

ETNA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th, 2024, at 7:30 P.M
For approval on October 15th, 2024

The regular meeting of the Etna Borough Council was held on September 17th, 2024. Chairman Becki presided and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Roll was called, and members present were Ms. Semler Ms. Schaefer, Mrs. Tuñón, Chairman Becki, Mrs. Gabriel, Mr. Trader, Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney, Mr. Burke and Mr. Iannuzzi was absent. Also present were Mayor Tuñón, Police Chief Rodman, Administrative Assistant Birks, Public Works Director Joe Balistrieri, Assistant Fire Todd Lunn, Shaler Hampton EMS Executive Director Eric Schmidt, and Solicitor Assistant Ben Orsatti. Manager Ramage was absent due to illness.

Mayor Tuñón led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabriel and seconded by Councilman Trader to accept the Minutes as written. Motion Carried.

President 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	\$	1,114,202.14
Fund 05 Education Account	\$	275.07
Fund 03 Payroll Account	\$	887.50
Fund 04 Police Fund	\$	20,472.10
Fund 21 Hockey	\$	4,001.71
Fund 30 Capital Improvement	\$	-----
Fund 33 Christmas	\$	5,912.67
Fund 34 Etna Senior Center Fund	\$	6,470.60
Fund 35 Liquid Fuels Account	\$	70,127.88
Fund 36 War Memorial Fund	\$	5,358.26
Fund 38 Sanitary Trunk Line Account	\$	163,181.37
Fund 39 Middle Street Escrow Account	\$	6,634.41
Fund 42 Capital Reserve	\$	335,344.22
Fund 44 Sewer Account	\$	87,964.32
Fund 45 Project Escrow Account	\$	CLOSED
Fund 46 Riverfront Park & Trail	\$	485.24
Fund 48 Etna Green Streetscape	\$	21.96
Fund 50 GI Account	\$	1,195.34
Fund 51 Fire Escrow Account	\$	33,825.75
Fund 52 Infrastructure Account	\$	97.69
Fund 53 Youth & Recreation Fund	\$	4,486.34
Fund 54 American Rescue	\$	348,142.15

A motion to accept and file the Treasurer's Report was made by Councilwoman Gabriel and seconded by Councilwoman Schaefer. 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	\$	463,474.12
Total Bills Paid	\$	347,994.96
Total Balance Due	\$	115,479.76

A motion to pay the bills was made by Councilman Trader and seconded by Councilman Burke. Motion carried.

Police Chief's Report

Police Chief Rodman provided his monthly report which included: August Stats, next Police committee meeting is scheduled for October 1st, theft of Package, Borough check fraud, playground incident, and fall gun qualifications.

Public Works Directors Report

Public Works Director Joe Balistrieri submitted his monthly report which included: replaced collapsed catch basin and sidewalk at the corner of Dewey and Greenly Streets, repaired the following roads Farmerie, High and Morelock Streets, painted crosswalk, painted the low and of pool and prepared for next year's opening, maintenance of playground, Riverfront Park, and Nature Trail, weekly street sweeping and garbage collection, contracted tree removal company to remove trees on Winschel Street and behind Borough garage, satisfied all complaints and request submitted during the past month, purchased truck bed to replace the rusted Borough pick-up truck bed, sprayed, dragged and cut the ballfield multiple times, displayed flags on Butler Street to honor September 11th, obtained donated sewer riser from Shaler Township Public Works to replace the damaged sewer on Snyder Street, assisted Sharpsburg with our newly purchased sewer camera to inspect a collapsed sewer line, marked flood warning signs to be installed throughout the Borough and the new public works employee started.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Richard Minsterman had provided their monthly report which included the following: Source Flow Reduction Consent Order Compliance, CDBG Year 50 Paving Contract Administration / Inspections, Dewey & Spring Street Sewer Separation Project, Streetscape Phase 4, Streetscape Phase 5.1, Streetscape Phase 5.2, Act 152 County Demolition Grant, and Etna 2024 MS4 Program.

Fire Department Report

Etna Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD) Chief Porter provided the monthly report which included the following: Severe Weather & National Disaster 1, False Alarm & False Call 6, Good Intent Call 6, Service Call 1, Hazardous Condition (No Fire) 4, Rescue & Emergency Medical Service 20, Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat – no fire 1, Fires 11, and Total Incidents 46

Hampton Shaler EMS Report

Hampton Shaler EMS Report was provided by Director Eric Schmidt and included the following information: 60 Calls for August, 26 transported ALS, 12 Transported BLS, 3 canceled, 3 canceled in route, 1 lift assist, 3 DOA, and 9 Refused. The average response time is 5.3 Minutes. He added that the update on the annual subscription for Etna is \$14,095. He added that the homecoming at Shaler is this Saturday along with the Art Block Party in Etna and HSEMS would be on hand for both and on October 5th the EMS will have a Hands Only CPR class.

