

BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL
Notice of Meeting
December 18, 2019
7:00 PM

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall will meet Wednesday, December 18, 2019, at 7:00 PM, at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for a regular meeting.

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING
December 18, 2019

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Announcement - Residents to Sign In to Speak during Citizens' Requests; Speakers Allotted Three Minutes to Present their Initial Comments; All Meetings will be Recorded Auditorily and Visually
- IV. Roll Call
- V. Consideration of Bills and Payroll – Wertz
- VI. Consideration of the Minutes of December 4, 2019
- VII. Citizens' Requests
- VIII. Reports of the Following Officers:
 - A. Mayor - Nowalk
 - B. Solicitor - Firman
 - C. Engineer – Rusmiser
 - D. Manager – Leventry
 - E. Assistant Manager – Wertz
- IX. Reports of the Following Committees:
 - A. Administrative Services – Nagy, Lahr, Wotus
 - B. Library – McKown, Book Wotus
 - C. Planning & Zoning – Lahr, Book, DePuy
 - D. Public Works – Book, Nagy, DePuy
 - E. Public Safety – DePuy, McKown, Nagy
 - F. Recreation – Wotus, McKown, Lahr
- X. New Business
- XI. Adjournment

BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

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BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Regular Meeting December 18, 2019

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, December 18, 2019, at 7:00 PM, for a regular meeting. President Veith called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Veith announced that all meetings will be recorded auditorily and visually.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Linda J. Book (Arrived at 7:10 PM)
Kathleen N. DePuy
Philip J. Lahr
Glenn P. Nagy
William J. Veith
John A. Wotus
James F. Nowalk, Mayor
Gavin A. Robb, P.C. – Tucker Arensberg
Scott Rusmiser, Engineer

Absent: Robert J. McKown
Irving S. Firman, Solicitor

STAFF: James E. Leventry, Manager
Courtney M. Wertz, Assistant Manager
Keith P. Henderson, Chief of Police

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS & PAYROLL

- M-1 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. Wotus, that the bills contained on the bill list presented to Council on December 18, 2019 for \$186,420.94 from the General Fund, \$90,400.62 from the Sanitary Sewer Fund and \$5,075.00 from the Capital Projects Fund be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-2 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr that checks and transfers for \$10,484.25 from the General Fund and \$48,362.11 from the Payroll Fund be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-3 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. Wotus, that General Fund payroll for the period ending December 6, 2019 for \$143,497.55 as presented to Council on December 18, 2019, be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

M-4 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. Wotus to approve the Minutes of the December 4, 2019 Council Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS:

James Devaty, 4650 Brownsville Road, appeared before Council with concerns about an accident that happened on his block on Sunday night. He understands that Brownsville Road is a County Road but he requested that Whitehall Borough officials speak to the County about the problems there. Mr. Devaty proposed installing a stop sign at the Snyder/Maryal/Thurner intersection.

Tarik Metti, 4636 Brownsville Road, appeared before Council with concerns about an accident that happened on his block on Sunday night. Mr. Metti moved into the house 2 years ago and this is the second accident that has occurred in front of his house. He requested the Borough work with residents to encourage the County to take action on this issue. Mr. Metti suggested several solutions including a flashing speed sign, a guardrail at the curve and a stop sign at Brownsville and McAnulty. Mr. Metti provided Council with several articles about ways to reduce speed.

Rachel Kreider, 4630 Brownsville Road, appeared before Council with concerns about an accident that happened on her block on Sunday night. Ms. Kreider has been researching ideas and solutions to present to the County and has spoken with the County Engineer.

Mr. Veith stated that the Public Safety Committee is looking at the issue.

Mr. Robb stated that because Brownsville is a County road, it is a County issue. The Borough can lobby the County on behalf of Borough residents for a solution. He will explore the idea of adding flashing signs.

Mr. Leventry stated that he has a meeting set up with County officials in January to discuss this issue.

