



Valencia Borough Pennsylvania

Council Meeting Minutes – November 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance at the Valencia Borough building at 61 Almira Street, Valencia PA 16059.

In Attendance			
President Rob Vigue		Mayor Lori Trosky	X
Vice President Torey Verts	X	Secretary and Assistant Treasurer Amy Brown	X
Councilman Roger Grey	X	Treasurer and Assistant Secretary Bonnie Forsythe	

Monthly Standing Business

A. Changes to Agenda: Removed one Planning Commission update. Added Executive Session Documentation.

Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: Vice President Verts

B. Motion to approve meeting minutes from October 14, 2024

Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: Vice President Verts

C. Motion to approve budget meeting minutes from November 8, 2024.

Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: Vice President Verts

D. Reading of Financials: Vice President Verts noted it does not look like the Borough is going to get the expected \$35,000 in EIT.

E. Motion to approve November 2024 expenses in the amount of \$10,847.17.

Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: Vice President Verts

F. Motion to approve October 25, 2024 and November 8, 2024 payroll in the amount of \$606.20.

Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: Vice President Verts

Visitors and Public Comment (Limited to 5 Minutes)

- Rich Trosky: Commented Halloween went well. Adams Township police and fire were both in attendance.
- Judy: In attendance to observe.
- Julie Himmelstein: In attendance to observe
- Brian Himmelstein: Expressed sadness and disappointment at President Vigue’s resignation. Voiced his opinion that Borough should not want him representing Valencia at the library.
- Josh Zimmerman: In attendance to observe.

- Leslie and William Powell: Inquired about the ongoing situation between them and the Borough. Vice President Verts expressed apologies but that because President Vigue resigned there has been no movement.

Department Reports

1. Mayor Update

Mayor Trosky thought Halloween went well. Expressed plans for next year's Halloween.

Gathering last of pictures for Mayor's wall.

2. Parks and Recreation Update

St. Barnabas put a brand-new roof on the pavilion. Vice President Verts and Councilman Grey expressed thanks to R. Trosky. Will do remaining cosmetic work on pavilion underneath new roof.

St. Barnabas rerouted creek through piping which enhances the grass. They should be putting a screen at the end of the pipe, Vice President Verts will follow up.

R. Trosky will continue to trim tree branches.

Fence still needs to be put up.

R. Trosky will work with people who are interested in renting the field and/or pavilion.

3. Treasurer's Report

Written report provided to Council.

4. Planning Commission Update

Vice President Verts expressed that the Planning Commission will probably amend their schedule for 2025. They do not need to meet every month.

Vice President Verts resigned from the Planning Commission. She expressed her thanks to the other members.

New Business

1. Vigue Resignation

- a. Motion to accept President Vigue's resignation from Valencia Borough Council dated November 11, 2024.

Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: Vice President Verts

2. Appointment of New Council Member

- a. Motion to appoint Josh Zimmerman to Valencia Borough Council effective November 11, 2024 to serve through January 5, 2026.

Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: Vice President Verts

3. Appointment of Council Executives

- a. Motion to appoint Torey Verts as President of Valencia Borough Council.

Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: Councilman Zimmerman

- b. Motion to appoint Josh Zimmerman as Vice President of Valencia Borough Council.

Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: President Verts

4. 2025 Meeting Dates Provided to Council

5. Office Supplies: Secretary Brown to help President Verts set up Amazon Business account.

- a. Motion to approve the purchase of a post sleeve for the mailbox in an amount not to exceed \$100.00.

Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: Vice President Zimmerman

6. Potential Tax Increase

Council has been working on the 2025 budget and considering a tax increase. Councilman Grey reported that the Borough does not have the income to cover their expenses due to the low number of taxable properties in the Borough. There is an expected \$39,000 deficit for 2025 (approximate). Council has discussed 2.5 mil tax increase which will bring in an additional just under \$3,000. Biggest line item for 2025 is police coverage from Adams Township. Council is aware of the budget problem and is exploring every avenue for solutions, including putting pressure on St. Barnabas. The Borough has not raised taxes in approximately 30 years but Council has a fiscal responsibility. Taxable properties are valued at approximately \$1 million, non-taxable approximately \$5 million.

Mr. Himmelstein questioned the amount of LST the Borough is receiving. Secretary Brown and Treasurer Forsythe to follow up with Berkheimer. St. Barnabas employees who work in Valencia may be being paid as if they work in Richland.

7. Consultant Evaluation

Council is looking over the fee structure for engineering services in 2025. The Borough does not use a ton of engineering services. Councilman Grey to look over what was spent in 2024 and review invoices to see if there are areas for saving.

8. Park Usage

President Verts has had a few groups approach that are interested in park usage. Insurance company recommended groups submit a COI and sign a waiver. Secretary Brown to put together basic permit for Council to review.

9. Zoning Hearing Board Update

Secretary Brown gave update. Having trouble getting members together. Already 30 days in to 60 days.

10. Parks and Recreation Committee

R. Trosky has been doing most of the work without being appointed to any committee. Vice President Verts would like a Parks and Maintenance committee and asked R. Trosky if he would be interested. Councilman Grey expressed support for forming committee and appointing R. Trosky.

11. Solvency Fee

Secretary Brown and Treasurer Forsythe to follow up on filing wage reports missing from 2024.

Old Business

1. Powell Property

No update at this time. Powells are anxious to complete. Councilman Grey would like something in writing to state exactly what is being asked for. Former President Vigue was dealing with the situation and the rest of Council is unaware of most details.

2. Street Signs Update

Street signs have been delivered and need installed. R. Trosky is willing to install. President Verts expressed concern over size of 25 MPH sign and if it will fit. Secretary Brown to check on requirements.

3. St. Barnabas

Third meeting of year. St. Barnabas still saying no to financial assistance. St. Barnabas asked the Borough to bill them for emergency services that are used by St. Barnabas. More investigation is needed as to whether Borough can bill.

4. New Laptop

Councilman Grey is working with Treasurer Forsythe to purchase.

5. 2025 Budget

Two budget meetings have been held. President Verts would like to donate \$500/month to Quality after the contract is complete. Amounts to an additional \$4,000 in ambulance expenses for 2025. President Verts noted that any extra money in 2025 should go to library and EMS. Councilman Grey suggested giving to parks. President Verts does not want to put money in to a park the Borough does not own.

Motion to advertise budget as proposed.

a. Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: Vice President Zimmerman

6. 63 Almira Street Reassessment

Hearing was cancelled. Property will remain taxable.

7. PLGIT

Councilman Grey is in favor of moving some funds to PLGIT. Will return much better interest than current accounts at NexTier. Borough could also get a procurement card through PLGIT. President Verts spoke with PLGIT rep and she recommended moving funds gradually. Large CD and some general fund accounts. **Need resolution and motion.**

8. Executive Session Documentation

November 8, 2024 from 1:30 PM to 1:55 PM to discuss legal matters

November 9, 2024 from 1:45 PM to 2:00 PM to discuss legal matters

Correspondence

Executive Session

Legal matters

8:16 PM Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: Vice President Zimmerman

8:43 PM Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: Vice President Zimmerman

Next Meeting

December 9, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Adjourn Meeting 8:44 PM Motion: Councilman Grey Seconded: Vice President Zimmerman

<http://ValenciaBoro.org>