Agenda

1. Proposed Trailer Ordinance

President Becki stated that at the August meeting Council asked the solicitor to draft an ordinance to make proposed changes to the several borough ordinances dealing with sidewalks and streets. He added that this draft ordinance had been provided to all as part of their packets. He asked if there were any questions or comments on the Draft provided by Solicitor Rushford, and there were none. He then asked for a motion to advertise for the adoption of the new proposed amendment to the ordinances. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabriel and second by Councilman Trader to advertise the Ordinance. Motion Carried.

2. Open Public Comment Policy

President Becki said that an Open Public Comment Policy has been drawn up by the solicitor and all the members on council have received the draft proposed policy. He added that once this policy has been finalized and adopted, it will be placed on the borough's website. He stated that this would be the policy that council will follow going forward, once adopted. This policy details how public comment will occur at the Council meetings. One of the proposed additions to the Policy will be the inclusion of Etna taxpayers and Etna business owners as also included in those permitted to formally address council.

Councilwoman Gabriel added that these procedures will take place in the public comment part of the agenda /meeting. Councilwoman Semler asked if the protocol needed changed would that come from all council or individual council members. Secondly, what if there is a person that wants to speak during the public comment period and does not meet the guidelines. Lastly on the back page, second to the last paragraph, can they/them be used instead of the pronoun, he. Councilwoman Schaefer asked if the speaking time could increase from three (3) minutes to seven (7) minutes. Solicitor Rushford said that these are guidelines and can be adjusted as the circumstance requires and the President could add additional time if he felt it warranted. The fifth bullet that detailed a limit of thirty minute time frame for all public comment was discussed and this was amended to say the time frame may be extended to a period not to exceed sixty minutes.

President Becki said that there will be a revised document sent out before next month's meeting which would include these additions and changes.

3. Agreement of Potential Sale- 30 Pine Street

President Becki then began a discussion on the Potential purchase of property by the borough at 30 Pine Street. He added that about twenty years ago, the borough building got severely flooded and moving to an alternate location had always been discussed but opportunities were limited. The property at 30 Pine Street, next to the Borough playground recently came up for sale and this property was not in the floodplain as the current building is. He added this his would also give the police department more room for individual office space, lockers and bathrooms. The borough has a long standing relationship with the seller, Forms and Surfaces. The borough is not able to disclose, at this time, the proposed sale price being negotiated as per the solicitor's advice and to prohibit a bidding war should some other proposed buyer appear. He stated that council had a draft Sales Agreement before them to be considered. The Borough would be considering a bond issue for this purchase and needs to engage bond counsel and financial advisors to assist with this purchase.

President Becki asked for a motion to be made for the borough to enter into a draft sales agreement for this purchase. A motion was made Councilwoman Semler and second by Councilwoman Tuñón, Motion Carried.

4. Potential Bond Issue / Reimbursement Resolution

President Becki said the engagement letter of the bond counsel and the reimbursement resolution are necessary steps in the bond financing for the possible purchase discussed in Item 3. He stated that the reimbursement resolution essentially allows the borough to recover expenses for the project made and paid for prior to the financing coming through. Bond issuance, he added, is a common method for municipalities to utilize as it is normally a tax-free investment. He concluded that the borough is looking to hire a consultant experienced in the Municipal Bond sale.

President Becki asked for a motion to authorize the adoption of the following Reimbursement Resolution to move forward with the municipal bond issue. A motion is made by Councilwoman Tuñón and seconded by Councilwoman Semler that the following Resolution be adopted:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF ETNA
ADOPTED _____, 2024

WHEREAS, Borough of Etna (Allegheny County, Pennsylvania) (the "Borough") is currently undertaking one or more capital projects or capital expenditures, as further described herein, and wishes to make declarations regarding the reimbursement of general operating and/or capital reserve funds which may be expended in furtherance of the same, which will, in turn, be funded by the issuance of tax-exempt obligations to be issued in the future; and

