

BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

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BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Regular Meeting March 1, 2023

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 7:00 PM, for a regular meeting. President DePuy announced that all meetings will be recorded auditorily and visually. President DePuy 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 – Via Phone
James F. Nowalk, Mayor – Arrived 7:04 PM
Irving Firman, Solicitor
Scott Rusmisl, Engineer

STAFF:

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

CITIZENS' REQUESTS:

Leah Vallone, 5115 South Passage, appeared before Council to discuss solicitations occurring in her neighborhood after 6:00 PM.

Chief Gagorik stated that it can be difficult for Officers to locate individuals soliciting without a permit, but residents should call the police to report solicitations after hours.

Harold Plusa, 4647 Doverdell Drive, appeared before Council as a representative of the Historical Society and provided an update on upcoming events and activities. The Society is in the process of developing a website and thanked Council for their contribution to the Historical Society website.

Beth Lynn Eicher, 246 Southvue Drive, appeared before Council to request that Baldwin Borough residents be permitted to use the Whitehall Swimming Pool.

Mrs. DePuy stated that Council will discuss Ms. Eicher’s request.

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 March 1, 2023 for \$98,993.18 from the General Fund, \$118,311.19 from the Storm Sewer Fund, \$16,312.17 from the Sanitary Sewer Fund, \$38,871.35 from the Doverdell Drive Storm Sewer Fund, \$689,110.02 from the 2022 Construction Fund, \$23,764.25 from the Capital Projects Fund, and \$12,924.75 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 \$52,220.17 from the General Fund and \$50,506.37 from the Payroll Fund be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

M-3 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. McKown, that General Fund payroll for the period ending February 24, 2023 for \$160,376.47 as presented to Council on March 1, 2023 be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

M-4 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to approve the Minutes of the February 15, 2023 Council Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR:

Mayor Nowalk presented his Police report for February 2023:

EMS Assists.....	169
Court/Hearings/Pretrial	62
Accidents	9
Criminal Arrests (DUI – 2)	16
Traffic Stops	175
Traffic Details	75
Written Traffic Citations.	88
Written Warnings Traffic Violations.	139

Total amount of money collected and turned over to the Borough during February 2023 amounted to \$4,325.84 The breakdown is as follows:

MVC from District Magistrate	\$712.22
Crimes Code & Code Violations from District Magistrate....	\$762.72
Parking Fines	\$840.00
Copies	\$135.00
Fines from Clerk of Courts	\$1,075.90

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik reports that the Police Department received notice that PennDOT plans to replace the Weyman Road Bridge near Provost Road this year. This will be a four-month project. Tentative start date is August 2024.

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik reports that himself and the Deputy Chief recently met with Baldwin Whitehall School District to review and update emergency response plans. The goal is to have an emergency response drill in Spring 2024. Allegheny County Emergency Services will assist with planning the drill.

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik reports that the Civil Service written examination for police patrolman is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 2023. Job requirements and application packets can be downloaded from the Borough Website or picked up in person at the Police Department. Special thank you to Alyssa Rogalla for creating the social media advertisement poster and making the police patrolman application editable so candidates can complete the application using a computer.

Mayor Nowalk stated that he would like to present Debbie Kukan with a proclamation Resolution at her retirement party this weekend.

M-5 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. McKown to add a motion to the Agenda to authorize the Mayor to issue a proclamation honoring Debbie Kukan due to time restraints. The motion carried unanimously.

M-6 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to read the Resolution in its entirety. The motion carried unanimously.

M-7 After the reading of the Resolution, Mr. McKown moved for adoption. Ms. Book seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, Ms. Book, Mrs. DePuy, Mr. Lahr. Mr. McKown, Mr. Nagy, Mr. Sobieralski, and Mr. Veith voted yes. The Resolution No. is 1014.

Mayor Nowalk discussed an ongoing issue involving trees on Borough property at Union Park. The Borough had previously given Duquesne Light authorization to remove the trees as the trees are growing close to their lines. The neighboring property owner has requested that the trees be trimmed instead of removed.

Council had a lengthy discussion regarding the trees at Union Park.

M-8 Mr. Sobieralski moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to add a motion to the Agenda to authorize the Borough Manager to contact Duquesne Light to request the 3 trees in question be trimmed and not removed as the neighboring property owner has offered to trim and maintain the tree's at their expense due to time restraints of the tree removal. The motion carried unanimously.

Cindy Gunther, 4819 Old Boston Road, stated that she had a similar experience with Duquesne Light and authorization by the property owner must be given.

