



**BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL**  
**Notice of Meeting**  
**July 15, 2020**  
**7:00 PM**

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall will meet Wednesday, July 15, 2019, at 7:00 PM, at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for a regular meeting.

**AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING**  
**July 15, 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 July 1, 2020
- VII. Citizens' Requests - Call In
- 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. Library – Lahr, Book, McKown
  - B. Planning & Zoning – Wotus, Veith, DePuy
  - C. Public Works – Book, Lahr, DePuy
  - D. Public Safety – McKown, Lahr, Wotus
  - E. Recreation – DePuy, Veith, Book
  - F. Administrative Services – Veith, McKown, Wotus
- X. New Business
- XI. Adjournment

BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

INDEX  
MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

\*\*\*\*\*

	Motion	Page
Bills, Payroll - Approve	M-1,2	1
July 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes – Approve	M-3	2
Library Reopening – Grant Request	M-4	2
Whitehall Fire Company to County 911	M-5	4
Payment to A. Merante – Authorize	M-6	4
2020 Reduced Road Program – Award	M-7	5
Payment to Plavchak Construction – Authorize	M-8	5
Payment to Merit Electric – Authorize	M-9	5
5414 Highgrove Road Agreement – Draft	M-10	6
Leventon Settlement – Authorize	M-11	6
2020-SLD-06 Grove Pointe 5 <sup>th</sup> Amendment	M-12	8
Prospect Park Phase I – Bid	M-13	8
Adjournment	M-14	9

## BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Regular Meeting July 15, 2020

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, July 15, 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 (via telephone)  
Glenn P. Nagy  
William J. Veith  
John A. Wotus  
James F. Nowalk, Mayor  
Robert McTiernan, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.  
Scott Rusmisl, Engineer

Absent: Irving S. Firman, Solicitor

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS & PAYROLL

- M-1 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr, that the bills contained on the bill list presented to Council on July 15, 2020 for \$190,670.54 from the General Fund be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-2 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr, that the bills contained on the bill list presented to Council on July 15, 2020 for \$136.87 from the Storm Sewer Fund, \$77,722.21 from the Sanitary Sewer Fund and \$144.35 from the Capital Projects Fund be approved; and checks and transfers for \$5,792.14 from the General Fund and \$48,359.75 from the Payroll Fund be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

M-3 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Veith to approve the Minutes of the July 1, 2020 Council Meeting as presented. 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.

Paula Kelly, Whitehall Public Library Librarian, appeared before Council with a revised plan to reopen the Library. The plan calls for 4 computers to be available for 45 minutes appointments. The building would remain locked. The plan would be implemented the last week of July if approved. Ms. Kelly stated it is hard to be closed but the Library's first priority is the safety of the community and staff.

Mr. Wotus stated that the number of cases in Allegheny County keep going up every day. He advised caution.

Ms. Kelly agreed. She would like to wait and see how the numbers play out in the next week and possibly walk back the plan if cases keep rising. Safety is their top priority.

Mrs. DePuy asked how/who would be cleaning and sanitizing the computers between patrons. Ms. Kelly stated that the Library staff will take on that responsibility. The areas will be disinfected and left to dry for 15 minutes before the next patron arrives. A few other libraries in the County are already doing this and have not had any issues.

M-4 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. Veith to grant the Library's request to open based on the revised plan that was submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR:

The Borough reported 4.32 percent of the calls to animal control services in June.

Mayor Nowalk reported on the following items:

- Mayor Nowalk stated that the Chief reports that due to concerns and uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and the reopening of the Baldwin Whitehall School District, the Department's SRO and DARE program have been suspended until after the new year.

- Mayor Nowalk stated that the Chief reports that interviews with the Public Safety Committee and the four candidates on the Whitehall Civil Service eligibility list for the position of Police Officer, will be held on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

Mayor Nowalk stated that the Chief requests an executive session after the meeting for matters related to personnel.

Mayor Nowalk presented the report of the Whitehall Fire Company for July 1, 2020 to July 14, 2020.

Calls (Since Last Council Meeting) .....	24
Calls Year to Date (12/1/2019 to 7/14/2020) .....	222

These calls included:

- 6 Fire Alarms
- 7 Hazardous Conditions  
Includes: Natural Gas Leak, Freon Leak, Vehicle Accident Clean-Up, Overheated Motor, Stand-By in the area of Woodridge
- 1 Vehicle Accident with Injuries
- 2 Assisted Medics on EMS Calls
- 2 Public Service Calls
- 1 Smoke Investigation
- 1 House Struck by Lightning
- 2 Calls for Mutual Aid

Notable Calls:

- 1 Structure Fire; Mutual Aid into Mt. Oliver

Membership – 26 Firefighters

Apparatus – No report.