WHEREAS, said capital project or capital expenditures consists of the purchase of real estate, and the construction and equipping of renovations, repairs and improvements to the existing structure thereon, in order to serve as a new municipal building (collectively, the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, Treasury Regulation §1.150-2 (the "Reimbursement Regulations"), issued pursuant to Section 150 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (the "Code") prescribes certain requirements by which proceeds of tax-exempt bonds, notes, certificates or other obligations included in the meaning of "bonds" under Section 150 of the Code ("Obligations")--used to reimburse advances made for capital expenditures paid before the issuance of such Obligations--may be deemed "spent" for purposes of Sections 103 and 141 to 150 of the Code and, therefore, not further subject to any other requirements or restrictions under those sections of the Code; and

WHEREAS, such Reimbursement Regulations require that the Borough make a declaration of official intent (as hereinafter defined) to reimburse any capital expenditure paid prior to the issuance of the Obligations intended to fund such capital expenditure and require that such declaration of official intent be made no later than sixty (60) days after payment of the capital expenditure and further require that any reimbursement allocation of the proceeds of such Obligations to reimburse such capital expenditures occur no later than eighteen (18) months after the later of the date such capital expenditure was paid or the date the property acquired with the capital expenditure was placed in service, except that any such reimbursement allocation must be made no later than three years after such capital expenditure was paid; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has already expended, or may soon expend, certain general operating and/or capital reserve funds for costs of portions of the Project, which has a total reasonably estimated cost of \$[4,000],000;

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to ensure compliance with the Reimbursement Regulations.

5. Police Policy Updates

President Becki said that Solicitors Rushford and Orsatti had met with the police committee, and they provided the Committee an updated Memo regarding proposed Lexipol Police Policy Updates which Chief Rodman had submitted to the committee. This Memo was provided to all Council with this month's materials. They had provided a Memo to the Committee that stated basically that they agreed the proposed updates were compliant with state law "with the exception of one recommended deletion of a reference to a suspended/demoted/terminated officer's appeal rights". The Memo went on to state that the prior provision had incorrectly referenced the Second Class Township Code which would have presented a due process problem in terms of civil rights, and was slated for deletion. They therefore recommended amendment of the deleted section in accordance with the Borough Code and civil service rules. Other additions/corrections were made to the following Sections: 1007.1 (Purpose and Scope); 1007.2 (Policy); 1007.3(Personnel Complaints);1007.3.1(Complaint Classifications);1007.3.2(Sources of Complaints); 1007.4(Availability and Acceptance of Complaints); 1007.4.1; (Complaint forms) 1007.4.2(Acceptance);1007.5(Documentation);1007.6 (Administrative Investigations);1007.6.2 (Administrative Investigation Procedures); 1007.6.3(Administrative Investigation Format); 1007.6.4(Depositions); 1007.6.5(Completion of Investigations); 1007.6.6(Notice to Complainant of Investigation Status); 1007.7(Administrative Services); 1007.8 (Administrative Leave);1007.9 (Criminal Investigation); 1007.9.1 (Confidence in Law Enforcement Act); 1007.10(Post-Administrative Investigation Procedures); 1007.10.1(Chief of Police Responsibilities); 1007.10.2)Written Decision); 1007.10.3(Notice of Final Disposition to the Complainant);1007.11(Pre-Discipline Employee Response; 1007.12 (Resignations/Retirements Prior to Discipline); 1007.13 (Appeal Rights); 1007.14(Probationary Employees and Other Members) 1007.15 (Retention of Personnel Investigation Files); and 1007.16 (Training). He added that the detailed Memo was in their packet outlining specifically what those changes were. The Memo from Solicitor Orsatti also stated the proposed changes were "deemed compliant with the state law."

A motion was made by Councilman Trader and seconded by Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaneey to adopt the proposed changes to the Police Policy Manual. Motion Carried.

6. Billboard Addendum

President Becki said a Seventh Addendum for the Vision Outdoor Media billboard construction was necessary to extend the time frame for the construction of this billboard on Route 8 in the Huntz Tavern Parking Lot grass area. It was required as it has been time consuming and difficult to get all the proper paperwork transferring that property to the Borough of Etna who took ownership during the Route 8 widening project. Now, it is taking a bit to transfer the deed to the borough. This 7th Addendum states that if the permit is not issued by December 31, 2024 (by PENNDOT), the Borough agrees to promptly permit an alternative site for leasing.

President Becki asked for a motion for the Seventh Addendum to Settlement Agreement be changed to reflect the new terms. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabriel and second by Councilwoman Schaefer. Motion Carried.