Mr. Lahr stated that many of the accidents on that stretch of road have been due to speeding.

Mr. Devaty stated that accidents have occurred in both directions. Barriers would allow for less property damage but would not stop the speeding issue.

Chief Henderson stated that speed and impairment have been factors in the accidents along Brownsville Road. He stated a stop sign at McAnulty and Brownsville is a good idea. The first step is for the County to perform a traffic study.

Mr. Devaty stated that he thinks more than one stop sign on Brownsville is necessary to slow cars down throughout the corridor from Streets Run Road to McAnulty.

Mayor Nowalk stated that he believes the County previously attempted to reconfigure the banks along Brownsville Road after an accident. Mr. Devaty stated that he believes that is true as the road is higher at the end of his driveway than originally designed.

Mayor Nowalk stated that he lived on Brownsville Road 20 years ago and speed was an issue then. Residents previously asked the County for a traffic study to lower the speed limit and the County did not think it was merited at the time.

Mr. Veith stated that Council wishes to protect residents. There is a meeting scheduled on Friday afternoon with the Borough Manager and in January with County officials. The Borough is giving this matter urgent attention.

Mr. Devaty stated that technology has changed and a new traffic study is warranted.

Chief Henderson stated that the Borough is on the residents' side. The County may have a different opinion on the matter. He stated that the worst accidents he has witnessed have had contributing factors outside of speeding.

Mr. Leventry stated that residents shouldn't assume the County will or will not do anything to address the issue. He advised them to wait until Borough officials have had the first conversation with them.

Mr. Metti inquired if the Borough could place flashing signs on Brownsville as the County told him that the Borough has that ability.

Chief Henderson stated that he will look into the issue but it is his understanding that County permission is needed to place any signs on their roadways. Chief Henderson challenged the residents in attendance to count every sign they see on their drive home tonight and they will notice that the Borough already has a lot of signs. The issue is that signs become invisible after a while. Chief Henderson stated that he is open to any suggestion to make residents safe. After the Borough has spoken with the County they will report back to residents.

MAYOR:

Mayor Nowalk reported on the following items:

- The Borough reported 4.81 percent of the calls to animal control services in November.

- Mayor Nowalk stated that the Chief reports that Traffic Systems Services recently serviced the traffic control box on Baptist Road at Weyman Road. They found that one of the 5 sensor loops between the two connected intersections (Grove & Weyman) had been damaged. All lights have since been switched to the RECALL Status and are working on a cycle rather than ON DEMAND. Recent utility work in the area was the apparent cause of the damage and the Borough is addressing the repairs.
- Mayor Nowalk stated that he presented a Resolution to St. Gabe's in honor of their 75th Anniversary.
- Mayor Nowalk stated that his new committee will be named Whitehall Committee for Environmental Action.
- Mayor Nowalk stated that he will be meeting individually with members of the Fire Company and addressing them at their January 16th meeting regarding the switch to County 911.

SOLICITOR:

No report.

ENGINEER:

Mr. Rusmisl reported on the following items; members of Council received written copies of the Engineer's report:

- Planning & Zoning – Penn Cove Developers have requested to reduce the bond for Grove Pointe Development.

M-5 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to reduce the bond by \$1,162,024.24. The motion carried unanimously.

- Salt Storage – Gateway has reviewed Plavchaks's request for a time extension until May 15, 2020. It was denied based on the information provided. Gateway requested that the dirt stockpile be relocated, and the exposed trenches be paved as soon as possible for the Public Works winter operations. Plavchak has requested a meeting to discuss the time extension with Gateway and the Borough Manager.

