



BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Notice of Meeting

February 19, 2020

7:00 PM

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall will meet Wednesday, February 19, 2019, at 7:00 PM, at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for a regular meeting.

**AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING
February 19, 2020**

- 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 – Veith
- VI. Consideration of the Minutes of February 5, 2020
- VII. Citizens' Requests
- VIII. Reports of the Following Officers:
 - A. Mayor - Nowalk
 - B. Solicitor - Firman
 - C. Engineer – Rusmisel
 - D. Manager – Leventry
 - E. Assistant Manager – Wertz
- IX. Reports of the Following Committees:
 - A. Planning & Zoning – Wotus, Veith, DePuy
 - B. Public Works – Book, Lahr, DePuy
 - C. Public Safety – McKown, Lahr, Wotus
 - D. Recreation – DePuy, Veith, Book
 - E. Administrative Services – Veith, McKown, Wotus
 - F. Library – Lahr, Book, McKown
- X. New Business
- XI. Adjournment

BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

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BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Regular Meeting February 19, 2020

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 7:00 PM, for a regular meeting. President Nagy called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ROLL CALL:

Present: Linda J. Book
Kathleen N. DePuy
Philip J. Lahr
Robert J. McKown
Glenn P. Nagy
John A. Wotus
James F. Nowalk, Mayor
Irving S. Firman, Solicitor
Scott Rusmiser, Engineer

Absent: William J. Veith

STAFF: James E. Leventry, Manager
Courtney M. Wertz, Assistant Manager
Keith P. Henderson, Chief of Police
Jason C. Gagorik, Deputy Chief of Police
Scott Dellett, AICP, Director of Planning, Zoning and Code

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS & PAYROLL

- M-1 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. McKown, that the bills contained on the bill list presented to Council on February 19, 2020 for \$227,251.51 from the General Fund, \$758,943.74 from the Sanitary Sewer Fund and \$1,576.99 from the Capital Projects Fund be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-2 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Ms. Book, that checks and transfers for \$11,312.48 from the General Fund and \$48,131.56 from the Payroll Fund be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-3 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book that General Fund payroll for the period ending February 14, 2020 for \$141,642.10 as presented to Council on February 19, 2020, be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

M-4 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve the Minutes of the February 5, 2020 Council Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

LETTER OF COMENDATION

Mayor Nowalk presented Officer Mark Stephenson with a letter of commendation for extraordinary service rendered to a Whitehall Borough family.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS:

Daniel Shaner, 3857 Louisa Street, appeared before Council on behalf of a group at Harrison Middle School to invite Council to attend/participate in an event for identity-based violence at Baldwin High School on March 21-22.

Donna McCrea, 305 Southvue Drive, appeared before Council on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission to request permission to apply for a grant to purchase 12 trees to be planted at Frank Park. She provided Council with an information sheet that included a map of the proposed plantings. The Borough would be responsible for the cost of the trees, estimated to be \$2,129.00. Ms. McCrea asked that Borough Public Works dig the holes for the trees as well. The Shade Tree Commission would take care of the trees for 2-5 years.

M-5 Mrs. DePuy moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to authorize the Shade Tree Commission to apply for the grant and to commit the funds necessary to purchase the trees. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Leventry stated that placement of the tress may have to be adjusted in order to keep open green space at the park.

John Kuzniar & Edna Davis, 4780 Sherwood Drive, appeared before Council regarding the privacy fence on their property. They were denied a variance from the Zoning Hearing Board. Ms. Davis inquired about changing the law so they may keep the privacy fence. Mr. Dellett stated that the Planning Commission is in the process of reviewing fence regulations. Any proposed Ordinance amendment would be developed for the entire Borough, not an individual property. Currently no enforcement actions are being taken as the proposed changes are under review. Mr. Firman stated that if the new regulations are voted down, the couple could still face action.

Mr. Nagy stated that Planning Commission members scrutinize wording in Ordinances very closely. It is difficult to encapsulate all the possible issues and they regularly work to update language.