7. Resolutions Act 152 Grant – Slums / Blight

President Becki stated that Manager Ramage had submitted an application to Allegheny County through their Act 152 program for the demolition of derelict and abandoned properties for the following addresses: 43 Snyder Street, 57 Lincoln Street and 101 Parker Street.

President Becki asked for a motion to support the application for the Act 152 Grant in the amount of \$129,000, per the county grant application. A motion was made by Councilwoman Tuñón and seconded by Councilman Burke. Motion carried.

President Becki said that Council needed also to adopt the following resolution for the Slums and Blight to accompany this grant application: A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabriel and seconded by Councilman Trader. Motion Carried.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board as follows:

Section 1. Project. The Borough hereby acknowledges and confirms its pursuit and undertaking of the Project, as defined hereinabove.

Section 2. Declaration of Official Intent. The Borough hereby declares, pursuant to the Reimbursement Regulations, its official intent to reimburse itself from the proceeds of Obligations, an amount not to exceed \$[2,500],000, for the purpose of Capital Expenditures for the Project which may occur prior to the issuance of the same.

Borough of Etna
September __, 2024

4. Preparation of all major Bond security documents, along with the authorizing Borough ordinance and necessary official actions;
5. Preparation of all closing certificates, opinions and other documents, together with full coordination of all aspects of closing, including necessary filings and document recordings; and
6. Delivery of the approving Opinion of Bond Counsel, which assures the investors of, among other things, the validity of the Bonds and their tax-exempt character.

Fees. We base our fees on both an estimate of the professional hours required to perform the specified duties and an evaluation, according to size and complexity, of the potential tax and securities liability inherent in the financing. Having compared the known aspects of your transaction to others we have completed, I would like to suggest a fee in the range of \$30,000 to \$34,000 for the Bond issue.

Additionally, as Bond Counsel, in order to ensure an efficient transaction, we will secure the timely publications of legal notices required under applicable laws, pay filing and recording fees and prepare execution copies of documents. We would expect to be separately reimbursed for these sorts of costs out of the proceeds of the Bonds. These costs are not expected to exceed \$5,000.

Miscellaneous. To enable us to represent you effectively, we will ask you to cooperate fully with us in all matters relating to the financing, and to fully and accurately disclose to us all facts and documents that may be relevant to the matter or that we may otherwise request. We would also ask you and other the Borough officers and representatives to make yourself reasonably available to attend meetings and other discussions related to the financing.

Please review this letter carefully and if it meets with your approval, please sign it and return it so that we may begin work.

Again, let me thank you for retaining us in connection with this matter. I look forward to working with you.

Very truly yours,

Christopher Brewer

AGREED AND ACCEPTED:

BOROUGH OF ETNA

Authorized Officer
Date: _____

Motion Carried.

President Becki asked if he could have a motion to move forward with the engagement letter from Dinsmore & Schol for Bond Counsel Services in relation to the potential property purchase and the bond issuance. A motion is made by Councilwoman Schaefer and seconded by Councilwoman Gabriel.

Motion Carried.

ATTACHMENT C
SLUMS AND BLIGHT RESOLUTION
DEMOLITION

Resolution by the Borough of
Etna

WHEREAS, there are several vacant and dilapidated structures located within the

Borough of Etna

AND

WHEREAS, such structures constitute a health and safety hazard to our residents;

AND

WHEREAS, such structures identified for demolition will undergo
condemnation proceedings outlined within local ordinances and are in declaration of
the property as a public nuisance and as being in a hazardous or dangerous condition;

AND

WHEREAS, Allegheny County Economic Development has funds available for
the removal of such structures;

AND

WHEREAS, the Borough of Etna is

desirous of obtaining such funds.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, this 17th day of September ,

20 24, that the Borough of Etna determines and declares that such
structures individually and collectively constitute blighted property in the
municipality as defined by the Urban Redevelopment Law (1945, May 24,
P.L. 991; 1978, June 23, P.L.

556, No. 94; as amended, 1988, March 30, P.L. 304, No. 39)

If properties selected for demolition must meet the definition of "blighted property". As such a blight resolution from the Municipality where the structure(s) are located must be included with the application.

