

**BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL**

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**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING**

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## BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Regular Meeting September 7, 2022

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 7:00 PM, for a regular meeting. President Lahr announced that all meetings will be recorded auditorily and visually. President Lahr called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Linda J. Book  
 Kathleen N. DePuy  
 Philip J. Lahr  
 Glenn P. Nagy  
 Robert J. McKown  
 Stone Sobieralski  
 William J. Veith  
 James F. Nowalk, Mayor  
 Irving Firman, Solicitor  
 Scott Rusmiser, Engineer

STAFF:

Courtney M. Wertz, Borough Manager  
 Jason C. Gagorik, Chief of Police  
 Scott Dellett, Director of Planning, Zoning & Code Enforcement  
 Alyssa M. Rogalla, Administrative Assistant

CITIZENS' REQUESTS:

Donna McCrea, 305 Southvue Drive, appeared before Council to thank Mayor Nowalk for attending a recent Bhutanese event focused on women and women's health. Mrs. McCrea also inquired about misinformation regarding the Deer Management Program.

Chief Gagorik stated that information on the Deer Management Program can be found on the Borough Website and the Police Department Facebook page. Chief Gagorik stated that Suburban Wildlife is focusing on large, wooded tracts of land that butt up against residential properties in the Borough. Hunting activities will only occur in these areas with permission of the property owners. There will be no hunting activity permitted in Borough Parks.

Mr. Nagy stated that Whitehall is not conducting a special hunt. Hunting is only taking place during the State sanctioned archery season in Allegheny County that begins on September 18, 2022.

Helen Brincka, 84 Springmeadow Court, appeared before Council to request that the pickleball courts be resurfaced at Snyder Park.

Mrs. DePuy stated that the Parks Committee is working on several projects for the 2023 Budget.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS & PAYROLL:

- M-1 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Ms. Book, that the bills contained on the bill list presented to Council on September 7, 2022 for \$216,144.03 from the General Fund, \$22,565.08 from the Storm Sewer Fund, \$3,582.06 from the Sanitary Sewer Fund, \$20,171.54 from the 2022 Construction Fund, and \$3,096.95 from the Capital Projects Fund be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-2 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Ms. Book, that checks and transfers for \$13,068.79 from the General Fund and \$48,781.39 from the Payroll Fund be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-3 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Ms. Book, that General Fund payroll for the period ending August 26, 2022 for \$151,207.27 as presented to Council on September 7, 2022 be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

- M-4 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Mr. Sobieralski to approve the Minutes of the August 17, 2022 Council Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR:

Mayor Nowalk presented his Police report for August 2022:

EMS Assists.....	160
Court/Hearings/Pretrial . . . . .	99
Accidents . . . . .	18
Criminal Arrests (DUI – 1) . . . . .	26
Traffic Stops . . . . .	143
Traffic Details . . . . .	63
Written Traffic Citations. . . . .	107
Written Warnings Traffic Violations. . . . .	88

Total amount of money collected and turned over to the Borough during August 2022 amounted to \$2,727.74 The breakdown is as follows:

MVC from District Magistrate .....	\$865.30
Crimes Code & Code Violations from District Magistrate....	\$636.13
Parking Fines .....	\$600.00
Copies .....	\$165.00
Fines from Clerk of Courts .....	\$461.31

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik reports that Officer Persichetti stopped a motor vehicle for an equipment violation during the early morning hours of August 14, 2022. The traffic stop led to the discovery of two individuals with outstanding felony arrest warrants, 4 stolen handguns, and several stolen handgun components.

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik reports that Investigator Newbould recently closed a 13-month investigation into cyber harassment and cyber stalking of a teacher. Investigator Newbould worked with the United States Secret Service and Pittsburgh Cyber Crimes Division to identify the juvenile responsible for these criminal acts.

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik reports that Advanced Signs installed the memorial sign for Chief Schmitt on August 31, 2022. The Department would like to have a formal dedication ceremony in October. The tentative date is October 1, 2022 at 11 AM.

Mayor Nowalk stated that the Whitehall Borough Historical Society has requested use of the Borough logo.

Mr. Firman noted that the use of the Borough logo remains in Council control and can be rescinded at any time.

M-5 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve the Whitehall Borough Historical Society to use the Borough logo which can be rescinded at any time. The motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Firman requested an Executive Session regarding matters of personnel.

ENGINEER:

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

- Operations & Maintenance Plan – Roto Rooter has started work for the 2022 Sanitary Sewer Excavation Repair Contract.

M-6 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. McKown to approve Pay Application 1 in the amount of \$18,180.00 for the 2022 Sanitary Sewer Excavation Repair Contract to Roto Rooter Services, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

- Pollution Reduction Plan – Permit packages for stream improvements on Saw Mill Run Blvd and Streets Run Road have been submitted to the DEP for review.

Mr. McKown asked that Mr. Rusmisl contact Lisa Brown for potential grant opportunities.

- Pool Construction – Nello Construction poured the 3<sup>rd</sup> section of retaining wall and final retaining wall footer on August 30. The last section of wall is scheduled to be poured on September 14. The block mason finished the pump room and concession building. The ticket booth will be finished once additional veneer is received. Pool Construction is currently 12 days behind schedule. Engineers and the Borough Manager met with the Construction Manager to discuss the delay. Massaro CM Services will provide the Borough Manager with a schedule update at the end of the week.

Nello Construction Company submitted their fifth Pay Application.

M-7 Mr. Sobieralski moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to table the Pay Application. The motion carried unanimously.

