

BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

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BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Regular Meeting September 15, 2021

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, September 15, 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: Kathleen N. DePuy
Philip J. Lahr
Robert J. McKown
Glenn P. Nagy
William J. Veith
James F. Nowalk, Mayor
Kate A. Janocsko-Beers, Solicitor
Scott Rusmiser, Engineer

Absent: Linda J. Book
John A. Wotus

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

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 September 15, 2021 for \$214,845.85 from the General Fund, \$73,442.41 from the Storm Sewer Fund, and \$41,753.01 from the Sanitary Sewer Fund be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-2 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr, that checks and transfers for \$6,947.62 from the General Fund and \$47,549.69 from the Payroll Fund be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-3 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr, that General Fund payroll for the period ending September 10, 2021, for \$149,506.83 as presented to Council on September 15, 2021 be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

M-4 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. Veith to approve the Minutes of the September 1, 2021, Council Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS:

Martin Youschak, 4836 Old Boston Road, appeared before Council and expressed his concern about the deer population in Whitehall. Himself, his family, and his dog have had several negative encounters with deer in his yard. Mr. Youschak presented several solutions to Council- stronger enforcement of the Ordinance prohibiting the feeding of deer, raising the allowable height of fences, provide information to residents on conditions to hunt on their own property, and establishing a pilot culling program in Whitehall.

Janet Maddox, 4844 Flamingo Drive, appeared before Council to discuss her recent 911 calls to the Police Department and ongoing issues with her neighbor.

Chief Gagorik and Mayor Nowalk stated that they will be in contact with her tomorrow to further discuss these issues.

James Zora, 4879 Old Boston Road, appeared before Council to discuss the increased deer population in Whitehall. He believes the deer are being fed by hand, therefore the deer are no longer scared of humans. Mr. Zora stated the excessive food has drastically increased breeding rates. He discussed concern of lyme disease and ticks.

Helen Dubina, 4008 Provost Road, appeared before Council in support of the other residents concerning the deer population. Ms. Dubina stated the deer have knocked over numerous things in her yard, but that is minor to what other residents have experienced and her primary concern is safety.

Bill Nee, 4125 W. Barlind Drive, appeared before Council and stated that he has lived in Whitehall for 36 years and the drastic change in the deer population in the past 6 years is alarming. Mr. Nee stated he is not concerned about his tulips, but the safety of residents. He asked Council if there is a plan in place to control the deer population.

Mayor Nowalk discussed his Environmental Action Committee and the efforts of the Committee concerning wildlife in Whitehall. The Committee continues to work on efforts to educate residents. The rise in deer population is an ongoing issue.

Mr. McKown stated that Mayor Nowalk will take the deer population control issue to his Committee and report back to Council with possible solutions.

MAYOR:

Mayor Nowalk presented the August 2021 Animal Control Report:

WHITEHALL – Total of 36 calls, 5.42% of all calls.

Mayor Nowalk stated Chief Gagorik reports that Officers Mayburn, Seese, Meyer, and Valenti attended a 3-day Interview Course at the Allegheny County Police Training Academy this week.

Mayor Nowalk stated Chief Gagorik reports that the Department placed 2 new portable speed radar signs into service this week. The signs display the approaching vehicle's speed, and record traffic speed and volume in a specific area. Officers use this data to deploy officers to problem areas where the violations are occurring.

Mayor Nowalk stated Chief Gagorik reports that the Department recently addressed excessive overnight parking requests with residents. Moving forward, the Department plans to limit overnight parking exemptions to 3 days for guests and 7 days for construction projects. If residents need additional time, they can call back to request an extension.

Mayor Nowalk thanked Mrs. DePuy for presenting Resolution No. 1000 to Shirley A. Warner on her 90th birthday.

SOLICITOR:

Mrs. Janocsko-Beers stated that the Ordinance Amendment addressing the game machines and amusement devices is being finalized for the October 6, 2021 Council meeting for review and consideration.

Mrs. Janocsko-Beers requested an Executive Session after the meeting for matters of litigation and personnel.

Mrs. DePuy asked for the status of the Private Pool Ordinance and if there has been any further direction regarding the stimulus money.

Mrs. Janocsko-Beers stated that she will check on both items.

