

BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

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BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Regular Meeting May 3, 2023

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, May 3, 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
 Glenn P. Nagy
 Philip J. Lahr
 Robert J. McKown
 Stone Sobieralski
 William J. Veith
 James F. Nowalk, Mayor
 Irving Firman, Solicitor
 Scott Rusmisl, Engineer

STAFF:

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

CITIZENS' REQUESTS:

Donna McCrea, 305 Southvue Drive, appeared before Council to request that the motion on the Agenda to relocate 5 trees to the perimeter of Frank Park be tabled until another meeting can be held with the Shade Tree Commission.

Bob Barron, 5532 Lantern Hill Extension, appeared before Council to request that the lap lane swimming times at the pool be reevaluated to meet the needs of the users of the lap lanes.

Mrs. Bower stated that she has been in contact with Residents who spoke about the lap lane swimming times at the previous meeting and has been investigating alternative options. A formal proposal will be presented to Council at the May 17, 2023 Meeting.

Beth Lynn Eicher, 246 Southvue Drive, appeared before Council to state that she was live-streaming the Meeting for 18 people who liked her Facebook status and thanked Council for funding the Fire Company's day-light shift program.

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 May 3, 2023 for \$67,074.25 from the General Fund, \$44,891.92 from the Storm Sewer Fund, \$887,938.09 from the Sanitary Sewer Fund, \$383,767.52 from the 2022 Construction Fund, \$53,222.48 from the Capital Projects Fund, and \$20,544.83 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 \$98,688.69 from the General Fund, \$3,666.00 from the Capital Projects Fund, and \$51,712.64 from the Payroll Fund be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-3 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Veith, that General Fund payroll for the period ending April 21, 2023 for \$161,659.99 as presented to Council on May 3, 2023 be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

Mr. McKown stated that the minutes should state on page 9, that Borough Council has trust in the Whitehall Fire Company Management and members to be good stewards of taxpayer money.

- M-4 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Mr. Sobieralski to approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2023 Council Meeting with correction. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. DePuy stated that Whitehall Borough has been recognized as a 2023 Banner Community by Allegheny League of Municipalities. The program, in its 11th year, recognizes municipalities that have focused their operations on professional development, prudent fiscal management, transparency, accountability, and proactive communications.

MAYOR:

The Police Department responded to 740 calls in April. Mayor Nowalk presented the Police report for April 2023:

EMS Assists	160
Court/Hearings/Pretrial	52
Accidents	12
Criminal Arrests (DUI – 3)	31
Traffic Stops	139
Traffic Details	56
Written Traffic Citations.	101
Written Warnings Traffic Violations.	98

Total amount of money collected and turned over to the Borough during April 2023 amounted to \$3,379.13. The breakdown is as follows:

MVC from District Magistrate	\$1,306.40
Crimes Code & Code Violations from District Magistrate....	\$1,124.59
Parking Fines	\$400.00
Copies	\$135.00
Fines from Clerk of Courts	\$413.14

Mayor Nowalk stated that Juvenile Officer Smith kept busy during the month of April. Officer Smith completed DARE Programs at Harrison Education Center and Mother of Mercy Academy. Officer Smith hosted DARE graduation at Whitehall Elementary School. He participated in the annual Student vs. Teacher Basketball Game at Whitehall Elementary Schools and attended Family Night at the Whitehall Public Library.

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik reports that on Monday he met with Baldwin-Whitehall School Board to discuss school safety planning. Baldwin Borough and Baldwin Township Police Chiefs were also in attendance. Departments discussed current trends in school safety and how Whitehall, Baldwin Borough, and Baldwin Township Police Departments collectively work together to ensure the safety of all school students and staff members.

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik reports that the Physical Agility Test for Police Patrol Officer candidates was held on May 2, 2023 at the Allegheny County Police Training Academy. The top 10 candidates will now move on to the oral examination scheduled for May 17, 2023.

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik reports that Tri-Star Ford delivered a new 2023 Ford Police Interceptor Utility to the Police Department last week. A 2013 Ford Police Interceptor sedan was traded into Tri-Star Ford.

Chief Price gave a Fire Company report and also reported that the first day-light shift will be on May 29, 2023.

Mayor Nowalk gave an update on recent events held in April, including the Historical Society Luncheon, the Candidate Forum, Earth Day, and the Streets Run Stream clean-up.