Merit Electrical Group, Inc. submitted their fourth Pay Application.

M-8 Mrs. DePuy moved, seconded by Mr. Veith to approve Pay Application No. 4 in the amount of \$4,469.78 for the Whitehall Pool Improvements Contract No. 2 – Electrical Construction to Merit Electrical Group, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

First American Industries, Inc. submitted their third Pay Application.

M-9 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to approve Pay Application No. 3 in the amount of \$14,119.65 for the Whitehall Pool Improvements Contract No. 3 – Plumbing Construction to First American Industries, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

MANAGER:

Ms. Wertz reported on the following items according to the written report given to Council:

- Parks Rules & Regulation – As part of the ongoing policy, procedures and job description review; Staff has prepared a new Form for use of Borough Recreation Facilities and updated Rules & Regulations. Included in the updated regulations is a \$25.00 Park Reservation Fee which would require an amendment to the Fee Resolution.

M-10 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Mr. Veith to approve the updated use of Borough Recreation Facilities Form, Rules and Regulations and authorize the Borough Manager to prepare a Resolution to amend the Fee Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

- Security Camera Project – Whitehall Swimming Pool – In preparation for the 2023 Budget, a quote for installation of security cameras at the Swimming Pool have been received. This project requires preparation work to run conduit and cables. The ideal time to perform this work is now with the site open. This would result in a change order for the Swimming Pool Improvement Project.

M-11 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Ms. Book to authorize the site work needed for installation of security cameras at the Swimming Pool. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wertz stated that applications for the Finance Director II position are due on Friday, September 9, 2022.

Ms. Wertz stated that Columbia Gas has informed the Borough that the pipeline replacement and relocation project on Provost Road will begin next week. The project will be completed in three phases over the next two months.

Ms. Wertz stated that she has been researching the Allegheny County Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund Grant and a DCNR Grant that are good fits for future recreation projects.

Council directed the Borough Manager to pursue the grants.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Veith stated that Chief Gagorik reports that probationary Officer Andrew Haburjak completed 6 months of employment on August 28, 2022. Supervisors and field training officers report he continues to perform work assignments and tasks in a satisfactory manner.

Mr. Veith stated that Chief Gagorik reports that Officer Joseph Lacko's military orders have been extended to September 30, 2023. This will be a 15-month military employment.

Mr. Veith read a letter the Police Department received from a Resident thanking Officers for their compassion and assistance when a neighbor passed over the weekend.

#### RECREATION:

Recreation Director, Hannah Bower gave a report.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

Mr. McKown stated that the Administrative Services Committee had a meeting before the Council Meeting to discuss solar panels for the salt shed. Investigative work continues.

#### PLANNING & ZONING:

Mr. Sobieralski stated that a Public Hearing will have to be advertised for a conditional use application at 2929 Clairton Boulevard.

M-12 Mr. Sobieralski moved, seconded by Mr. McKown to authorize advertisement of a Public Hearing on October 5, 2022 for the conditional use application of 2022-CU-02 Clean Express Auto Wash, 2929 Clairton Boulevard. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sobieralski asked for consideration of amending language in the Borough Code regarding storage of refuse and recycling containers.

The proposed language states "with the exception of pickup days when containers are placed curbside for collection; Whitehall Borough issued refuse and recycling containers shall be placed against the building for storage."

A lengthy discussion occurred.

Ms. Wertz stated that Staff will prepare new language based on tonight's discussion.

#### LIBRARY:

Mrs. DePuy stated that it is Love your Library month.

Mrs. DePuy stated that there is a vacancy on the Library Board.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Ms. Book stated that the two new Public Works trucks are fully operational, and Mr. Harris expects the backhoe to be delivered shortly.

PARKS:

No report.

DELEGATE REPORTS:

ACBA – Ms. Book stated that the Erie Bayfront Conference will be held on October 21-23. District Board Elections will be held on November 3.

PSAB – Ms. Book stated that the Annual Conference will be held in Gettysburg on October 14-16. The PA General Assembly will go back in session on September 12 and PSAB and ACBA will be pursuing Resolutions, including RADAR.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Mr. McKown stated that the Annual Golf Outing will be September 19, 2022.

MRTSA – Mr. McKown stated that MRTSA is still exchanging information with Brentwood Borough on the RFP.

SHACOG – Mr. Veith stated that Senator Robinson attended the last meeting and presented a \$200,000 check to SHACOG to aid in the flooding on RT. 51. The recycling contract will be bid next year to begin in January 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Sobieralski inquired about the soccer field at Prospect Park. Ms. Wertz stated that the dirt at the field may potentially be used for fill at the swimming pool and the area will not be seeded until that is determined.

Mr. Nagy would like to recognize the South Hills Country Club for their first responder appreciation day.



RECESS:

M-13 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Ms. Book to recess the meeting to Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 8:27 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 8:51 PM.

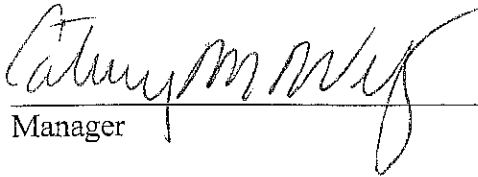
M-14 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve Pay Application 5 in the amount of \$204,622.88 for the Whitehall Pool Improvement Contract No. 1 – General Construction to Nello Construction Company. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJORNMENT:

M-15 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Ms. Book to adjourn the meeting in honor of first responders. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2022:



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Manager