



BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL
Notice of Meeting
June 17, 2020
7:00 PM

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall will meet Wednesday, June 17, 2019, at 7:00 PM, at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for a regular meeting.

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING
June 17, 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
- IV. Roll Call
- V. Consideration of Bills and Payroll – Veith
- VI. Consideration of the Minutes of June 3, 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. Public Works – Book, Lahr, DePuy
 - B. Public Safety – McKown, Lahr, Wotus
 - C. Recreation – DePuy, Veith, Book
 - D. Administrative Services – Veith, McKown, Wotus
 - E. Library – Lahr, Book, McKown
 - F. Planning & Zoning – Wotus, Veith, DePuy
- X. New Business
- XI. Adjournment

BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

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BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Regular Meeting June 17, 2020

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, June 17, 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.

ROLL CALL:

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS & PAYROLL

- M-1 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Ms. Book, that the bills contained on the bill list presented to Council on June 17, 2020 for \$180,227.74 from the General Fund, and \$71,625.70 from the Sanitary Sewer Fund be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-2 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Ms. Book, that checks and transfers for \$10,307.32 from the General Fund and \$44,492.44 from the Payroll Fund be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-3 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Ms. Book, that General Fund payroll for the period ending June 5, 2020 for \$132,265.39 as presented to Council on June 17, 2020, be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Mr. Wotus noticed a typo on page 11.

M-4 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. McKown to approve the Minutes of the June 3, 2020 Council Meeting with corrections. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS:

Residents wishing to speak at tonight's meeting phoned in via conference call. There is not enough space in the meeting room to accommodate all the residents wishing to speak while still practicing social distancing. Under advisement of the Solicitor the room must be open to all residents, or no residents, which is why the conference call was set up.

Walt Schran, 343 Maxwell Drive, appeared before Council to state he is unhappy with the pool operating guidelines.

Greg Goga, 229 Ranger Drive, appeared before Council to thank them for investigating the opening of the pool. He stated the Borough needs to provide services to attract new wage earners. The pool is the crown jewel of Whitehall. Mr. Goga stated the pool opening plan is restrictive. Lap swim should be allowed and the sessions should be longer. He wants to purchase pool passes.

Ann Kowatch, 151 Del Rio Drive, appeared before Council asking them to reconsider the lap swimming and the fee structure for the pool.

Cheryl Hirsch, 4898 Leona Drive, appeared before Council asking for lap swim and pool passes. She does not agree with the 25-person capacity in the water. She stated money from the recreation budget and road program budget should be used for the pool. She wants the guidelines to be reworked.

Dan (inaudible) appeared before Council to state he is unhappy with the pool operation plan.

MAYOR:

The Borough reported 3.69 percent of the calls to animal control services in May.

Mayor Nowalk reported on the following items:

- Mayor Nowalk stated that the Chief reports that Officer David Artman has tendered a letter of intent to retire on July 31, 2020. Officer Artman has worked for Whitehall Borough since 1995. He served as DARE/SRO Officer for the Baldwin Whitehall School District over the last 19 years. He has indicated he plans to retire to Hilton Head, SC.
- Mayor Nowalk stated that the Chief reports that this Friday, Whitehall Police Officers will be working in Jefferson Hills to cover shortages due to the funeral of Officer Dale Provins, who was killed in the line of duty when he was hit head on by an impaired driver. These Officers volunteered after Chief Roach of Jefferson Hills asked surrounding departments to cover shifts while his men prepare for this Saturday's funeral and heal mentally from the shock of the loss of a fellow officer.

Mayor Nowalk presented the report of the Whitehall Fire Company for June 3, 2020 to June 17, 2020.

Calls (Since Last Council Meeting) 11
 Calls Year to Date (12/1/2019 to 6/16/2020) 189

These calls included:

- 1 Elevator Rescue
- Cable Line Down
- Several Fire Alarms

Notable Calls:

Two vehicle accident, head on collision. First call for the use of the new battery-operated cutters and spreaders. These tools replaced the 15-year-old Jaws of Life.