SOLICITOR:

No report.

ENGINEER:

- Phase II Storm Water – The Public Works Trench Separation Project is nearly complete. Asphalt paving is the only item remaining to be completed.
- Operations & Maintenance Plan – Roto-Rooter has started work on the 2022 Sanitary Sewer Excavation Repair Contract.

M-5 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve Pay Application No. 6 in the amount of \$43,087.15 for the 2022 Whitehall Borough Sanitary Sewer Excavation Repair Contract to Roto-Rooter Services Company. The motion carried unanimously.

State Pipe Services, Inc. has completed all work for the 2022 Spot Lining Repair Contract.

M-6 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve Pay Application No. 2 and Final in the amount of \$18,759.00 for the 2022 Whitehall Borough Sanitary Sewer Spot Lining Repair Contract to State Pipe Services, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

MANAGER:

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

Ms. Wertz stated that the Borough was not successful in the PA American Water Grant for the stream restoration projects.

- Grant Opportunity – Senator Brewster’s office alerted the Borough to a grant opportunity through Port of Pittsburgh for projects that enhance utilization of waterways for the betterment of our communities. This includes water stewardship and environmental measures. The maximum award is \$10,000.00.

M-7 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. McKown to authorize the Borough Manager to apply for the Port of Pittsburgh Grant for the Streets Run and Saw Mill Run Stream Restoration Projects. The motion carried unanimously.

- National Opioid Settlements - State and Local governments throughout the U.S. have been pursuing investigations and filing lawsuits to hold certain manufacturers, distributors, and retailers financially responsible for the reckless sale, promotion and distribution of prescription opioid drugs and products. These litigations have resulted in two separate and distinct "Waves" of funding to be distributed to participating governmental bodies. Allegheny County cannot receive the full amount of its allocated share without participation from municipalities. Allegheny County will receive a larger allocation of settlement funds if more municipalities sign on to both Wave 1 and Wave 2 agreements, thereby expanding their capacity to serve more citizens impacted by the opioid epidemic and offer higher quality services.

M-8 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Mr. Veith to place the National Opioid Settlement Resolution on Public Display. The motion carried unanimously.

- Professional Development – Staff has tentatively identified Tuesday, May 23 as the date to close the Municipal Building for Safety Training with Officer Smith. Notifications will be posted on the Borough Website, Facebook pages and around the building.
- Infrastructure Update – Chief Gagorik and Ms. Wertz have started the process of investigating equipment that would be needed for live-streaming capabilities. Administration IT will be onsite tomorrow for a formal walkthrough with the Engineers. Once respective IT companies have formulated a plan, the Phone Company will be brought in to discuss steps necessary for additional internal wiring work. Items necessary for the internal work will be budgeted for in 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

No report.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Mr. Veith turned the meeting over to Mr. Dellett.

Mr. Dellett stated that Staff recommends Council consider a motion to act on the 2023-SLD-02 Grove Pointe Phase 2 First Amendment Subdivision Plan Application. The applicant requests approval for a subdivision of Lot 21 of the Grove Pointe Residential Land Development to establish property lines along party walls of five townhouse units under construction.

The subject property is located in Residence District R-7. At its April 12, 2023 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended conditional approval of the application.

Mr. Dellett stated that Staff recommends Council grant approval of 2023-SLD-02 Grove Pointe Phase 2 First Amendment combined preliminary and final subdivision plan application subject to the following conditions:

1. Borough Engineer's Review Letter – The applicant shall address all outstanding issues referenced in the Borough Engineer's review letters dated April 5, 2023 and April 19, 2023 in a manner acceptable to the Borough Engineer. Any additional issues raised by the Borough Engineer shall be resolved to the satisfaction of the Borough Engineer.
2. Borough Director of Planning, Zoning, & Code Enforcement Review Memorandum – The applicant shall address all outstanding issues referenced in the Borough Director of Planning, Zoning, & Code Enforcement memorandum dated April 6, 2023, in a manner acceptable to the Director of Planning, Zoning, & Code Enforcement. Any additional issues raised by the Director of Planning, Zoning, & Code Enforcement shall be resolved to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning, Zoning, & Code Enforcement.
3. Review Fees – The applicant shall agree to pay all professional review fees of the Borough in connection with this application and approval.