- Streets Run Storm Sewer Construction – Gateway provided revised agreement language to Degenhardt on November 26, 2019. Gateway followed up with Degenhardt on December 4th. A H2O PA-Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer Grant Application Package was prepared and submitted on December 14th. A resolution for the grant application will be presented under the Manager’s report.
 - Whitehall Pool Room – Integrity Design and Construction completed the shoring work at the pool room on December 11th.
- M-6 Mrs. DePuy moved, seconded by Mr. Wotus to approve Payment Application No. 1 and Final for the Pool Room Repairs in the amount of \$3,450.00 to Integrity Design and Construction. The motion carried unanimously.
- Frank Street Park Phase II – The Phase II portion of the Frank Park project has been under construction by Plavchak Construction Company since the beginning of October. The Contractor has completed the majority of the work with the exception of the mulching and stone installation on the playground and general site restoration. Paving of the walking trail was completed on Tuesday, December 10, 2019. They will be completing final restoration sometime in the Spring. Borough Public Works completed the installation of the playground equipment.
- M-7 Mrs. DePuy moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve Payment Application No. 2 for Frank Street Park Phase II in the amount of \$57,274.20 to Plavchak Construction Co., Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. DePuy encouraged residents in attendance to check out the new improvements at Frank Park.

Mayor Nowalk stated that he would like the Parks Committee to meet with his new environmental group to discuss the parks.

MANAGER:

Mr. Leventry reported on the following items; members of Council received written copies of the Manager’s report:

- Board/Commission Appointments – The following individuals have agreed to serve new terms as follows:

Donald Madeja – 6-year term on the Civil Service Commission

Elaine Kirsch – 4-year term on the Planning Commission

Travis Crocker – 4-year term on the Planning Commission

Milan Stanojevic- 3-year term on the UCC Appeals Board
 Leo Daly – 3-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board
 Kathryn Zakowski – 5-year term on the Shade Tree Commission

Rachel Bricker is moving and is unable to remain on the Recreation Board. That leaves two vacancies.

M-8 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Ms. Book to appoint the aforementioned individuals to the various boards and commissions. The motion carried unanimously.

The appointments to the SHACOG Joint Rate Review Board and Franchising Authority Boards require Resolutions.

M-9 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to read the Joint Rate Review Board Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

M-10 After the reading of the Resolution, Mr. Wotus moved for adoption. Mr. Lahr seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Ms. Book, Mrs. DePuy, Mr. Lahr, Mr. Nagy, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. The Resolution No. is 985.

M-11 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to read the Joint Rate Franchise Authority Board Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

M-12 After the reading of the Resolution, Mr. Wotus moved for adoption. Mr. Lahr seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Ms. Book, Mrs. DePuy, Mr. Lahr, Mr. Nagy, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. The Resolution No. is 986.

- Budget Meeting Dates – Following the December 4th meeting, some Council members expressed a desire to revert to the original proposed scheduled. Those dates are November 7, 14 and 21 2020. Council will need to decide so that the meeting notices for 2020 can be placed.

M-13 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to advertise the budget meeting dates as November 7, 14 and 21, 2020. Ms. Book and Mrs. DePuy voted no. Mr. Lahr, Mr. Nagy, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus voted yes. The motion carried 4-2.

- Grant Application – Following the meeting with Senator Iovino, her Chief of Staff Dan Alwine, sent Mr. Leventry some information about grant opportunities for storm water projects. With a great deal of assistance from Gateway’s Grant Stahl, the Borough was able to submit an application for \$595,000 for the Streets Run Project just under the deadline. Council will need to pass a Resolution appointing Mr. Leventry as the primary contact for the grant.

M-14 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. Wotus to read the Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

M-15 After the reading of the Resolution, Mr. Lahr moved for adoption. Ms. Book seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Ms. Book, Mrs. DePuy, Mr. Lahr, Mr. Nagy, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. The Resolution No. is 987.

- Ordinances/Resolutions – Mr. Leventry had a number of Ordinances and Resolutions to present to Council for passage.

The first Ordinance for consideration is the 2020 Real Estate Tax Levy Ordinance.

M-16 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to read the Ordinance in summary form. The motion carried unanimously.

