

BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

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BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Regular Meeting April 7, 2021

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at 7:00 PM, for a regular meeting. President McKown called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President McKown 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
Alyssa M. Rogalla, Administrative Assistant
Keith P. Henderson, Chief of Police
Jason C. Gagorik, Deputy Chief of Police

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS & PAYROLL

- M-1 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr, that the bills contained on the bill list presented to Council on April 7, 2021 for \$264,711.49 from the General Fund, \$34,022.40 from the Storm Sewer Fund, \$38,885.63 from the Sanitary Sewer Fund, \$8,500 from the Doverdell Drive Storm Sewer Fund, and \$23,793.88 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 \$12,897.28 from the General Fund and \$61,489.02 from the Payroll Fund be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-3 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr that General Fund payroll for the period ending March 26, 2021 for \$145,276.81 as presented to Council on April 7, 2021 be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Mr. Wotus asked that a correction be made on page 9 in regards to Motion 13. He wanted to change his vote from the affirmative to the negative. Mr. Firman explained that Mr. Wotus cannot change his vote but this statement is noted.

M-4 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve the Minutes of the March 17, 2021 Council Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS:

None

Mr. McKown provided background on the Swimming Pool Replacement Project. Last year, Council found devastating conditions and the pool cannot open this season. Mayor Nowalk began a conversation with residents in the Fall 2020 Borough Magazine. Mayor Nowalk established two committees to gather information on a potential replacement. Pool users were then surveyed and meetings with Pool Management were held. Council committees then began to look at financing and design of a new pool. A design was created based on data collected and will be presented later this evening. Mr. McKown stated that elected officials have been very transparent during this process. They continue to move forward in order to meet a May 2023 opening.

MAYOR:

Mayor Nowalk presented his report for March 2021:

EMS Assists.....	134
Court/Hearings/Pretrial	77
Accidents	16
Criminal Arrests.(DUI – 2)	9
Traffic Stops	111
Traffic Details	74
Written Traffic Citations.	110
Written Warnings Traffic Violations.	87

Total amount of money collected and turned over to the Borough during March 2021, amounted to \$5,333.83 the breakdown is as follows:

MVC from District Magistrate	\$1,050.44
Crimes Code and Code violations from District Magistrate	\$1,063.44
Parking Fines	\$1,450.00
Copies	\$255.00
Fines from Clerk of Courts	\$1,514.95

Mayor Nowalk reviewed the report from Whitehall Fire Company.

Calls during period:

Total Calls for March: 29
Total Calls Year-To-Date (Starting December 1): 124

Notable Calls:
03-07-2021 Over the hill rescue for a male with an injured leg.
4 Calls for power lines down.
Multiple calls to assist other companies.

Membership:
26 Firefighters on the Roster.
All but three members are fully vaccinated. One of the three received their first dose.

Apparatus, Stations, and Equipment:
Apparatus:

- 301 Truck is back in service and is running well.
- Old 301 Engine 2 was sold.

Stations:
Working with HVAC company to restore Station 1's HVAC to working order.

Equipment:
The new combination vehicle rescue tool was used during a drill. The tool worked with great success.

Mayor Nowalk stated that the South Hills Record recently ran an article about Whitehall Fire Company accepting Junior Firefighters

Mayor Nowalk stated that he has prepared a proclamation declaring April 24, 2021 as Earth Day. He asked that Council concur.

M-5 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to concur with the Mayor's proclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Nowalk stated that he has prepared a proclamation declaring May 2, 2021 as Bell's Across Pennsylvania. He asked that Council concur.

M-6 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to concur with the Mayor's proclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Nowalk stated that he received a letter from a resident thanking Officer Seese for his assistance with a traffic accident.

Mayor Nowalk provided an update on RADAR.

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Firman has prepared an amendment to the Wage and Salary Ordinance.

M-7 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to read the Ordinance in its entirety. The motion carried unanimously.

M-8 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. McKown Mr. Nagy, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. The Ordinance No. is 1142.