MAYOR:

Mayor Nowalk reported on the following items:

- The Borough reported 6.35 percent of the calls to animal control services in January.
- Mayor Nowalk stated that the Chief reports that last week, Officer Carl Morosetti attended the 41st Annual Hostage Negotiation Seminar hosted by the FBI and Baltimore County Police Department.
- Mayor Nowalk stated that the Chief reports that Officer Chris Mayburn attended SWAT Team Leader Development Training put on by the National Tac Officer Association. This training was in preparation for Officer Mayburn moving into an Element Leader role with SHACOG CIRT Team.
- Mayor Nowalk stated that SHACOG Director Lou Gorski spoke at the recent Whitehall Committee for Environmental Action meeting about recycling.
- Mayor Nowalk stated that Earth Day Clean-Up will be April 25th.
- Mayor Nowalk stated that the Whitehall Committee for Environmental Action is working with the Library to schedule speakers.
- Mayor Nowalk recognized Will Hoagland, Secretary of the Whitehall Fire Company. Whitehall Fire Company will provide monthly statistics for the Mayor to include in his report. In 2019 Whitehall Fire Company responded to 357 calls.

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Firman stated that the Ordinance regarding acceptance of Steeplechase Phase 4 & 5 will be tabled as a bond is still needed for Phase 5.

ENGINEER:

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

- Doverdell Drive Watershed Project – Merante submitted the video for the sections of sewers that were missing. Gateway will review the video and prepare a final estimate if everything is in order.

- Salt Storage – Plavchak’s crew finished the walls, forms are being removed and the site is being brought to grade. The potential completion date is March 15th with paving possibly being pushed back based on weather.

M-6 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve Payment Application No. 3 in the amount of \$144,034.50 for the Salt Storage Project to Plavchak Construction Company. The motion carried unanimously.

MANAGER:

No report.

ASSISTANT MANAGER:

Ms. Wertz reported on the following items according to the written report given to Council:

- Parks Master Plan – The Resolution to close out the Parks Master Plan Grant has been on public display for two weeks. With the adoption of this Resolution, the Parks Master Plan process is complete. This Resolution will act as Borough Council’s acknowledgement of the Parks Master Plan to be used as a planning tool to guide future parks projects. It will be posted to the new Borough website and copies are available for review at the Administration office.

M-7 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Ms. Book to read the Resolution in summary form. The motion carried unanimously.

M-8 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. McKown, Mr. Nagy and Mr. Wotus voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. The Resolution No. is 991.

Mr. Wotus passed around a copy of the Master Plan for Council to review.

Mrs. DePuy stated that the plan is a guideline to follow. She encouraged Council members to review and provide input.

Mr. Wotus stated that there are a lot of moving parts to the process. Any ideas are entertained by the Committee as there is a lot of opportunity in the plan and will be a need for funding. A lot of work has been done on this plan.

Mr. Leventry stated that he has a Resolution regarding the responsibilities of the UCC Board. He requested that it be placed on public display.

M-9 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Ms. Book to place the Resolution on public display. The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Mr. Wotus stated that the Planning Commission met on Wednesday.

Mr. Dellet had two Subdivision Plan Applications for Council to consider.

The first application relates to Grove Pointe. The applicant requests subdivision plan approval to show property lines along party walls of five townhouses (100-108 Providence Way). The parcels are located in Residence District R-7. At its February 12, 2020 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended conditional approval of the application.

A representative from Keystone Surveying and Mapping, Inc. was present to answer questions. This application is to adjust lot lines based on the as built.

M- 10 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to grant approval of the 2020-SLD-01 Grove Pointe First Amendment subdivision plan application subject to the following conditions:

1. Borough Engineer's Review Letter. The applicant shall address all outstanding issues referenced in the Borough Engineer's review letter dated January 23, 2020, in a manner acceptable to the Borough Engineer. Any additional issues raised by the Borough Engineer shall be resolved to the satisfaction of the Borough Engineer.
2. Borough Director of Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement Review Memorandum. The applicant shall address all outstanding issues referenced in the Borough Director of Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement's memorandum dated February 7, 2020, in a manner acceptable to the Borough Director of Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement ("Director"). Any additional issues raised by the Director shall be resolved to the satisfaction of the Director.
3. Review Fees. The Applicant shall agree to pay all professional review fees of the Borough in connection with this application and approval.

The motion carried unanimously.