Mayor Nowalk stated that authorization was previously given by the Borough.

M-9 Mr. Sobieralski moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to authorize the Borough Manager to contact Duquesne Light to request the 3 trees in question be trimmed and not removed as the neighboring property owner has offered to trim and maintain the trees at their expense. The motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR:

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

ENGINEER:

- Phase II Storm Water – Bids will be received for the Public Works Trench Separation project on March 8, 2023.
- Overlook Park – Project Timeline:
 - Bid Ads to Borough – February 15, 2023
 - Date of Publication – February 23, 2023
 - Prequalification due to Manager – March 9, 2023
 - Notice of Prequalification – March 16, 2023
 - Prebid Meeting – March 22, 2023
 - Bid Opening – March 29, 2023

Mrs. DePuy asked when construction is slated to begin at Overlook Park.

Mr. Rusmisl stated that he anticipates construction to begin in May of 2023.

- Pool Construction – Aqua Pool continued installing pool piping between the baby pool and the main pool. Nello Construction removed forms from the walls in front of the pool house. Merit Electrical installed electrical conduits near the pool house and between the pool house and concession stand. An OSHA inspector was on site and no violations were found.
- 2023 Pavement Maintenance Program – The advertisement will run in the Post-Gazette on March 2, 2023 and the bid opening is scheduled for April 12, 2023.

MANAGER:

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

- Little Library – Public Works took advantage of the recent nice weather and installed the Little Library at Union Park. It is now stocked with books and ready for use. Staff received very positive feedback from Residents and users of the park.
- Escrow Account – In preparation of Mr. Yevins retirement, it was brought to staff's attention that one Developers Escrow Account remains at PNC Bank on which he is the only signatory. PNC Bank requires documentation of authorization from Council to change signatories on accounts.

M-10 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to authorize adding Kristin L. Gusten and Courtney M. Wertz as signatories on the Escrow Account for Thomas C. Bell D/B/A Newbell New Century Associates at PNC Bank and to remove Vincent Yevins from the account. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. McKown stated that the Fire Company recommended that the Borough apply for installation of a fire hydrant near Whitehall Elementary School.

M-11 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to authorize the proper representatives of the Borough to apply for the installation of a fire hydrant in the 4900 block of Curry Road for purposes of fire protection for Whitehall Elementary School. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McKown stated that Chief Gagorik reports that Officer Andrew Haburjak completed his 1-year probationary period and continues to satisfactorily perform his duties as a police patrolman.

M-12 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Ms. Book to retain Officer Haburjak after his 1-year probationary period. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McKown stated that Chief Gagorik requests Council's permission to purchase video redaction software and computer a workstation with grant funding received last December from the Allegheny County Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. The software and hardware will not exceed \$10,000.00.

M-13 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to authorize the Chief of Police to purchase video redaction software and a computer workstation with grant funding received from the Allegheny County Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund not to exceed \$10,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

RECREATION:

Ms. Book thanked Mrs. Bower and the Recreation Board for all their efforts on the Comedy Show. It was a great event.

Ms. Book stated that Council has received a Community Weekend proposal for their review.

Recreation Director, Hannah Bower gave a report.

Mrs. DePuy stated that Ms. Book has been asked to speak at the PSAB Conference.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

Mr. Nagy stated that Senator Brewster hosted an informational dinner last week and many policy issues were discussed including responsibility of storm drains on State roads, assistance for volunteer fire companies, grant opportunities and RADAR.

PLANNING & ZONING:

No report.

LIBRARY:

No report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Lahr stated that the drainage issues at Snyder Park need to be addressed. Ms. Wertz stated that she will work with the Public Works Supervisor and Mr. Rusmisl to investigate.

PARKS:

No report.

DELEGATE REPORTS:

ACBA – Ms. Book stated that ACBA has a meeting tomorrow to discuss possible Resolutions. The deadline for submission is April 5.

PSAB – Ms. Book stated that Annual Conference will be June 4-7, 2023 in Hershey.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Mr. McKown stated that the Chamber luncheon will be held tomorrow at the South Hills Country Club.

MRTSA – Mr. McKown stated that MRTSA is investigating a fee based payment system.

SHACOG – Ms. Book stated that glass recycling is back. Ms. Wertz stated that the refuse and recycling contract ends in 2023 and automated recycling may be a part of the new contract. The upcoming bid is being driven by two factors automation and volume control. The Borough is expecting many changes in the new contract.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJORNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF MARCH 15, 2023:



Manager