent anything from happening. It's just informal procedures and to make it apparent to everybody.

9. Fee Resolution

President Becki stated that another item was found that should have been included on the Fee Resolution that the Borough recently adopted which is the cost of a duplicate real estate tax bill. The Tax Collector suggested that the fee be \$10 for duplicate real estate tax bill. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabriel, seconded by Councilman Trader that the following resolution be adopted. Motion Carried.

OFFICIAL
BOROUGH OF ETNA
RESOLUTION NO. _____

A Resolution repealing in entirety Resolution 1395K, dated June 18, 2024, and adopting certain fees/charges assessed to the public for services rendered by the Borough of Etna:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the following list of fees/charges will become effective immediately:

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	
Zoning Permit	\$ 50.00	
Rental Registration	\$ 90.00	every 3 years
Sign Permit*	\$ 60.00	
*except when building permit required.		
Zoning Ordinance/Map	\$ 10.00	
Borough Map	\$ 10.00	
No Lien Letter	\$ 30.00	
Occupancy Registration	\$ 50.00	
NSF Check	\$ 30.00	
Police Report	\$ 15.00	
Police Video	\$ 25.00	
Fingerprinting, Resident	\$ 10.00	
Fingerprinting, Non-Resident	\$ 20.00	
Zoning Hearing Fee , Resident	\$ 400.00	
Zoning Hearing Fee , Non-Resident	\$ 650.00	
Time of Sale Inspections:		
Single-Family	\$ 30.00	
Duplex through 4 Units	\$ 50.00	
Above 4 Units	\$ 75.00	
Commercial	\$ 75.00	
Combination – Commercial/Residential	\$100.00	
Industrial	\$125.00	
Tax Certificate	\$ 35.00	
Duplicate Real Estate Tax Bill	\$ 10.00	

Resolved by the Council of the Borough of Etna this _____ day of August, 2024.

David J. Becki, Chairman

ATTEST:

Mary Ellen Ramage, Secretary-Manager

EXAMINED AND APPROVED by me this _____ day of June, 2024.

Robert Tuñón, Mayor

I certify that this is a true and correct copy of the official proceedings of the Council of the Borough of Etna.

Mary Ellen Ramage,
Secretary-Manager

10. C.D.B.G. Grant Paving

President Becki stated that this grant was one the borough has been working on for maybe three or four years now.

Manager Ramage, explained that she had been submitting grants for through the Community Development Block Grant Program for some paving work in the Block Group 2, which is the only area that is eligible for these funds as it is a low to moderate area. The streets that are in this Block Group 2 are Dewey Street, Wilson Steet, Vilsack area, and adjacent alleys. This particular grant for the paving of Sheridan Alley, Pine Alley and Pine Street was finally awarded this year. The grant amount awarded is \$94,150. The borough's engineers have looked at this project several times with a cost estimate of \$98,100, plus another \$32,000 in engineering fees. Those figures are from 2021. The firm will need to develop the specifications for advertising through the North Hills COG. She also added that to get this grant, household surveys had to be taken at each home in the area benefit. She was grateful that she had several council members assist her in getting these surveys completed. They require door-to-door inquiries and are best taken after work hours and on the weekends to ensure the residents are home. The County requires virtually 100% participation in order to qualify for the grant. She stated that she would like to thanks Councilwomen Gabriel and Semler for assisting her with getting these surveys completed over several weekends and evenings. The engineers work authorization for this work was for \$25,000.00. Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney made a motion seconded by Ms. Semler that the Borough issue the work authorization. Motion Carried.

11. G.E.D.F. Grant Resolution

President Becki stated that applications were now due, and the Borough intended to apply for additional funds for the Dewey Street Sewer Separation project as the two grants currently received (ALCOSAN GROW for \$683,000.00 and the Small Water Sewer Project Grants for \$205,000.00) have been determined not to be enough to cover the recent cost estimate. He added that the borough engineer stated that with today's costs, the borough needs to come up with another 275,000. Manager Ramage explained that this project was vital to Consent Order Compliance and she felt would help alleviate the basement sewer backups during heavy rain events like those in April.

President Becki said that a motion was needed to make application through Allegheny County, G.E.D.F. program for the remaining balance with a not-to-exceed amount of \$300,000.00. The Manager explained that she was waiting for the final cost estimate to complete the amount. A motion was made by Councilwoman Tuñón and second by councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney. Motion carried.