Membership – 26 Firefighters

Apparatus –Rough date for new Engine 2 is November 15th.

Stations – No report.

Equipment – No report.

Mayor Nowalk stated that he approved a block party on Dolores Drive.

Mayor Nowalk stated that a letter was received from District Magistrate David Barton thanking Officer Newbould for his assistance with a security incident at court recently.

Mayor Nowalk stated that a letter was received from Council Member John Wotus thanking Sergeant Hinkle, Officer Stephenson and a 3rd unknown Officer for help finding his grandson at Snyder Park recently.

SOLICITOR:

No report.

ENGINEER:

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

- 2020 Road Program – Bids are scheduled to be received on July 9, 2020, with a potential award at the July 15th Council Meeting.
- Earlsdale Road Slide – The project is out for bid. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for June 25th. Bids will be received on July 23rd.
- Lewis Court Storm Sewer Repair – Recent storms have eroded a portion of the rear yard at 121 Lewis Court. A few sections of storm sewer piping have also been displaced. Quotes to repair the storm sewer were requested from 3 contractors. Roto Rooter Services Company was the lowest quote at \$23,500.00.

M-5 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to award the Lewis Court Storm Sewer Repair Project to Roto Rooter Services Company in the amount of \$23,500.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rusmisl stated that work on the E. Barlind sewer lateral issue raised by Mayor Nowalk at the last Council Meeting started Monday.

Mr. Lahr inquired about the status of the Road Program. Mr. Leventry stated that it is out to bid currently. The 4 worst streets on the original list were re-bid as a reduced road program.

MANAGER:

Mr. Leventry reported on the following items according to the written report given to Council:

- SHIM Camp – Jim Guffey, Executive Director for SHIM, would like to conduct their youth summer camp at Prospect Park this summer (pending receipt of outside funding). SHIM agrees to follow all applicable guidelines while operating the camp.

Mr. Wotus inquired about the Borough's liability if Council approves this request. Mr. Leventry stated that the Borough would not be liable for the SHIM Camp.

M-6 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Mr. Wotus to allow SHIM to operate their summer program at Prospect Park. The motion carried unanimously.

- Pool – Regardless of how the vote to open for the 2020 swim season turns out, Council is strongly advised to set aside a date and time to tour the entire facility. Some serious discussions will need to take place regarding the future of the 55-year old facility.

Mr. McKown stated that the pool is 55 years old. The Borough has been putting band-aids on it for years and it is time for a new pool.

Mrs. DePuy stated Council should look at the existing pool first before making any decisions.

Mr. Lahr stated that the pump room has many issues. Council has a fiduciary responsibility to maintain the Borough. It could cost up to \$3 million for a new pool.

Council will work with Mr. Leventry to set a date to tour the pool.

Mr. Leventry stated that the new Borough website will launch this evening.

Mr. Leventry stated that at the last meeting, Council voted to adopt a cleaning fee for the parks. He suggested a fee of \$25 for individual park permit holders.

M-6 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to adopt a \$25 cleaning fee for individual park permit holders. The motion carried unanimously.

ASSISTANT MANAGER:

No report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Ms. Book stated that Public Works has gone above and beyond the last few months, performing a lot of small jobs that save the Borough money.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. McKown stated that the Chief would like to thank the many residents who have approached Whitehall Borough Officers on the streets or written letters expressing their support for the Whitehall Police Department in these troubling times. They appreciate the support residents have shown.

Mr. McKown requested an executive session for personnel.

RECREATION:

M-7 Mrs. DePuy moved, seconded by Ms. Book to authorize the Manager to take all necessary steps to open the pool in accordance with guidelines issued by the CDC and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in a manner consistent with the Pool Operations plan provided by the Recreation Committee of Borough Council and adopted by the full Borough Council as part of this motion. On a roll call vote: Ms. Book, Mrs. DePuy, Mr. Lahr, Mr. McKown, Mr. Nagy, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus votes yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lahr stated that Borough Council has a fiduciary responsibility. He voted to open the pool but it will lose money. The pool loses \$150,000 annually, this year it will be more.