Blighted Property is defined as a property which meets at least three (3) of the criteria under the Abandoned & Blighted Property Conservatorship Act listed below. Please choose applicable conditions for demolition:

- X 1. The building or physical structure is a public nuisance.
- X 2. The building is in need of substantial rehabilitation and no rehabilitation has taken place during the previous 12 months.
- X 3. The building is unfit for human habitation, occupancy or use.
- X 4. The condition and vacancy of the building materially increase the risk of fire to the building and to adjacent properties.
- X 5. The building is subject to unauthorized entry leading to potential health and safety hazards and one of the following applies:
- A. The owner has failed to take reasonable and necessary measures to secure the building.
 - B. The municipality has secured the building in order to prevent such hazards after the owner has failed to do so.
- X 6. The property is an attractive nuisance to children, including, but not limited to, the presence of abandoned wells, shafts, basements, excavations and unsafe structures.
- X 7. The presence of vermin or the accumulation of debris, uncut vegetation or physical deterioration of the structure or grounds has created potential health hazard and safety hazards and the owner has failed to take reasonable and necessary measures to remove the hazards.
- X 8. The dilapidated appearance or other condition of the building negatively affects the economic well-being of residents and businesses in close proximity to the building, including decreases in property value and loss of business, and the owner has failed to take reasonable and necessary measures to remedy appearance or the condition.
- X 9. The property is an attractive nuisance for illicit purposes, including prostitution, drug use and vagrancy.

ATTEST:

Clerk or Secretary
Signature

Council President or Chair/Commissioners
Signature

Print Name

Print Name

8. Etna Police Department

President Becki stated that a letter, which had been given to all Council and the Mayor, had been received from the Teamsters Union regarding the Etna Police Department’s desire to join the Teamsters Local Union No. 249. In the letter, it was asking Etna Borough Council to agree to a voluntarily recognition of the Teamsters as the exclusive collective bargaining representative of all full-time and part-time police officers. He added that the Teamsters had received signed authorization cards from all five of the Borough’s full time police officers indicating their desire to be represented by the Teamsters. The current Collective Bargaining Agreement in effect with the full time police officers was for the period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026 and President Becki stated that it would need to be amended to reflect that the Borough voluntarily recognizes the Teamsters as the exclusive representative of the police, including language permitting payroll deduction of the police officers’ union dues, the inclusion that the Teamsters were in the grievance/arbitration process, and finally make offer changes to reflect Teamsters as a party to the agreement.

President Becki would like to table the letter from the Teamsters so that the Solicitor can review as the current Agreement does not include part-time employees and to review what is covered in union contract and other legal options that may be available. He said Council would also like to check with other neighboring communities to see how their contract is set up. He also stated that council is not against this but until they further understand, they want to table the letter for right now.

President Becki is asking for a motion to table the letter from the Teamsters. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabriel and seconded by Councilman Burke. Motion Carried.

9. Garden of Etna Event

A letter had been sent from the Garden of Etna requesting the closing of Short Alley to vehicle traffic on October 19 and October 20 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for the fourth Annual Haunted Garden. The event will run from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. They were asking for this closure so that they can safely expand the space for the event. A motion was made by Councilwoman Tuñón and second by Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney for the road closure. Motion Carried.

10. Block Party

A letter had been received from neighbors living in the Bitter Plan residential area requesting to hold their annual block party on Saturday October 12th starting at 2p.m. They were requesting the road be closed from Fischer Avenue off from the top of Bittner to Mt. Hope Street. This section of road was closed last year for the same block party. The reason they are asking for this closure is because of the volume of traffic that flows from Mt. Hope Street to Bittner Street. A motion was made by Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney and seconded by Councilwoman Gabriel. Motion Carried.

11. Code Enforcement Software

President Becki said back in May, Manager Ramage in her Mangers Report informed council about the Software Package with the Tri COG for Code Enforcement Software that was being offered to municipalities. This software was inclusive of all state laws, with permitting, vacant property laws, and various other municipal codes. The building code database will help check occupancy permits; this software is still in promo form and is expected to cost the Borough \$850 dollars per month to try out and review and it will not exceed \$5,000.00 a year. He requested council to give permission to give this software a try. Those that would get access codes, such as police, would be able to look up zoning, code enforcement, etc. A motion was made by Councilman Trader and seconded by Councilman Burke that the borough enter into an Agreement for use of this software. Motion Carried.

