



BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL
Notice of Meeting
October 21, 2020
7:00 PM

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall will meet Wednesday, October 21, 2019, at 7:00 PM, at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for a regular meeting.

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING
October 21, 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 October 7, 2020 Council Meeting
- VII. Citizens' Requests - Call In
 United States:+1 (872) 240-3412
 Access Code: 840-157-933
- 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

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BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Regular Meeting October 21, 2020

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, October 21, 2020, at 7:00 PM, for a regular meeting. President Nagy called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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
 Keith P. Henderson, Chief of Police
 Jason C. Gagorik, Deputy Chief of Police

SWEARING IN CEREMONY – PATROL OFFICER

Mayor Nowalk administered the oath of office to Scott Brown for the position of Patrol Officer.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS & PAYROLL

- M-1 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Mr. McKown, that the bills contained on the bill list presented to Council on October 21, 2020 for \$280,805.36 from the General Fund; \$3,024.25 from the Storm Sewer Fund, \$233,631.93 from the Sanitary Sewer Fund, \$71,005.51 from the Doverdell Drive Storm Sewer Fund and \$4,038.93 from the Capital Projects Fund be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-2 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Ms. Book, that checks and transfers for \$5,233.41 from the General Fund and \$44,268.43 from the Payroll Fund be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-3 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Mr. McKown that General Fund payroll for the period ending October 9, 2020 for \$132,452.85 as presented to Council on October 21, 2020, be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

M-4 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve the Minutes of the October 7, 2020 Council Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS:

Residents wishing to speak at tonight's meeting phoned in via conference call at

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Access Code: 840-157-933

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.

Mary Ann Belles, Whitehall Community Lions Club, appeared before Council requesting a collaboration with the Borough on a Plastic Film Recycling Project. When the Club receives 500 pounds of donated plastic, they will donate a bench to Whitehall Borough. Council is interested in collaborating but has questions about the logistics of the project. Ms. Book will be in touch with Ms. Belles once logistics are discussed.

Chris Mooney, 4411 E. Lawnview Avenue, appeared before Council with questions about the cost of the pool replacement project and the Borough's overall debt service. Mr. McKown explained the preliminary budget estimates for the proposed project and reviewed the Borough's current debt obligations. Council is in the beginning phases of the project. They are currently looking for public input on the functionality of the proposed design and collecting budget information.

Tara Abbott, Library Board, appeared before Council to give a report on the Whitehall Public Library.

MAYOR:

The Borough reported 6.95 percent of the calls to animal control services in September.

Mayor Nowalk reported on the following items:

- Mayor Nowalk stated that the Chief reports that the 2020 Firearms Qualifications at Steel Rivers Range have been postponed until mid-November due to COVID-19 concerns. This has benefited the Department as the new rifles have been shipped and they expect to take possession of them prior to the new range dates allowing the Department to qualify only once.

- Mayor Nowalk stated that the Chief reports that this past Tuesday, Deputy Chief Gagorik attended an Election Day Stakeholder meeting for Law Enforcement. This meeting was sponsored by Allegheny County Emergency Services to address Law Enforcement roles, responsibilities and available resources in case of disturbances that could occur at polling places throughout the County.

Mayor Nowalk stated that the Sheriff Department is the law enforcement arm of the election department. Chief Henderson stated that is correct. There are 1300 polling places in the County and they cannot cover all of them.

- Mayor Nowalk stated that Department members completed mandatory CPR, First Aid and AED training this week.
- Mayor Nowalk stated that the Chief would like to remind residents that the deer mating season or rut, will be underway within the next week or two. Motorists should be aware that this is historically the time of year where deer vs. motor vehicle collisions are highest and the Department asks that all drivers remain vigilant during this time of increased deer activity.

Mayor Nowalk stated that he received a letter from GBU Financial about this year's Operation Rescue plans. This year's goal is 7,000 packages. The organization will be packing boxes in West Mifflin 2 days a month through December.

Mrs. DePuy asked for an update on the Police Department's Internal Affairs Policy. Mayor Nowalk stated that it is part of the Department's Policies and Procedures. Chief Henderson stated that a procedure is in place that has been vetted by PA Chiefs of Police and complies with the PLEAC. Mrs. DePuy inquired if Council approved this policy. Mayor Nowalk stated that the PA State Mayors Association's position is that Police polices are approved by the Mayor, not Council.

SOLICITOR:

No report.

ENGINEER:

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

- Operations & Maintenance – Roto Rooter has started work for the 2020 Sanitary Sewer Excavation Repair Contract.

M-5 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. McKown to approve Payment Application No. 2 in the amount of \$69,141.52 to Roto Rooter Service Company for the 2020 Sanitary Sewer Excavation Repair Contract. The motion carried unanimously.