Mr. Nagy thanked Mrs. DePuy and her committee for working on the guidelines. Mrs. DePuy thanked the Pool Manager and Assistant Manager for their input. They suggested a lot of the guidelines and are confident that they can operate under them.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

Mr. Veith stated that the Administrative Committee met with representatives of the Whitehall Fire Company regarding moving to County 911.

Deputy Chief Gagorik stated that the Whitehall Police Department has met with Whitehall Fire Company regarding their concerns about dispatching multi-response calls. The Police Department has listened to their concerns and plan to meet monthly with them. The system in place now works and is in the best interest of Whitehall residents.

Mr. Veith stated that Council is interested in what is best for Whitehall residents and recommends keeping the current system of dispatching fire calls.

Mr. Lahr stated that Council should honor the Fire Company's request to move to County 911.

Mr. Veith stated that Council is extremely proud of the Fire Company and what they bring to the Borough. The Committee feels that the Borough currently has the best system that works and there is no reason to change it.

Mr. Wotus stated that all concerns were addressed by Mayor Nowalk and Deputy Chef Gagorik. There are advantages at Whitehall Borough that County 911 does not have.

Mayor Nowalk praised the process that occurred to allow this issue to be worked on. He stated that the accident on Baptist Road yesterday was an example of how residents call Whitehall Police Department, not 911 in an emergency.

Mr. Lahr stated that people will call 911 and it is time to make the move to County 911. He does not like the change but understands it.

Mr. Lahr moved to allow the Whitehall Fire Company to move to County 911. There was no second. The motion failed.

LIBRARY:

No report.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Mr. Wotus stated that the Zoning Hearing Board recently made 4 decisions.

Mr. Wotus turned the meeting over to Mr. Dellett.

Mr. Dellett addressed two memos he previously sent to Council regarding Zoning Amendments.

The first memo is in reference to Article XXVII Expressed Standards and Criteria for Conditional Uses and Special Exceptions. The amendment inserts a new Article XXVII Expressed Standards and Criteria for Conditional Uses and Special Exceptions. The proposed Ordinance amendment also permits Kennels as a conditional use in Commercial District C-4 and inserts definitions of Kennel and Recycling Center. The draft was reviewed by Borough Planning Commission. The Commission, at its January 8, 2020 meeting forwarded the draft to Borough Council and recommended Council hold a public hearing pursuant to the state Municipalities Planning Code. The public hearing, originally scheduled for April 1, 2020, was cancelled because of COVID-19. A reauthorization of the public hearing process for adoption of the Zoning Ordinance amendment is required.

M-8 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to authorize advertisement of the Ordinance pursuant to requirements in the state Municipalities Planning Code and to schedule a public hearing on the Ordinance before Council on August 5, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

The second memo is in reference to Article XXV Accessory Structures. The amendment, dated June 21, 2020, is virtually the same as the one adopted by Borough Council on February 5, 2020. The Ordinance was vetoed by Mayor Nowalk. Borough Council's Planning and Zoning Committee recommended forwarding the draft to Borough Council and recommended Council hold a public hearing pursuant to the state Municipalities Planning Code.

M-9 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to authorize advertisement of the Ordinance pursuant to requirements in the state Municipalities Planning Code and to schedule a public hearing on the Ordinance before Council on August 5, 2020. Ms. Book, Mrs. DePuy, Mr. McKown, Mr. Nagy, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus voted yes. Mr. Lahr dissented. The motion carried 6-1.

Mr. Lahr stated that he received a call about a house on Rolling Hills regarding a fence. He asked Mr. Dellett to look into the matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Veith stated that he received a letter from Rosemary Grogan regarding incorrect road signs that the County recently placed on Brownsville Road. She contacted the County and the signs were corrected quickly. She was very impressed by their quick response.

Ms. Book thanked Mr. Leventry and Ms. Wertz for getting a misspelled sign on Brownsville corrected.

Mr. Lahr stated that the County placed many incorrect signs on Brownsville after recent accidents there.

ADJORNMENT:

M-10 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to adjourn the meeting to executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF JULY 1, 2020:

Manager