ENGINEER:

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

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

M-9 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Veith to approve Pay Application 4 in the amount of \$142,369.37 for the 2020 Sanitary Sewer Excavation Project to Roto Rooter Service Company. The motion carried unanimously.

- Streets Run Storm Sewer Construction – A. Folino Construction, Inc. continued storm, sewer construction. There were only two days lost due to weather since March 8. A Folino Construction, Inc., submitted pay application number 1 for work completed March 31, 2021.

M-10 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. Wotus to approve Pay Application 1 in the amount of \$142,746.35 for the Streets Run Storm Sewer Construction Project to A. Folino Construction. The motion carried unanimously.

- McRoberts Road Slide - JG Contracting Company continued construction of the soil nail wall. The concrete wall has been constructed. Installation of the soil nails has started. JG Contracting submitted pay application number 2 for work completed to March 31, 2021.

M-11 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Wotus to approve Payment Application No. 2 in the amount of \$57,700.22 for the McRoberts Road Slide Repair Contract to JG Contracting Company. The motion carried unanimously.

- 2021 Pavement Maintenance Program- Bids for the 2021 Pavement Maintenance Program were received on April 1 2021, at 2:00 pm. Bids were received from five contractors, with A Liberoni, Inc. being the lowest pre-qualified, responsive bidder with a Base Bid of \$393,919.23 and an Add Alternate No 1 Bid of \$26, 207. 86 for a total bid of \$420,126.91 A bid tabulation is attached for your review.

M-12 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to award the 2021 Pavement Maintenance Program to A. Liberoni, Inc. with a Base Bid of \$393,919.23 and Add Alternate No. 1 Bid of \$26,207.68 for a total bid of \$420, 126.91.

MANAGER:

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

- County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Every five years, the Borough is required to adopt the County Hazard Mitigation Plan as their own. A Resolution to do so is attached and will be presented to Council for adoption. This Resolution will make it official.

M-13 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Ms. Book to read the Resolution in its entirety. The motion carried unanimously.

M-14 After the reading of the Resolution, Mr. Veith moved for adoption, Ms. Book seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, Ms. Book, Mrs. DePuy, Mr. Lahr, Mr. Nagy, Mr. McKown, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. The Resolution No. is 996.

- Park Requests – In the past few weeks, Mr. Leventry received multiple requests from residents asking to reserve a park solely to be used for parking for guests attending a private event. Council is ok with granting these requests.
- The GBWAA has requested the ability to reserve certain parks to use for ballgames on some Sundays in April and May. Council is ok with granting these requests.
- Council adopted a Covid-19 cleaning fee for the park buildings last year. New CDC guidelines indicate low transmission via surfaces. Council plans to continue collecting the cleaning fee.
- Building Reopening – By April 26, all administrative employees will be 14 days from their second vaccination, Mr. Leventry intends to open the admin floor for Borough business on the 26th. The building will not be open to outside groups at this time.

Mr. Leventry stated that the Severance Agreement with Chief Keith Henderson has been signed.

M-15 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Ms. Book to ratify the execution of the agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Leventry stated that the Firework Ordinance has been on public display for two weeks.

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

M-17 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. McKown, Mr. Veith and Mr. Wotus voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. The Ordinance No. is 1143

Mr. McKown asked for an Executive session for matters of personnel after the meeting.

ASSISTANT MANAGER:

No report.

Ms. Wertz asked if Council wanted to attend the ALOM Conference and to let her know to make arrangements.

Ms. Wertz introduced the Borough's new Administrative Assistant, Alyssa M. Rogalla.

LIBRARY:

Ms. Book stated that the Library is open on a limited basis and things are going well. The Friends of the Library kicked off their annual fundraiser on April 4.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Mrs. DePuy stated that staff requests Council consider a motion to act on 2021-SLD-04 Grove Pointe Ninth Amendment Subdivision Plan Application. The applicant requests subdivision plan application approval to show property lines of four townhouse units on Lot 5 of the Grove Pointe Residential Land Development. The parcels are located in Residence District R-7. At its March 10, 2021 meeting, The Planning Commission recommended conditional approval of the application. The recommendation letter from The Planning Commission was attached to the memo.