- Streets Run Storm Sewer Construction & McRoberts/Earlsdale Road Slide – Bids are out for both of these projects. Pre-bid meetings were held yesterday in the field. There is a lot of interest in both projects. Bids will be opened on November 12th. Mr. Rusmisl stated that Gateway Engineers is working on updating the contractor pre-qualification list.
- Pool Evaluation – Survey field work for the existing condition plan was completed on October 13th. Existing condition plan preparation started October 14th.

Mr. McKown asked that Gateway Engineers print a large poster sized copy of the proposed pool design for public display. Mr. Nagy asked for an electronic copy to distribute.

Mr. Nagy stated that the proposed design will answer a plethora of questions that residents may have. Mr. Nagy asked Council how they would like to proceed with public input going forward. Council must first agree on a final design as that will determine the amount of money to consider.

Mrs. DePuy stated that there needs to be a maximum number. Many residents don't understand how much pools actually cost. Mrs. DePuy also visited nearby pools for ideas.

Mr. Rusmisl stated that Gateway Engineers would be willing to 3D print the proposed design at no cost to the Borough.

The proposed design will be made public, comments will be received via the ourpool@whitehallboro.org email and Mayor Nowalk and Ms. Wertz will handle responses. Mr. Leventry stated that there have only been 5 emails thus far.

MANAGER:

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

- Budget Meeting Dates – The 2021 Budget Meeting dates are scheduled for November 9, 14 and 21 at 9AM.

- Planning Commission Appointment – Ryan Keegan of Doyle Road has applied to fill one of the vacancies on the Planning Commission. As Mr. Keegan will be replacing a departing member, his term would commence immediately and would expire on December 31, 2023. Mr. Wotus stated that he left Mr. Keegan a message to schedule an interview next week.

Mr. McKown asked that the Manager revise the format of the Manager's Report to include Project Status Updates on the ongoing projects similar to the Engineer's Report.

ASSISTANT MANAGER:

No report.

LIBRARY:

Mr. Lahr distributed a voting themed flier that the Library is posting prior to the upcoming Election.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Mr. Wotus stated the September Permit Summary was distributed to Council. The Planning Commission met October 14th to discuss a proposed pathway at Grove Pointe. The Committee will be interviewing Mr. Keegan next week. The Zoning Hearing Board heard 3 cases at their last meeting – all 3 were denied. The Planning Commission is looking at limiting fireworks in the Borough. He asked Mr. Firman to provide information on other communities that have limited fireworks.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Leventry provided an update on staffing after a Public Works employee tested positive for COVID-19 last week. All Public Works staff was sent home until they could provide a negative COVID test. By Monday, 5 employees were back with the 6th reporting to work on Tuesday. The employee that tested positive for COVID will need to provide 2 negative tests before returning to work. All protocols are being strictly followed.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

No report.

RECREATION:

Mrs. DePuy stated that the pickleball courts at Snyder Park are busy. A new recreation update has been sent out.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

Mr. McKown reviewed the September financials for the Borough. Revenues are down 10%. Mr. Leventry stated that is mostly due to the reduced EIT earnings. Mr. McKown stated that expenditures are down. Mr. Leventry stated the Borough is not spending any money that is not absolutely necessary but that cannot go on forever. Mr. McKown stated that the Borough is okay but not out of the woods yet.

Mr. Veith inquired about updating the stormwater fee. Mr. Rusmisl stated that Gateway should work with Mr. Dellett given the recent development in the Borough. Mr. Leventry stated the new properties should be on the next billing cycle. The stormwater fee bills are generated based off the sanitary sewer bills – when properties change hands, the owner information is updated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Wotus stated that he met with Lisa Brown and Mr. Leventry to discuss the Whitehall Creek behind the Tennis Courts. Mr. Wotus attended the virtual Chamber of Commerce meeting. The Historical Society Committee will meet next week.

Mr. Veith wished Ms. Book luck in the upcoming election.

Mr. Leventry stated that the phone system in the Community Room will be torn down for Election Day on November 3rd and reinstalled the next morning for the Council Meeting on November 4th.

Ms. Book provided a report on SHACOG. Whitehall Borough will host the next meeting on November 19th.

Ms. Book stated that elections for the ACBA Board will be November 5th at the Double Tree in Monroeville.

Mr. Lahr provided a report on the Whitehall Fire Company.

Mr. Nagy thanked Mr. Lahr and Ms. Wertz for their work on the Borough Bulletin.

ADJORNMENT:

M-6 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Ms. Book to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF NOVEMBER 4, 2020:

Manager