President Becki stated that speaking of money, the Borough has been chasing a project for quite a while and for those of you that haven't read the paper for the last 10 years, Alcosan doesn't like storm water to go into their sewage water and as part of the Consent Order, all have to do projects to remove this when they are aware of this. So, he added, that the entire county is under a mandate to remove storm water from their sewage water. The borough's, sewer system, is a combined system with permitted CSO's (Combined Sewer Overflows that we have to reduce the amount overflowing into the stream.

Manager Ramage is working with Alcosan to identify the lines on Dewey Street that have a shared sewer lines and many house have these lines affected. She just heard Alcosan say \$900,000 to dig up the borough current lines and to put in a second line which would only be for storm water. Storm water does not go under our creeks. The borough is trying to pursue that it's actually required of us under consent order to we and every other municipality in the office Sand Basin has agreed to, and we need to get this implemented soon unfortunately, again. The borough has applied for this money and has put estimates together and low and behold. All of a sudden, no construction estimates we've received for the last 3 years have even been close to reality. So, she pointed out her management studies. The borough roughly \$270,000 shy of the rough estimate. She is finding a source of money. Again, I congratulate her for that as always. The borough wishes to apply for G.E.D.F., with a not to exceed \$350,000. She added that she was working with the engineer and Alcosan to seek other avenues of additional funding, and this one was identified. This resolution was needed for the application, she added. She stated she included the Public Safety reports about basement backups on April 1st and April 3rd, all of which were on the lower end of Dewey Street and were caused by the extreme rainfall those days. She thanked Chief Rodman who helped her with the tracking down of all the basements backup reports for those that had to be pumped out by the fire department.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Tuñón and second by Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney to adopt the resolution of support with a not-to-exceed \$350,000.00 amount. All Aye, Motion carried.

CONCURRING RESOLUTION

The purpose of the Resolution form is to have on record a statement confirming that the applicant has formally requested a grant, has designated an official to perform the required duties between the applicant and the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County ("RAAC"), has authorized the execution and delivery of any and all agreements between the applicant and RAAC, and has assured, where applicable, the provision of local matching funds. In addition, the applicant will comply with all other provisions of the application.

Resolution of the Borough of Etna Authorizing
Name of Applicant
 the filing of an application for funds with the RAAC.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Etna is
Name of Applicant
 desirous of obtaining funds from the RAAC in the amount of \$ 287,427.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Etna
Name of Applicant
 does hereby formally request a grant from the RAAC for the Dewey St. Sewer Separation
Name of Project
 project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough of Etna does hereby
Name of Applicant
 designate Lynne Eklund (the "Authorized Official") as the official to file all applications,
Authorized Official documents, and forms between
 the North Hills Council of Governments and the RAAC.
Name of Applicant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant is hereby authorized to enter into the Grant Contract between the applicant and RAAC (the "Grant Contract") and any and all documents relating to the Grant Contract as may be required or necessary (said Grant Contract and other documents are collectively referred to as the "Grant Documents").

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the execution and delivery of the Grant Documents as well as all other agreements, writings and documents (and all changes, modifications and additions thereto) executed and delivered in connection with the transactions contemplated thereby be and hereby are approved and ratified and that the Authorized Official be and hereby is authorized to execute and deliver such documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough of Etna
Name of Applicant
assures, where applicable, the provision of the full local share of the project costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough of Etna
Name of Applicant
assures, that the project will be awarded or under construction within 180 days after contractual execution.

Adopted this 20th day of August 2024, by the Council of Etna Borough

ATTEST: D. Becki
Signature (Must not be same as Authorized Official)