Stations – Broken window at Station 2; believed to have been caused by a bird or focused heat and age.

Equipment – Annual flow testing on self-contained breathing apparatus was completed.

Mr. Wotus stated that the latest Fire Company report was posted to a community Facebook page. It is good information for citizens to have.

Mayor Nowalk stated that last Monday he attended a meeting with members of the Fire Company, Council and Whitehall Police Department. Chief Henderson spoke with Rob McHugh, following which he asked that the Mayor drop his opposition to the Fire Company's request to dispatch through County 911. Mayor Nowalk spoke with Mr. McHugh and received a commitment from him that there will be a "backdoor" option for Whitehall Communications Center to connect with the Fire Company if needed. Mayor Nowalk dropped his opposition to the Fire Company's request.

Mr. Lahr thanked Mayor Nowalk for his work on this issue.

M-5 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to allow the Whitehall Fire Company to switch dispatching services to County 911. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Leventry will write the necessary letter to the County.

Chief Henderson stated that residents will need to be educated about the change. Mr. Nagy suggested using the SwiftReach call. Mayor Nowalk will give that consideration. Mr. Lahr suggested the Whitehall Fire Company mail a letter to all residents explaining the change.

Mayor Nowalk stated that Police matters are still dispatched through 412-884-1100. After the switchover has occurred, the situation will be clarified for residents.

Mayor Nowalk left the meeting at 7:25 PM.

SOLICITOR:

No report.

ENGINEER:

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

- Doverdell Drive Watershed Project – All restoration work has been completed. There is an estimated \$70,000 retainage left until Merante submits "As Built" plans to Gateway. Payment Application No. 19 includes Change Order No. 11 which relates to work done at the Sabo residence.

M-6 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. Wotus to approve Payment Application No. 19 in the amount of \$19,544.84 to A. Merante. The motion carried unanimously.

- 2020 Road Program – Five (5) bids were received on July 9<sup>th</sup> for the 2020 Pavement Maintenance Program Re-Bid. Independent Enterprises, Inc. was the apparent low bidder with a bid amount of \$156,930.00.

Mrs. DePuy stated that the Borough is not spending the money budgeted to improve the Public Works Garage. The reduced road program would offset those savings.

M-7 Mrs. DePuy moved, seconded by Ms. Book to award the 2020 Road Program Re-Bid to Independent Enterprises Inc. in the amount of \$156,930.00. Mr. McKown dissented. The motion carried 6-1.

- Salt Storage – Restoration issues discussed at the last Council Meeting have been addressed. A final walk through inspection was completed on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The final pay application and project closeout documents have been prepared.

M-8 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. Wotus to approve Payment Application No. 6 in the amount of \$107,591.30 to Plavchak Construction. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rusmisl stated that electrical work at the Salt Storage Shed has been completed.

M-9 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to approve Payment Application No. 2 in the amount of \$19,958.80 to Merit Electric. The motion carried unanimously.

- Earlsdale Road Slide – The project is out for bid. A pre-bid meeting was held June 30<sup>th</sup>. Bids will be received on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Pool Evaluation – Council was provided with Gateway Engineers' Structural Assessment of the Whitehall Pool for review.

Mr. Wotus inquired how long it would take to do any of the suggested options. Mr. Rusmisl stated that a full scope project would require 1-1 ½ years of work after design is completed.

Mr. Nagy suggested that Council review the assessment and submit their comments in writing to review and condense. Comments are due to Mr. Leventry by July 29<sup>th</sup> and a meeting with Gateway Engineers will be scheduled before the August 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

Mr. Lahr stated that pavement around a sewer grate on Grove Road has disintegrated. Mr. Rusmisl stated that Mele has been notified. This work is covered under their maintenance bond.

Mr. Rusmisl stated that the resident at 5414 Highgrove Road would like to expand their driveway. The expansion would conflict with an existing storm sewer inlet. The Borough installed the inlet about 20 years ago to mitigate flooding in the area. The resident understands the flooding issues and has offered to pay to remove the hood on the existing inlet so it would be flat for a car to drive over getting in/out of the proposed driveway. The inlet is located in the roadway.

Mr. Nagy stated that if the Borough can accommodate the request and the resident is willing to pay for it and sign an agreement, he is not opposed to it.

Mr. Rusmisl explained that the raised hood on the inlet works to allow flood waters to enter the inlet in the event the grate becomes blocked with debris.

M-10 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to authorize the Solicitor to draft an agreement that would run with the property for the current resident to sign. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rusmisl requested an executive session after the meeting.