M-18 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Veith to grant approval of the 2021-SLD-04 Grove Pointe Ninth Amendment 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 March 3, 2021 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 & Code Enforcement Review Memorandum. The applicant shall address all outstanding issues referenced in the Borough Director of Planning, Zoning & Code Enforcement's memorandum dated March 5, 2021, in a manner acceptable to the Borough Director of Planning, Zoning & Code Enforcement. 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.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Nagy stated that he received notice that Allegheny county will be paving Provost Road from Brownsville Road to Weyman Road. East Willock Road/Prospect Road from Brownsville Road to Streets Run Road.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Lahr stated the Chief requests Council conduct final interviews for the position of Deputy Chief of Police on either Monday April 19 or Tuesday April 20. Interviews will be scheduled with 30-minute sets for each interview. Council interviews will be scheduled for April 19 at 6:30PM.

Mr. Lahr stated that the Civil Service Commission has set Friday, April 16, 2021 as the day for the Physical Ability Exams for the top 20 candidates after the written exam, which was held this past Saturday. Physical ability exams will be conducted at the Allegheny County Police Training Academy. The Chief's panel interview of the remaining top ten candidates will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

Mr. Lahr stated the Chief reports that the Department put the second new explorer into service this week after its return from the upfitter. Council may notice a change to the new vehicle's graphics package. This was due to the new body style of the Ford Explorer.

Mr. Wotus inquired how many officers would be hired off the new Civil Service list. Mr. Lahr stated one or two, depending on if applicants have to go to the Academy.

Mayor Nowalk inquired about how many applicants we had for the test. Chief Henderson stated that we had 37 applicants and 34 took the test.

ADMINISTRATION:

No report.

RECREATION:

Mr. Veith stated that Amy K. Fetter is interested in serving on the Recreation Board.

M-19 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Mr. Wotus to appoint Amy Fetter to the Recreation Board for a term ending December 31, 2021 The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Veith provided an update on Recreation activities.

POOL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Rusmisl and Sean Murphy from Gateway Engineers presented Design #2 for the Swimming Pool Replacement Project.

The Recreation Committee met twice with Gateway Engineers since the last Council Meeting. Mr. Rusmisl explained the decision was made to combine the large pool and exercise pool and have a separate baby pool. Sean Murphy stated activities have been added to the deep end and all features can be moved and adjusted for efficiency. Mr. Murphy highlighted a grassy sun bathing area, umbrella seats for shade, an underwater bench feature and a new concession stand.

A discussion took place about ADA guidelines. Mr. Murphy explained the new swimming pool design has a zero-depth entry and a lift. ADA ramps are included for handicap residents and stroller users.

Pool Management thanked Council and the Engineers for listening to their thoughts and concerns.

Mr. Veith recommended moving forward with Design #2 for the Swimming Pool Replacement Project.

M-20 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Ms. Book to authorize Gateway Engineers to move forward with Design #2 for the Swimming Pool Replacement Project. The motion carried unanimously.

Pool Management inquired if the Borough has made it public knowledge that the pool will not be opening this summer as he has received many calls about it. Mr. Leventry stated the information has been out since Fall.

Mayor Nowalk suggested inquiring with neighboring Boroughs for Whitehall residents to use their pools. Ms. Wertz stated Brentwood and Baldwin Borough allow non-residents to use their pools.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Wotus stated that Chief Henderson acquired a copy of a picture of the one room school house on Baptist Road. The Historical Society is now in possession of this photograph.

Mr. Wotus stated he is working to set up a meeting with Lisa Brown for the Whitehall Creek. Mayor Nowalk stated that comments made by Mr. Lahr and Mr. Wotus on page 6 of the March 17, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes reflect the two ideas of representation – trustee and delegate theories.

ADJORNMENT:

M-21 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to adjourn the meeting in memory of Elva Bertha, who passed recently. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF APRIL 21, 2021:

Manager