12. Home Occupation Use as Part of the Zoning Ordinance

President Becki pointed out that at council’s desks tonight were the Planning Commission Minutes of their 8/22/2024 meeting. He spoke to Solicitor Ben Orsatti after the Executive Session and he confirmed

that we can add the discussion about these Minutes to the agenda. He discussed how the Minutes state that the Planning Commission was recommending Conditional Use approval of an Artisan Workplace/Sales for a property located at 28 Bridge Street. Solicitor Orsatti noted he agrees based on the Planning Commission Minutes noting there will be no car traffic added due to there being a couple of employees going to this location and only one or two large deliveries per year. The property will have no effect on commercial use. President Becki asked for a motion to allow this Conditional Use Artisan Workspace as a permissible use in the Zoning Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabriel and seconded by Councilwoman Tuñón. Motion Carried.

Council / Mayor and Manager Reports:

Manager Report – Code/Zoning Update, Freeport St./PENNDOT/One Way Study, City of Bridges Land Trust/Locust Street lots, Connect/Solar PPA, TriCog Land Bank, Age Friendly Grant, Appraisal/Flood Insurance, EEDC/ART Tour, CONNECT Legislative session, COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, FRAUD/Check Washing, Professional Liability Insurance, Bridge Street One Way/Duquesne Light poles, USGS Gauge/Pine Creek, CRS/Flood Warning System Updates.

President Becki stated that in the Manager's absence, he wanted to address a few items on her report including that the Manager was continuing the issue with the Vacant Shiny Bean property the property owned by Mr. Killmeyer on Cherry Street at the local magistrate. The borough building for flood insurance should be insured for at least 80% of the current value, which is why she got an updated appraisal. He added that the current value is 3 million dollars.

Councilwoman Gabriel said that Manager Ramage received a Lifetime Award from CONNECT at the recent Congress and was recognized by all the municipalities. She said there were program updates on L.E.A.D and some specialists were brought in to discuss stress in the workforce prior to the actual Congress.

Council/Committee Members Reports

Councilman Burke passed.

Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney thanked the public works for keeping the playground and Deck Hockey looking so nice for the season to begin. She also thanked the Fire Department for all they did for the Community Care Fair from 10 a.m. to Noon at Fugh Hall for the reservation. She said the upcoming events were the Shaler homecoming September 14, the Etna Art Party Block Party on September 14, Porky's Event on September 28 and the Fischer Street Block Party.

Councilman Trader said the Etna Senior Center was now open five (5) days a week and he had not heard about the attendance since it is now open more.

Councilwoman Gabriel has anything stated that Yoga finished for the summer session and the winter session will start in January. She added that the workday on Route 8 island garden was this Saturday. She stated that the Garden of Etna received a grant for new beds at the garden and their fall workday was November 9th from 9 a.m. to noon and reported that Haunted Garden is being held on October 19th and 20th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Councilwoman Tuñón reminded everyone that the EEDC Art Market is this coming Saturday from 2 to 7 p.m. and that the Heart and Soul team will have a tent at the event to collect stories.

Councilwoman Schaefer passed.

Councilwoman Semler informed those present that the HRC has their quarterly meeting tomorrow night at this building at 7 p.m. followed by game night with pizza from Rising Crust. She stated that today, September 17 is National Votes Registration Day and the last day to register to vote is October 21st, 2024. She placed a flyer on the table from State Senator Lindsey Williams office about the 2024 General Election for anyone to take.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Tuñón thanked the police, fire, EMS, Public works and office staff for all the work put into make the ballfields great for the season, including the lights, etc. He also thanked Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney for setting up Deck Hockey again this year, which was also going great. He added that he is glad that the borough is attempting to address issues of blight work because it's really a big deal. He thanks the Solicitor and Council for all the work that was happening for the acquisition of the Pine Street property as this was setting up the Borough for the future. He also mentioned that Bread of Life Food Pantry and extended his gratitude for all their work around food emergencies for this community.

Solicitor Orsatti had no report.

Chairman's Comments

President Becki reminded those present that this is the upcoming 20th Anniversary of the devastating flood in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan.

Public Comment

Judi Becki said the Eco Park looks so nice weeded, and the rocks that are put in looks good.

Michelle Yelkovich said the trail by the creek (Dougherty Nature Trail) consistently has older gentlemen that openly drink on the bench, and many teenagers, people with leashed dogs go by, and these gentlemen have an open case of beer sitting there with them on the bench. She wondered if this is legal or even appropriate. President Becki said the police Chief Rodman has been addressing this and is completely aware of the situation.

President Becki asked for a Motion to Adjourn the September 2024 Regular Session which was made by Councilwoman Tuñón and seconded by Councilwoman Schaefer. Motion carried.

Regular Session adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Mary Ellen Ramage, Manager

Date: November 19, 2024