Dave Becki, President
Title

Manage Ramage said she just has a couple of things to add to her Manager’s report. She had attended a joint meeting with Millvale and Sharpsburg on some potential funding for the Reconnecting Communities federal grant. She added that Sharpsburg was not interested, she guesses they’re going their own route through the developer of the old scrap yard, but she was having a meeting with Friends of the Riverfront (FOR) who have received some funding to provide technical assistance for applying for a through this program. She stressed that any application that included Etna would need to include the Ganster Street area; connecting to Ganster Street to the rest of the community in a safer manner. FOR had offered to provide the technical assistance to complete this application. She added that renewals were taken care of for several of the borough’s insurance policies for professional liability insurance and that they have been renewed on time. She added that there were slight increases in the policies premiums which are based on recent claim activity. She added that there could be a change coming to how Council viewed the bill list based on the new financial system with Mt. Lebanon. Currently, the bills are placed at Council seats and are signed off on by two council members. She added that she wanted them to think about getting a report and a password to our new Stampli program where you could go in there and see the invoice and sign off on it there with an approval. The borough will then not be copying them all of the invoices and this could save time and monies on the copies. She added that this wasn’t happening immediately but it was coming the in near future and she wanted to have Council become familiar with the idea. She added that there would need to be a cutoff list on approving the bills so that the list for the council packet could be completed by Friday before the meeting. She added that the council list would need be the signed off on the Wednesday before the council meeting. Any bills received after that which were due before the next Council meeting sign-off would then be put in for payment with the biweekly payroll. President Becki stated that he was in favor of the code enforcement software package seeing how our code Enforcement officers have changed over the years and having to fight the competitive salaries they receive elsewhere and so forth. He stated that it seems like a great idea to have a code enforcement software package that is standardized. He asked if there were any other comments on that and council agreed that this would be a good avenue to pursue.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Iannuzzi passed reporting this evening.

Ms. Councilwoman Semler provided and update on the Human Relations Commission (HRC) and stated that they will be meeting tomorrow evening. She added that HRC has a game night every 3rd Wednesday, 7 to 9 pm. at various locations now that the Pop Up Library could not be used due to renovations occurring. This month’s location was Monarch Studios and the HRS will be provided pizza which is purchased at one of the Etna businesses. She also stated that she had several people ask her why the event was called Queer Game night and she felt it was a great question. So, she wanted to offer some clarification about why, specifically, these nights are called queer game nights. While it's called queer game night, she added first of all, anyone attending did not have to be part of the LGBTQ+ community to attend. She continued that anyone, no matter age, gender or whatever are welcome. She said it's really important that folks who are marginalized have a space where they can feel confident that they will not be exposed to discrimination, criticism, harassment, etc. and that it is equally important to have an explicitly

named space that way folks can know that they can attend and feel safe, and that's increasingly rare for queer folks. She stated that there is not any explicitly queer spaces in the area, and this is a place where folks can come and feel safe. Folks will come and play some games and if they want to talk about different things, they can and added that the HRC has educational materials provided as well.

Manager Ramage thanked Ms. Semler for sharing this information as the office does get inquiries about this issue just recently due to the article in the newsletter.

Councilwoman Semler said events marked open to all, such as Community Day, that doesn't signal to a lot of people who are in different situations, where they're marginalized or discriminated against that they specifically are welcome as well. She added that this event is explicitly a place where we hope folks can feel safe and other people, people of any identity are welcome to come, but are expected to be respectful and for those attending not to have to explain their identities or what they go through, etc. She finished up by stating that if anyone has any questions, they can email Etnahrc@gmail.com. and one of the great members of the Commission would love to answer your questions, because that's part of why HRC is here to have conversations and educate.

Councilwomen Schaefer passed this evening in report.

Councilwoman Tuñón just shared that the free summer lunch program had just wrapped on this past Friday and that it was really successful. This year they were able to serve even more kids than last year and averaged about 30 kids a day, and some fun activities were also held in the playground, most of the week, so that kids who were utilizing the lunch program also had some fun activities to do in the summertime. She said it was only possible because of the really great volunteers who showed up every Monday through Friday, and passed out lunches and helped clean up, and who gave their attention to the kids and their needs. She stated she had had a really busy summer with the library projects so she was not able to be there as much for the volunteers really stepped up.

Councilwoman Gabriel reported that tomorrow is the first virtual story traveling event for the Heart and Soul program and will take place at the Garden of Etna from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. She said that volunteers, will be interviewing people who come to the garden asking what Etna means to them. There'll be pizza and salad and if you are planning on coming, we'd love to get a RSVP by emailing etnaheartandsoul@gmail.com and kids are welcome as well. She reminded everyone to fill out their Heart and Soul card that was in the newsletter.

Manager Ramage stated that participation is important as this information can be included in an Amendment or update to the Borough's Comprehensive Plan. She stated that the boroughs plan is ten years old and this would help in updating what people thought ten years ago.

Councilwoman Gabriel said the whole point of the program is to bring people together and that they haven't reached before, and the group also is doing auto recording and video recording as an option. So, you don't have to be videoed or recorded at all if you did not want to be. Her last plus was for yoga which finishes September 12th.

Councilman Trader passed in report as well.

Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney stated that Deck hockey was going ok. She added that they were going to have a registration event on Saturday at Playground 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. She asked if anyone knows somebody who's interested in playing or helping out you can have them come see her up at the playground at the upcoming event. She then said the next event is the Community Care Fair coming up in October on October 5th which is the after the Chili Cook Off.

Mayor Tuñón stated that the community day was last month and everybody who's a part of Neighborhood Association did such a wonderful job and he was grateful and appreciative of that. To our staff that were there, just naming out police, fire, EMS, public works and the office staff did really incredible work. He added that many of the departments are short staffed right now, and doing a great job. He also wanted to mention his gratitude for all of the collaboration around the Mayor Tom Rengers' Day. He thanked Manager Ramage and Councilwoman Tuñón for all the extra effort put into that and everybody who hosted an event. Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney and everybody did so much, including public works, police, and fire and especially thanks for giving the call for the dance party which was so well received. He added that just before the meeting this evening he got a letter addressed to both himself Council which he then read. "Dear Mayor Tunon and Borough Council, thanks to all of you for making Mayor Ranger's Day so beautiful and special. His family and I are forever grateful, sincerely Sandy

Rengers". He then stated someone served the community for as long as he did we are all so thankful for. His last comment is just around the library and the construction, and that Manager Ramage and Councilwoman Tuñón and our board are working very hard to get the funds released from HUD.

Solicitor Rushford stated that he was working on the ordinance which dealt the parking on streets and specifically the trailers with parking on some of these narrow streets such as Freeport and Bridge Streets. He was working with the Chief on this. Council was asked to review the draft as it will be advertised for adoption. He added that if anyone has concerns, suggestions, or request changes to please let him know. He added that he will be prepared to answer questions at the next council meeting. He added that there are red line changes.

President Becki said at this time Council would accept comments from the public, and they are limited to 5 minutes. If anyone wished to address council on anything you heard tonight or any other matter. He stated that if anybody had any comments, please stand up, identify yourself, and let us know what you have to address.

Judith Koch from Oakland Street addressed council again because she felt the need to explain herself and her reasoning regarding the ceasefire resolution. She stated that her desire to push for this came from a place of love for humanity. She added that she did not mean to cause any division inside the community. When she is speaking, she added, that part of her experience is with being German and being from Germany and the awful things that happened there with the Holocaust and added that she is one generation removed from my people committing the holocaust. She said while that is very unique, it's a very difficult place to be when you're growing up. She added that no one is putting her up to do this and no one was giving her talking points on this. She added that Palestinians are human, and they deserve the same things that we all want, shelter, health, safety, food water, and education for their children. She shared with council again that when she was a teenager, she met a holocaust survivor made a promise to that holocaust survivor. She said she will stand up for justice. She added that when she was growing up, she had to examine her family and learned that her mother on her mother's side of the family and her family were all coal miners. Even her mom worked in the coal mine for a little while as a secretary in the office. Her family built a network and would bring people secretly home into their homes and they risked their lives by putting up posters and flyers against the Nazi regime, and they could have died for this. When she learned this, she said she was proud of them she had to continue their work to help protect others. She finished by saying she has been an activist since she was a teenager, and perhaps that is news to many. She said she engages in actions because she is not being heard by the people that govern her and she has been heard by this council when they adopted the Ceasefire Resolution. And, her voice is now on record that she is against sending weapons to Israel, and that is really all she wants. She added that what is happening is genocide. She then thanked everyone for allowing her to speak this to them.

Jesse Dubin who lives on Cherry Street was the next speaker who acknowledged Judith and her words and her own personal history, and especially the ties that she has to Germany. So, it meant a lot to hear her words. Jesse then asked about the Heart and Soul program which was with all the responses received would there be a data analytic plan of this information and is it being analyzed with qualitative data? Jesse stated that an invitation to volunteer was extended to all which may be considered. The next steps in the process were then outlined which included information on the story listening team who will go back and listen to the recordings and listen for patterns and start marking down those sorts of patterns and the from there we'll be able to update information in the Comp plan. Jesse's job was as a volunteer researcher, led by Emily King. Jesse Dubin understood that the proposed Resolution on Resolutions was based upon feedback from the ceasefire resolution. President Becki responded that this was correct.

Jesse Dublin said then wondered if the borough has a process now in place for determining if something is within the Council's purview or jurisdiction?

