

**BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL**

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MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING

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## BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Regular Meeting November 2, 2022

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, November 2, 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  
 William J. Veith  
 James F. Nowalk, Mayor  
 Irving Firman, Solicitor  
 Scott Rusmiser, Engineer

## Absent:

Stone Sobieralski

STAFF:

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

CITIZENS' REQUESTS:

None.

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 November 2, 2022 for \$80,723.69 from the General Fund, \$55,744.50 from the Storm Sewer Fund, \$934,849.50 from the Sanitary Sewer Fund, \$37,319.80 from the Capital Projects Fund, and \$9,497.75 from the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-2 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Ms. Book, that checks and transfers for \$16,481.99 from the General Fund, \$115,773.83 from the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, and \$50,676.12 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 October 21, 2022 for \$156,740.04 as presented to Council on November 2, 2022 be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

M-4 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Mr. McKown to approve the Minutes of the October 19, 2022 Council Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR:

Mayor Nowalk presented his Police report for October 2022:

EMS Assists.....	161
Court/Hearings/Pretrial . . . . .	76
Accidents . . . . .	19
Criminal Arrests (DUI – 1) . . . . .	18
Traffic Stops . . . . .	206
Traffic Details . . . . .	138
Written Traffic Citations. . . . .	129
Written Warnings Traffic Violations. . . . .	158

Total amount of money collected and turned over to the Borough during October 2022 amounted to \$3,162.43 The breakdown is as follows:

MVC from District Magistrate .....	\$1,050.37
Crimes Code & Code Violations from District Magistrate....	\$1,227.27
Parking Fines .....	\$400.00
Copies .....	\$105.00
Fines from Clerk of Courts .....	\$379.79

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik reports that Investigator Newbould attended a 3-day course to help identify, obtain, and protect digital evidence found on mobile devices. This course was presented by the FBI and U.S. Attorney’s Office in Jackson Township, Butler County.

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik reports that Sergeant Hinkle attended a 3-day Rescue Task Force Instructor course to learn the four main methods of extracting wounded individuals during incidents of active violence. This course was presented by the National Tactical Officer Association in Monroeville.

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik reports that Officer Mark Stephenson was named member #2145 of the Safariland Saves Club. The Saves Club honors officers who, during the line of duty, experienced a life-threatening incident in which their Safariland ballistic gear contributed to saving their lives. Officer Stephenson's ballistic gear is credited with protecting his torso during the April 30 DUI traffic stop that resulted in him being dragged 241 feet as the actor fled the scene. Safariland would like to present his Saves Club award during the November 16, 2022 Council Meeting.

Mayor Nowalk stated that the Whitehall Committee of Environmental Action met with Deneen Underwood, a representative from Carnegie Borough to discuss butterfly gardens. The Committee is discussing options for butterfly gardens in Whitehall.

Mayor Nowalk stated that he met with Lisa Brown and members of the Shade Tree Commission to walk the stream area behind the Public Works building. There are grant opportunities for stream restoration in this area.

Mr. McKown asked if Mayor Nowalk would put together a work plan of the project and grant funding for Council to review. There are limitations in funding and property owner authorization for any potential stream restoration project.

Mayor Nowalk stated that the Whitehall Borough Historical Society will be hosting an event on January 5, 2023 in the Community Room celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Whitehall Borough.

SOLICITOR:

No report.

ENGINEER:

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

- Overlook Park – Infiltration testing for the NPDES permitting is complete. A sample rendering is attached to the Engineer report for the pavilion. Colors will be selected at a later date.
- Pool Construction – Aqua Pool has completed the sprayed concrete walls and floor for the main pool and the wading pool. Nello Construction completed excavation for the switchback ramp. Ramp footers have been poured and forms will be placed for the ramp walls this week.

Nello Construction Company submitted their seventh Pay Application.

M-5 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve Pay Application No. 7 in the amount of \$641,927.11 for the Whitehall Pool Improvements Contract No. 1 – General Construction to Nello Construction Company. The motion carried unanimously.

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

M-6 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Mr. Veith to approve Pay Application No. 6 in the amount of \$6,037.70 for the Whitehall Pool Improvements Contract No. 2 – Electrical Construction to Merit Electrical Group, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

The existing sanitary systems did not pass the Health Departments inspection. First American Industries, Inc. has requested change orders for gas line and sanitary/plumbing changes due to existing deteriorated conditions. Gas line change orders total approximately \$12,700.00. Sanitary/plumbing change orders, including two credits, total approximately \$30,100.00. Engineers are reviewing the request to develop final change order totals.

Mrs. DePuy asked about the status of the Stormwater Management Ordinance.

Mr. Rusmisl stated that Engineers have reviewed neighboring communities “small project” Stormwater Ordinances. A draft Ordinance was sent to Mr. Dellett yesterday that would potentially increase the small project threshold from 250 square feet of impervious surface to 500 square feet of impervious surface. Staff plans to have recommendations at the next Council Meeting.