The second application relates to the Schaming Plan of Lots No. 2. The applicant requests subdivision plan approval to consolidate parts of two parcels (265 Streets Run Road and 277 Streets Run Road) totaling 1.17 acres into an existing 1.35-acre parcel off Ranger Drive (Allegheny County Parcel Nos. 315-S-135, 315-S-120 and 315-N-0116). The parcels are located in Residence District R-2. At its February 12, 2020 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended conditional approval of the application.

A representative from J.R. Gales & Associates, Inc. was present to answer questions.

M-11 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to grant approval of the 2020-SLD-02 Schaming Plan of Lots No. 2 subdivision plan application subject to the following conditions:

1. Borough Engineer's Review Letters. The applicant shall address all outstanding issues referenced in the Borough Engineer's review letters dated January 23, 2020 and February 4, 2020, in a manner acceptable to the Borough Engineer. Any additional issues raised by the Borough Engineer shall be resolved to the satisfaction of the Borough Engineer.
2. Borough Director of Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement Review Memorandum. The applicant shall address all outstanding issues referenced in the Borough Director of Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement's memorandum dated February 7, 2020, in a manner acceptable to the Borough Director of Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement ("Director"). Any additional issues raised by the Director shall be resolved to the satisfaction of the Director.
3. Planning Module. The applicant shall obtain approval of a Planning Module from the state Department of Environmental Protection before the issuance of a building permit(s) for Lot 201.
4. Review Fees. The Applicant shall agree to pay all professional review fees of the Borough in connection with this application and approval.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wotus stated that the Zoning Hearing Board met last evening. They granted conditional approval for the radio control tower at Grove Pointe based on developing a public park around the area and denied the use variance for a property on Clairton Blvd. to be used as a single-family home.

Mr. Firman stated that Mayor Nowalk provided Council with a letter explaining his veto of Ordinance No. 1127. Council will consider their options at the March 4th Council Meeting. Council could override the veto with 5 votes or send the Ordinance back to committee for review.

Mr. Lahr stated the he has received complaints about the house on Child Drive that was damaged in a fire last year. Mr. McKown stated that it takes time for insurance companies to resolve these types of matters. Mr. Firman will look into the situation.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Ms. Book stated that there have been no snow/salt issues due to the nice weather.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. McKown stated that the Chief would like to remind residents, Council members and a certain Recreation Director that February 29th is the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge benefitting Special Olympics of Pennsylvania. Please join the members and friends of the Whitehall Police Department in a refreshing dip into icy waters for a great cause.

Mr. McKown provided an update on the investigation into the Yield Sign at Parkvue and Southvue. Chief Henderson stated that there has been no reportable accident at that intersection in 25+ years and only 3 nonreportable accidents in that same time frame. He does not recommend a change to the signage at this time. He reminds residents to be vigilant of the children in the area.

Mr. McKown inquired about the status of the current Civil Service list. Chief Henderson stated that there was an issue with the application and background check of one of the names. Mr. Firman stated that this matter falls under the purview of the Civil Service Commission. Chief Henderson stated the current eligibility list has been challenging.

Mr. McKown stated that the Police Pension Committee is reviewing a potential change to the percentages used in the study.

Mr. McKown stated that the 5th grade DARE program at St. Gabe's has been set for March 3-15 with graduation on March 20th. Whitehall Elementary graduation will be on February 24th. Mayor Nowalk will attend.

Mr. McKown stated that he had a chance to tour the Allegheny County 911 Dispatch Center last evening. It is a phenomenal facility.

Mr. McKown stated that last Thursday, Chief Henderson was elected President of the Allegheny County Chiefs Association.

Mayor Nowalk stated that he received an inquiry for a block party on McKee Drive. He instructed the residents to get a petition together.

RECREATION:

Mrs. DePuy introduced Recreation Director Hannah Vetere to give a report.

Ms. Vetere stated that the Comedy Show will be February 29th at Salvatores. She is working with Whitehall Public Library to host a KidsFest Kickoff to Summer at Brennan Plana on June 13th.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

No report.

LIBRARY:

Mr. Lahr introduced Jacque Fete from the Library Board to give a report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Book stated that she will attend the SHACOG meeting in Brentwood Borough tomorrow night in Mr. Veith's absence.

Mr. Wotus stated that the Planning Commission is looking at the recent Ordinance passed in Baldwin Borough related to the slaughter of animals.

ADJORNMENT:

M-12 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Ms. Book to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF MARCH 4, 2020:



Manager