

## BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Regular Meeting August 18, 2021

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 7:00 PM, for a regular meeting. President McKown announced that all meetings will be recorded auditorily and visually. President McKown 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 -- Arrived at 7:06 PM  
 John A. Wotus  
 William J. Veith  
 James F. Nowalk, Mayor  
 Irving S. Firman, Solicitor  
 Scott Rusmiser, Engineer

STAFF:

James E. Leventry, Manager  
 Courtney M. Wertz, Assistant Borough Manager  
 Jason C. Gagorik, Chief of Police  
 Alyssa M. Rogalla, Administrative Assistant

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS & PAYROLL

- M-1 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mr. Nagy, that the bills contained on the bill list presented to Council on August 18, 2021 for \$191,569.46 from the General Fund, \$1,256.79 from the Sanitary Sewer Fund and \$5,363.19 from the Capital Projects Fund be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-2 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Ms. Book, that checks and transfers for \$7,810.29 from the General Fund and \$47,924.74 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 August 13, 2021, for \$150,538.38 as presented to Council on August 18, 2021 be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

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

CITIZENS' REQUESTS:

Gregg Groga, 229 Ranger Drive, appeared before Council to discuss a zoning matter of subdivided lots. Mr. Groga is concerned about developments other than single-family dwellings.

Mr. Leventry stated that what is developed would depend on the current zoning laws and the Planning, Zoning, and Code Enforcement Director would be in contact with him with more information.

MAYOR:

Mayor Nowalk presented the July 2021 Animal Control Report:

WHITEHALL – Total of 31 calls, 5.39% of all calls.

Mayor Nowalk stated Chief Gagorik reports that Officer Persichetti completed a two-day narcotics investigation course sponsored by the FBI National Academy. The course discussed how to manage and work with confidential informants.

Mayor Nowalk stated Chief Gagorik reports that Officer Giuseppe Valenti has completed one month of field training. His training officers report he is progressing well.

Mayor Nowalk stated Chief Gagorik reports that Officer Joseph Lacko will return from Military duty on August 23, 2021. He does anticipate being recalled to Military duty from September 7-12, 2021 for an annual training exercise at the Pittsburgh 911<sup>th</sup> Airwing.

Mayor Nowalk presented the July 2021 Fire Company Report:

**Calls during period:**

Total Calls for July: 41

Total Calls Year-To-Date (Starting December 1): 302

**Notable Calls:**

7-13-2021 Assisted Brentwood with a Residential Fire. Whitehall was first on scene with an apparatus, crews worked quickly to extinguish the fire.

**Membership:**

27 Members

**Apparatus, Stations, and Equipment:**

Apparatus:

Engine 2 is back with its back doors being repainted.

Stations:

Exploring the installation of a Plymovent exhaust system in both stations.

Exploring furnishing the bunkroom at Station 1.

Equipment:

Nothing to Report.

**Training:**

Members completed class classes, Engine Company Operations and Truck Company Operations Whitehall will be joining Pleasant Hills in training members for swift water rescue. The Fire Company will be sending 4 members for the training.

Mayor Nowalk stated the awardees from Community Weekend:

**Person of the Year**

Meghan Schiller

**Community Service Awardees**

Noel L. Emanuel

Louise M. Wolf and Scott T. Wolf

**Good Neighbor Awardees**

Kristine M. Flowers

Lawrence A. Heidenreich

Michael S. Quallich and Gina M. Quallich

Mayor Nowalk stated that a block party will be taking place on Flamingo Road on September 18, 2021 from 12PM-8PM.

Mayor Nowalk read a letter that the Police Department received in regard to Officer Newbould donating \$40 to a lemonade stand on Parkview Road. The proceeds went to a local animal shelter. The children and parents thanked Officer Newbould for his generosity and attention that was shown to the children.

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik is getting quotes for the Schmitt Memorial sign for the Police Department.

Mayor Nowalk discussed an issue of feral cats raised by a resident.

Mayor Nowalk stated that the money donated from the canine fundraiser will benefit police canine initiative.

M-5 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to award the donated money toward police canine initiative. The motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Firman requested an Executive Session after the meeting for matters of personnel and litigation.

ENGINEER:

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

- Streets Run Storm Sewer Construction – A. Folino is planning to reconstruct the sidewalk, driveways, and the concrete crew will construct the wall cap. Weather permitting, the work will be completed by the end of the month.
- Pool Evaluation – Pool demolition is nearly complete. The contractor is estimating that the project will be completed the week of August 23. Final structure design is underway.
- 2021 Pavement Maintenance Program – The pre-construction meeting with A. Liberoni was held on Friday, May 21, 2021. A. Liberoni is scheduled to start in September.

MANAGER:

Columbia Gas Project Update – Mr. Leventry, Ms. Wertz, and Mr. Harris met with a representative of Columbia Gas to discuss current and future gas line replacement projects. Road paving is expected to be completed in the coming weeks. Columbia Gas is planning a project that will impact the length of Fieldcrest Drive, the earliest work will begin in November. Residents will be informed in advance.

Public Works Contract – Mr. Leventry received notice from the Labor's District Council on June 4 indicating commencement of the bargaining process.

Tennis Court Repairs – Mr. Leventry was in contact with the contractor who gave an estimate on the repairs. Work will not begin until 2022.

ASSISTANT MANAGER:

Ms. Wertz stated that the pre-construction meeting for Prospect Park Phase 1 was held on August 17. Initial work will begin this fall but due to material lead time, the pavilion will be not installed until spring.

PLANNING & ZONING:

No report.

LIBRARY:

A Board Member from the Library gave a report.

The Library has reinstated a mask mandate regardless of vaccination status.

PUBLIC WORKS:

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Lahr stated that Chief Gagorik reports that the written exam for police candidates occurred last Saturday. The top 20 candidates will now advance to the physical agility exam scheduled for September 7, 2021.

RECREATION:

Mr. Veith introduced Recreation Director, Hannah Bower to give a recreation report.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

Mr. Wotus stated that Mr. Barker will be in contact with the Fire Company for fundraising options.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Book stated that the Veterans Day event will take place on November 11 in the Community Room from 7PM-8PM.

RECESS:

M-6 Moved by Mr. Veith, seconded by Mr. Wotus to recess the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:00 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 8:09 PM.

ADJORNMENT:

M-7 Mr. Wotus moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2021:

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Manager

