

Rankin Borough
Borough Council Meeting
Minutes



Tuesday
March 11
07:00 PM

Call to Order:

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Present Rankin Council Members:

Glenn O. Ford (President)
Aaron Gibson Jr.
Walter Sewell
Arlena Strong
Gaye Velar
Cinnamon Coprich

Also Present:

Joelisa McDonald, Mayor
Joe Heminger, Solicitor
Susan Hockenberry, Borough Consultant
David Miller, Rankin DPW Supervisor
Terri Lawson, Rankin Borough Manager

Pledge of Allegiance

Announcement: Gaye Velar announced "The Meeting is being recorded only for the transcription of the minutes".

Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by President Ford, and second by Gaye Velar.

Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Rankin council meeting held on February 11, 2025 was made by Gaye Velar and second by President Ford.

Presentation(s):

- Rich Stephenson, Acting Executive Director of Heritage Highlands Housing and Ed Nessur ACHD (Progress & Priorities).

Rich Stephens, Nichole Lavotto and ACHD PD spoke and stated that Heritage Highlands has a 100% occupancy rate, which is 105 residents. Heritage Highlands currently has a 1% arrest rate (most which they stated are due to domestic violence and mental health). Rich Stephenson, the acting executive director also spoke about the many work force development programs, section 8/public housing initiatives and community relation/social service programs that Heritage Highlands is currently offering tenants, and sharing with community organizations.

- Tree Pittsburgh (The Rankin Orchard)

Clara from Tree Pittsburgh came and presented on the fruit orchard. Clara stated that resident surveys will be a way that Tree Pittsburgh plans to utilize to get community feedback. Clair briefly explained to the residents briefly the benefits of the orchard. Clair stated this is "grant funded" initiative, and she stated other partners collaborating with Tree Pittsburgh on this project are Bike Pittsburgh and Rivers of Steel.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: (3 minutes)

There were no public comments.

New Business:

1. A motion to approve and pay the bills as presented in the amount of \$49,348.44 was motioned by President Ford and second by Aaron Gibson. MOTION CARRIED
2. A motion to send DCED a "letter of intent" for a parking study was motioned by President Ford and second by Gaye Vilar. MOTION CARRIED

Committee Reports:

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- *Solicitor's Report: NO REPORT*
- *Engineer Report: Alcosan Regionalization Trunk Sewer Repairs. 2024 ACT 152 Demolition Grant. CD 48 Demolition. CD 50. GEDTF. 5th Street. LSA Grants. Municipal Building Improvements Phase I. GTRP Grant Application. CD 51. LSA Grants 2024. Enterprise Zone Demolition. 2025 Grant Opportunities.*
- *DPW Report: Work Orders, Potholes, No Dumping Signs, DPW Interviews.*
- *Police Regionalization Report (given by Joelisa McDonald (mayor): ERMVPD's cameras, patrolling and police equipment.*
- *Mayor's Report: Joelisa McDonald (mayor) stated she will be attending ALOM, she also attended Abigail Salisbury's Annual Borough Officials meeting , and the TCVCOG Annual Dinner.*
- *EMS Report: Report given by Cinnamon Coprich.*
- *Fire Report: No fire report given.*
- *Code Report: 1 Open case, a retaining wall at 315 Kenmawr Ave. 2 rental permits issued and 1 temporary occupancy issued.*
- *Secretary Report/Manager Report: TERRI LAWSON, manager reported the fuel report for 2023 is complete/and approved (awaiting fuel report). The 23-24 audit is close to completion. Terri is still working through the onboarding process. Terri is working closely with President Ford and the Urban League of Pa to initiate the Work for senior citizens program trough Rankin Borough. Terri attended her first TCVCOG meeting on March 12, 2025. Terri recognized President Ford's nomination acceptance to Pittsburgh Courier's 40 under 40 awards.*

Announcements: Made by Rankin Borough Manager, Terri Lawson

- **Rankin Orchard coming in April 2025.**
- **Rankin Blvd Road Repair grant has been awarded.**
- **First Day of Spring is 4/20/2025.**
- **AHN is offering "FREE" Health Screening to (Mon View Heights Apartments and Palisades Plaza Residents of ALL ages Thurs. March 13, 2025 (11am-5pm) Friday. March 14, 2025 (10am-4pm)**

(ID & Proof of address is require).

- **Rankin has partnered with the National Urban League to provide employment opportunities for senior citizens. Open enrollment will be held on Wednesday, March 19,2025 at the Woodland Hills Impact Center.**

Public Comment: Please State Name & Address (3 Minute Limit).

- William "Lucky" Price questioned the relevance of the parking study.
- Mr. George (from DCED) spoke to the relevance of the parking study and also stated no recommendation for work or actual physical work will take place until the parking study is complete.
- Carrie Trish spoke to parking conflicts from "Mary Vine's" customers that refuse to use the "free valet" parking that is offered, she also spoke to the dog waste along the yards on Rankin Blvd.
- Mr. Jones stated he has lived on Harriet St, Rankin Pa 15104 for 12 years and stated he wanted more information on upcoming meetings.
- Bill Pfoff asked about demolition at a home on Miller that currently experienced a fire.
- Robin White a resident of 5th street in Rankin, stated the street is "sinking" due to open street work that was not re-patched correctly after the street work was complete. She also stated that drivers are speeding down 5th street because there is not a "stop sign" installed.

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- Gretta Price spoke on the potholes on Rankin Blvd, she stated a child getting off of the school bus accidentally "fell in" one of the potholes while crossing over Rankin Blvd, and she said there needs to be a "watch children" sign installed.
- Andre Smith came to request permission to utilize the Rankin field to conduct softball practice for his adult league 2 days a week (Tuesday and Wednesday). He was advised to obtain a permit from the borough and he was also advised that liability insurance was required.
- John Gilroy thanked the DPW, and stated employees of the DPW need an increase inn salary. Gilroy also asked a question on the cost of the upcoming parking study.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm was made by President Ford and second by Aaron Gibson Jr. All voted in approval and Motion carried.