President Becki said, the Council has a substantial influence over things that occur in Etna but reminded that Council has no control over in the way of national and international interests or policy. He said the resolution was basically just reminding council that we are all here to implement state, county, and local regulations and run the government services and issues that are being beyond the influence of this community are encouraged not to be necessarily brought here.

Jesse asked then who would make the determination if it is in council's realm. President Becki said that it is detailed in the resolution as to what type of state, county, and other acts the borough is following such as what the Mayor's role is what the Manager's role is, what the Council's role is, what the tax collector's role is, so that would be the determination which are detailed in the Borough Code. He added that this is

what Elected and Appointed officials are to follow. Jesse asked if the resolution that Council passed tonight had been in place back in February, would that have prevented the ceasefire resolution from being brought up or passed.

President Becki said, probably yes it would have but not necessarily. That is why he added that he asked for that statement that if we were to be presented with something that is outside of our purview, that we do have the ability to consider that but that there is a process in place to consider it so.

Jesse Dublin added remembering Manager Ramage giving a report on the budget and how well the borough was doing because the borough has judicious about what they can spend time and money on. They/Them added that it just seemed to them that this resolution that was passed tonight wouldn't have prevented the resolution from being adopted and that the Resolution tonight doesn't outline new methods and mechanisms for a review process of the subject matters and then would this just be a waste of time to review; and added that if it isn't broke, should we be spending time fixing it by adopting this resolution and new process.

President Becki thanked him for speaking and said he would invite council feedback. He added that certainly, council had a meet to discuss this as it was on the Agenda previously and it was decided that the solicitor draw up this resolution. He continued on saying that all Council had reviewed, and council all agreed it was a nice set of guidelines that are in front of them this evening for action. He said it's a council procedure we've put in place.

Nicole Stemple who lives on Hickory Street posed a question which was if there is disagreement as to whether or not something is of importance to the community should be voted on and under the new guidelines of what is under the Etna Borough Councils purview amongst council members how does Council determine whether or not you can act on it. She wondered did Council vote to decide if it was under their purview or not? President Becki said, no, not necessarily and added that votes can only be taken in public meetings, but council can discuss issues as they come before them and decide whether they go on the agenda or not. Nicole Stemple said if Council discusses it amongst themselves, but don't vote, and you're not unanimous, then who determines whether or not it comes to the public.

President Becki said, again, Council will discuss something like this between each other, perhaps one on one or one on two. As an instance he said perhaps Ms. Semler will call him about something she wants to do, or Danielle will have a question. He said the exact details were not worked out but this would be the guide in determining that and that Council was setting down procedures to try to follow. They are not firm and rigid. The Borough, he added can't stop 1st amendment rights, your right to speak. Council is trying to lay some guidelines. He added that in the aftermath of the adoption of the Ceasefire Resolution, the borough was criticized for not reaching out to enough of the community to speak on behalf of, which is what the resolution was. He added that back then, the borough wasn't sure how to reach out to more of the community in this process at that time.

Jesse Dublin said this is what they were referring to and understood this to be a policy that was not set but in hearing President Becki speak, they are hearing Mr. Becki say that this isn't actually strict guidelines for how Council would do this but this left them still unsure as to what the process is for determining what is and what isn't in the realm of Council to support. Jesse concluded with it appeared to sound as if Council didn't agree on something then this would possibly go back to the residents. President Becki told Jesse to continue coming to council meetings, and added that this is where council is going to get things done.

Jesse said if nobody has something that they want to bring up and it's, this seems like a nebulous decision being made behind closed doors and not in public, or discussions amongst council as to whether or not to consider an item or not but hearing this evening's conversation, they heard that this would happen in public but that seemed to contradict the comment that some may discuss amongst themselves. President Becki stated that if the will of Council is to consider it, then it will move forward and if the will of council is not to consider it, then we'll not move it forward. Jesse said that they all would like to have more clarity on the timeline to discuss that, to bring things forward and added that that they were aware the Resolution was already voted on but it was mentioned tonight of an addendum or a second resolution, or whatever Council wanted to call it, and those speaking wanted to have more absolute clarity to Council's process. Jesse finished up with the hope that Council will pursue further clarification of this policy and thanked everyone for listening.

With no one else wishing to speak, President Becki asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Councilwoman Schaefer and seconded by Councilman Trader. All Aye, Motion carried.

Time: 9:07 p.m.

Mary Ellen Ramage

Mary Ellen Ramage, Secretary

~~*Sept. 17, 2024*~~ *Mer*

Date

Mary Ellen Ramage
November 19, 2024