ENGINEER:

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

- Penn Cove Group Real Estate, the representatives for the Grove Pointe development, requested a partial release of the security for work completed to date. Based upon a site inspection of the Grove Pointe project performed by Gateway, it is recommended that the security be reduced by \$140,326.45, from \$311,906.69 to \$171,580.24.
- M-5 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to approve the reduction in security for the Grove Pointe Phase 1 project by \$140,326.45 from \$311,906.69 to \$171,580.24. The motion carried unanimously.
- Penn Cove Group Real Estate, the representatives for the Cell Tower Lot Walking Trail project adjacent to the Grove Pointe development, requested a release of the security for work completed to date. Based upon a site inspection of the Cell Tower Lot Walking Trail project performed by Gateway, it is recommended that the security be reduced by \$22,000.00 from \$50,000.00 to \$27,800.00.
- M-6 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. Veith to approve the reduction in security for the Cell Tower Lot Walking Trail project by \$22,00.00, from \$50,000.00 to \$27,800.00 The motion carried unanimously.
- Gateway Engineers reviewed the bonding estimate prepared by the developer, Penn Cove Group Real Estate, for the Grove Pointe Phase 2 development and recommend that the bonding amount be set at \$1,586,208.75, which is to be included in the Developer's Agreement for the project.
- M-7 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. Veith to set the bonding amount for the Grove Pointe Phase 2 Project at \$1,586,208.75. The motion carried unanimously.
- Streets Run Storm Sewer Construction – Engineers conducted a final inspection with A. Folino. Folino's asphalt crew finished driveway repairs. The landscaper reviewed the condition of the lawn restoration and determined that a fungus turned the grass brown. A fungicide treatment may be required.

Mr. Rusmisl introduced Lauren Alridge and Scott Baker, landscape designers from Gateway Engineers to present material and color samples for the new Swimming Pool. This included light fixtures, fences, cement, and a pool canopy covering.

MANAGER:

SHACOG Contract – Council recently voted to approve the bid for the Joint O&M Preventative Maintenance Project – Year 11. Council must authorize the proper officials to execute the contract with SHACOG.

M-8 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to authorize the execution of the SHACOG Joint O&M Preventative Maintenance Project – Year 11 Contract. The motion carried unanimously.

Pension MMO's – The Borough's actuary has prepared the Minimum Municipal Obligation calculations for the Police and Non-Uniform Pension Plans. Both figures are roughly \$10,000 higher than the 2021 MMO's. The Police MMO is \$981,586 and the Non-Uniform is \$258,077.

M-9 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to authorize the MMO for Police Pension in the amount of \$981,586 and Non-Uniform Pension in the amount of \$258,077. The motion carried unanimously.

ASSISTANT MANAGER:

Ms. Wertz stated that the trees have been removed by Public Works for Prospect Park Phase I and TBI Contracting, Inc. will begin work next week.

RECREATION:

Mr. Veith stated that the Touch-a-Truck event was a huge success.

Chief Gagorik stated that there were over 300 people in attendance.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

No report.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Mrs. DePuy turned the meeting over to Mr. Dellett to give a report.

Mr. Dellett stated that staff requests Council consider a motion to act on the 2021-SLD-08 Grove Pointe 12th Amendment Subdivision Plan Application, 142-150 Providence Way. The applicant requests subdivision plan application approval to establish property lines along party walls of five townhouse units on Lot 9 of the Grove Pointe Residential Land Development. The parcels are located in Residence District R-7. At its September 9, 2021 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended conditional approval of the application.

M-10 Mrs. DePuy moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to approve 2021-SLD-08 Grove Pointe 12th Amendment subdivision plan application. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dellett stated that Gateway Engineers have submitted land development applications for the new Swimming Pool and will be reviewed by the Planning Commission at its October 13, 2021 meeting.

Mrs. DePuy discussed resident garbage toter storage.

LIBRARY:

A Board Member from the Library gave a report.

The Friends have raised \$13,000 so far for Love Your Library month.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Nagy stated that a great job was done paving Spring Valley Drive.

Mr. Leventry stated that the new Public Works trucks should be in next week.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Lahr stated that Chief Gagorik reports that Officer Lacko will be called to active duty with the United States Air Force Reserve on October 1, 2021. Officer Lacko will work out of the 911th Airwing Headquarters facility in Moon Township to support ongoing air mission in the Middle East. Officer Lacko is expected to return to work on November 1, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS:

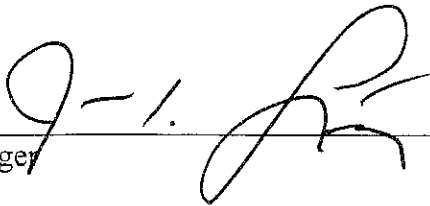
Mr. Veith stated that the Annual SHACOG dinner will be held on October 21, 2021.

ADJORNMENT:

M-11 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. Veith to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF OCTOBER 6, 2021:



Manager