MANAGER:

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

- CARES Act – The Borough received notice from the County that there may be some funds available to the Borough from the CARES Act via Allegheny County. According to the information received, it would cover reimbursable costs sustained by the Borough due to COVID-19. The preliminary qualifying form has been submitted and a virtual training session is scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup>. It appears that the maximum amount the Borough could received is \$150,000 based on population.
- Leventon Settlement Agreement – The agreement is being prepared to with closing tentatively scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup>. The tenant must vacate the building before closing.

M-11 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release, approve settlement for case NO GD19-2238 and GD17-6878 in a form approved by the Borough Solicitor, provided Whitehall's portion of the settlement proceeds are paid by its insurance carrier. The motion carried unanimously.

- Cell Tower Lease – The cell tower lease will be sent to Council for review. Action will be taken at the next Council Meeting.



- EIT – Finance Director Vince Yevins provided an estimate on Earned Income Tax Revenue for 2020. As of June 30th, collections are \$360,000 behind budget, if this pattern holds, the Borough will be short \$710,000 by the end of the year. Mr. Yevins will provide monthly updates to Council.
- Swimming Pool – Following completion of the electrical inspection, the pool opened on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The largest single day crowd thus far has been 60, with 38 in the early session and 22 in the second. Otherwise, sessions have consisted of anywhere from 1 to about 20 patrons. Revenue collected through July 14<sup>th</sup> comes to \$1,100.00. Patrons have been largely cooperative and respectful, other than one patron paying their daily fee all in pennies and another complaining about having to show proof of residency.

Council may want to make some modifications to the rules. Since crowds don't seem to be a problem, one session per day, not to exceed 70 patrons was suggested. An announcement could be made halfway through the day that the bath house would be closed for cleaning for a half hour.

Mr. Lahr stated that many residents don't know the pool is open. Mr. Leventry stated that it has been advertised everywhere.

Mr. McKown stated that a policy that all fees be paid in currency should be adopted. Mr. Leventry stated that the resident paying in pennies was told they would be denied with coins in the future.

Mr. Nagy stated that only the bathhouse should close midday for cleaning. Mr. Veith stated that the South Hills Country Club cleans the railings during shut down.

Mr. Leventry stated that the Pool Manager is okay with the suggested changes.

Mr. Nagy stated that more municipal pools are opening now. He suggested letting the Pool Management determine operating procedures. Council was in agreement with that suggestion.

Mr. Nagy inquired about bad weather days and refunds. Mrs. DePuy stated that the pool closed due to weather this past weekend and there were no issues with people demanding refunds.

The new operating procedures will start on Monday.

ASSISTANT MANAGER:

No report.

LIBRARY:

No report.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Mr. Dellet requested Council consider a motion to act on 2020-SLD-06 Grove Pointe Fifth Amendment subdivision plan application. The applicant requests subdivision plan approval to finalize property lines along party walls of five townhouses (192-200 Providence Way) on Lot 3 of the Grove Pointe Residential Land Development. The parcels are located in Residence District R-7. At its July 8, 2020 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended conditional approval of the application. Staff recommends Council grant approval of the 2020-SLD-06 Grove Pointe Fifth Amendment subdivision plan application subject to certain conditions.

M-12 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to approve 2020-SLD-06 Grove Pointe Fifth Amendment subdivision plan application subject to certain conditions. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wotus stated that the Planning Commission discussed fireworks regulations at its latest meeting.

Mayor Nowalk will be working with resident Gary Kelly to mediate a neighbor dispute regarding lighting.

PUBLIC WORKS:

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

No report.

RECREATION:

Mrs. DePuy stated that the Parks Committee recently met and are recommending the Prospect Park Phase I project be bid with 1 ADA parking spot.

M-13 Mrs. DePuy moved, seconded by Mr. Veith to bid the Prospect Park Phase I project. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. DePuy stated that the Recreation Board met in Pool Plaza for their meeting.

To ensure the safety of all our residents, there will be no in-person recreation events until the new year. There will be a virtual art contest and Recreation Director Hannah Vetere has been in contact with Slapsticks Production about hosting virtual events. In August, there will be a contest to come up with the best moniker for Whitehall Borough. The top three will be presented to Council. The first biweekly newsletter will be released on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Residents can sign up for the newsletter on the Borough website.

Mr. Nagy stated that it is nice to see activity at Snyder Park. Mrs. DePuy stated that the pickleball groups are active there.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Henderson stated that MRTSA recently lost their longest tenured medic, Norm Feehan, to cancer.

Mr. Veith stated that his brother-in-law passed away recently and he was impressed with Whitehall Borough Police saluting as they left St. Gabe's. It meant a lot to his family.

ADJORNMENT:

M-14 Mrs. DePuy moved, seconded by Ms. Book to adjourn the meeting in honor of Norm Feehan. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF AUGUST 5, 2020:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Manager