M-17 After the reading of the Ordinance, Mr. Wotus moved for adoption. Mr. Lahr seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Ms. Book, Mrs. DePuy, Mr. Lahr, Mr. Nagy, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. The Ordinance No. is 1122.

The second Ordinance for consideration is the 2020 Earned Income Tax Ordinance.

M-18 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Ms. Book to read the Ordinance in summary form. The motion carried unanimously.

M-19 After the reading of the Ordinance, Mr. Wotus moved for adoption. Mr. Lahr seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Ms. Book, Mr. Lahr, Mr. Nagy, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus voted yes. Mrs. DePuy dissented. The motion carried 5-1. The Ordinance No. is 1123.

Mayor Nowalk stated that this is the first time the Borough has raised taxes in 16 years. Council worked to balance the interests of residents on fixed incomes and residents who are wage earners.

The third Ordinance for consideration is the 2020 Sewer Rate Ordinance.

M-20 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to read the Ordinance in summary form. The motion carried unanimously.

M-21 After the reading of the Ordinance, Mr. Wotus moved for adoption. Ms. Book seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Ms. Book, Mrs. DePuy, Mr. Lahr, Mr. Nagy, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. The Ordinance No. is 1124.

The fourth Ordinance for consideration is the 2020 Wage & Salary Ordinance.

M-22 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to read the Ordinance in summary form. The motion carried unanimously.

M-23 After the reading of the Ordinance, Mr. Lahr moved for adoption. Ms. Book seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Ms. Book, Mrs. DePuy, Mr. Lahr, Mr. Nagy, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. The Ordinance No. is 1125.

Mr. Leventry also presented the 2020 Budget Resolution for consideration.

M-24 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to read the Resolution in summary form. The motion carried unanimously.

M-25 After the reading of the Resolution, Mr. Wotus moved for adoption. Ms. Book seconded the motion. On a roll call vote Ms. Book, Mr. Lahr, Mr. Nagy, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus voted yes. Mrs. DePuy dissented. The motion carried 5-1. The Resolution No. is 988.

- Grass Cutting Bid – No bids were received for the 2020 Grass Cutting Bid. Mr. Harris suggested bringing the work inhouse and using the money budgeted for the contract to purchase mowing equipment so that Public Works can perform the work.

M-26 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to bring the grass cutting work inhouse. The motion carried unanimously.

ASSISTANT MANAGER:

No report.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

No report.

LIBRARY:

Mr. Wotus introduced Mary Rose Chasler from the Library Board to give a report.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Mr. Lahr inquired if the Borough has accepted the newest section of the Steeplechase development. Mr. Rusmisl stated that no Ordinance was prepared. He will work on preparing an Ordinance for acceptance.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Ms. Book stated that Public Works did an excellent job treating the roads this afternoon.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

No report.

RECREATION:

Mr. Wotus stated that the Breakfast with Santa event went well. The Senior BINGO tomorrow is being sponsored by Representative Kortz. The Comedy Show will be February 29, 2020. Recreation Director Hannah Vetere has 1 candidate for one of the vacancies on the Recreation Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. DePuy stated that the recent Borough News magazine had an article about the Right to Know Law and the Sunshine Act. She encouraged Council members to read it and reminded members that emails are not meetings and to be careful when expressing opinions via email.

Ms. Book stated that the ACBA Annual Banquet will be February 1, 2020. She asked that Council consider placing an ad in the banquet program.

M-27 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to place an ad in the ACBA Banquet Program. The motion carried unanimously.

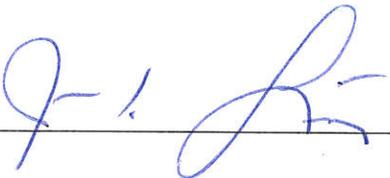
Mr. Veith thanked the residents of Brownsville Road that attended tonight's meeting for participating and staying for the meeting.

ADJORNMENT:

M-28 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Wotus to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF JANUARY 15, 2020:

Manager  _____