MANAGER:

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

- Extended Work Request – Nello Construction has requested permission to work extended hours at the Swimming Pool through the end of November. They are specifically requesting permission to work 7 AM-7 PM all 7 days of the week; including Sundays. This work is for gutter installation around the swimming pool.

M-7 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Mr. McKown to authorize Nello Construction to work extended hours at the Swimming Pool from 7 AM-7 PM, 7 days of the week through November, excluding the Thanksgiving Holiday. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wertz stated that the first budget meeting will be on Saturday, November 5, 2022 at 9 AM in Council Chambers.

Ms. Wertz stated that the Borough should have a draft of the sewer evaluation from PFM by the end of next week.

RECREATION:

Mr. Nagy turned the meeting over to Recreation Director, Hannah Bower. Mrs. Bower has completed extensive comparison research into surrounding municipalities Swimming Pool Fee Structures. A number of decisions are required in order for Staff to prepare the 2023 Borough Budget.

- M-8 Mr. Nagy moved, seconded by Mr. McKown to adopt the updated Pool Pass Fee Structure. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-9 Mr. Nagy moved, seconded by Mr. McKown to adopt the updated Pool Guest Pass Policy. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-10 Mr. Nagy moved, seconded by Ms. Book to adopt the updated Private Pool Party Fee Structure. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-11 Mr. Nagy moved, seconded by Mr. McKown authorize purchase of the new pool pass sale system. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-12 Mr. Nagy moved, seconded by Ms. Book to adopt the updated Swimming Lesson Structure. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-13 Mr. Nagy moved, seconded by Mr. McKown to authorize the disposal of unusable pool inventory at the Public Works Building. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. DePuy asked if new chairs will be purchased for the Swimming Pool.

Ms. Wertz stated that the purchase of new chairs will be included for consideration in the 2023 Budget. The current inventory has been in storage for almost three years and is unusable.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

Mr. McKown stated that he received a letter from Wesley Family Services thanking Council for their support on the construction of their new turf field.

Mr. McKown stated that PNC Bank on the corner of Rt. 51 and Brownsville Road will be relocating down the street and will be reopening at the new location on January 23, 2022.

Mr. McKown stated that tonight on Channel 4 News at 11:00 PM, a story on CJ, MRTSA's therapy dog will air.

Mr. McKown stated that the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Audit from January 2021-December 2021 was successful.

Mr. McKown gave an update on live-streaming the Council Meetings. The cost for the third-party vendor to the meetings would be about \$10,000-\$12,000 a year before equipment and infrastructure improvements. The Borough would also have to purchase the proper equipment and update the internet capabilities. The internet in the building will need to be upgraded before any other step is taken.

#### PLANNING & ZONING:

Mr. McKown stated that the Zoning Hearing Board will meet on November 15, 2022 to hear the 2022-ZHB-14 Balwin-Whitehall School District – digital sign case.

#### LIBRARY:

No report.

#### PUBLIC WORKS:

Ms. Book stated that the Public Works crew started installing the playground equipment at Union Park today.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Veith stated that Chief Gagorik reports that Officers have once again organized a “No Shave” charity event to support local charities and the Shop with a Cop program. During the month of November and December, male employees are permitted to have facial hair for a \$50 donation each month and female employees can wear blue jeans and pink accessories on Fridays for a \$5 donation.

Mr. Veith turned the meeting over to Nick Price, Chief of the Fire Company.

Mr. Price stated that the Fire Company is experiencing staffing issues during the day. The Fire Company requested that Council consider day-light staffing at the Fire Station. Staffing two employees at the Fire Station would cost about \$70,000 at \$15/hour.

Mr. Veith stated that the item will be placed in the Public Safety Committee for further discussion.

PARKS:

No report.

DELEGATE REPORTS:

ACBA – Ms. Book stated that the Board of Directors election will be held on November 3, 2022.

PSAB – Ms. Book stated that the PA State Mayor’s Association can have an official relationship with PSAB.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Mr. McKown stated that the Chamber will meet tomorrow at the South Hills Country Club. The golf outing was a huge success, \$10,000 will be donated to the Chamber and \$10,000 will go to the BBOA.

MRTSA – Mr. McKown stated that MRTSA will have a balanced budget.

SHACOG – Mr. Veith stated that the Annual SHACOG Dinner at Nevillewood was a great opportunity for networking.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Book stated that the Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on November 11, 2022 at 7 PM in the Community Room.

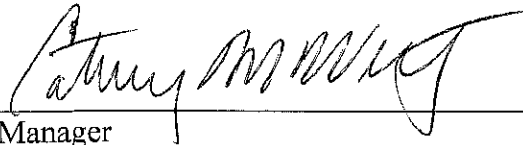
Mayor Nowalk gave a RADAR update.

ADJORNMENT:

M-14 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mrs. DePuy to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF NOVEMBER 16, 2022:

  
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Manager