M-9 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve the 2023-SLD-02 Grove Pointe Phase 2 First Amendment 221-229 Chesna Drive Subdivision Plan Application subject to the conditions of the Director of Planning, Zoning, and Code Enforcement. The motion carried unanimously.

LIBRARY:

No report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. McKown stated that Chief Gagorik requests permission to work with the Borough Solicitor to review Borough Solicitation and Peddling Ordinance and present recommendations to Council. Items to be considered include increasing permitting fees to match those of surrounding communities, consider issuing soliciting permits with photo IDs and allowing residents to add their names to a Do Not Solicit registry through the Borough Website. Council concurred.

Mr. McKown stated that Chief Gagorik requests Council permission to purchase a digital software upgrade for the telephone and radio recorder utilized by the Police Department. This upgrade is related to the upcoming installation of the Comcast Fiber network to enhance internet and telephone service to the Municipal Complex.

M-10 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Mr. Sobieralski to authorize the Chief of Police to purchase Voice Over IP Software upgrades for the Eventide Recorder from Lattamus Communication. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McKown stated that Chief Gagorik reports PCCD requires additional signatory to finalize the PCCD Grant funding for the Police Department's RMS and Technology upgrade project.

M-11 Mr. McKown moved, seconded by Mr. Sobieralski to authorize the proper Borough Officials to sign final grant funding documents for the Police Department's RMS and Technology upgrade project. The motion carried unanimously.

The Assistant Chief approached the Borough Manager about the next Fire Truck Vehicle replacement scheduled for 2028. The manufacturer has alerted Whitehall Fire Company of years long lead times and quarterly escalations of \$72,000 due to inflation. With the next price escalation scheduled for June 15th, there is an opportunity to place an order for a new aerial truck, locking in the 2023 price of \$1.6 Million. No payment is needed until the vehicle is received, which would tentatively be 2027/2028 given lead times and construction time. The Borough could continue to set aside annual capital appropriations of \$150,000.00 while the truck is being manufactured and the current resale value of the 2008 Aerial is estimated at \$250,000.00 which would help offset any shortfall. Locking in the 2023 price would save the Borough \$1.5 million. A motion will be placed on the May 17, Council Meeting agenda for consideration.

RECREATION:

Mrs. Bower stated that the Recreation Department had a busy April. Events including the Earth Day clean-up, the Ice Man Reptile Show and the Historical Society Luncheon. Looking ahead, the Recognition Dinner is this Friday, the last mile for Kids of Steel will be this Saturday and Summer Camp sign-ups and the Canongate event will be held next week.

Mrs. Bower stated that the Letter of Support for Youth Sports was hand delivered to Mr. Cherico. The letter was signed by Whitehall Borough, Baldwin Borough, Baldwin Township and the Youth Sports Organizations as a united front to request that the School District reduce or eliminate the fees associated with using School Districts fields and facilities. The School Board meeting is being held tonight and the letter should be discussed.

Mayor Nowalk stated that partnerships between municipalities, youth sports and the school district are key to building a pipeline of athletes. Ms. Wertz and Mrs. Bower have done a fantastic job at spearheading this initiative.

Council discussed relocating the 5 trees to the perimeter of Frank Park and decided to table to motion until the May 17, 2023 Council meeting.

PARKS:

Mrs. DePuy stated that due to the Bids received for Overlook Park coming in \$1 million over budget, the Parks Committee recommends reducing the scope of the project and focusing on the playground equipment, the shelter house, and the steps.

M-12 Mrs. DePuy moved, seconded by Ms. Book to authorize Gateway Engineers to design and bid Overlook Park Phase I and Phase II Renovations. The motion carried unanimously.

DELEGATE REPORTS:

ACBA – Ms. Book stated that the Seven Springs Conference this year had the highest attendance since 2015.

PSAB – Ms. Book stated that the deadline to submit Resolutions is June 5, 2023. Current Resolutions address RADAR, Infrastructure on State roads, and Statewide Advertising.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Mr. McKown stated that the Annual Golf Outing will be held on September 18, 2023.

MRTSA – Mr. McKown stated that MRTSA made a mistake in billing and the bill did not include the capital portion. Mr. McKown asked to table the motion on the Agenda until the May 17 Council Meeting.

SHACOG – Ms. Wertz stated that she will be attending a mandatory pre-bid meeting on May 8 for the refuse and recycling contract. Bids will be opened on June 5.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Sobieralski stated that the yearly Gaterthon event hosted by St. Gabriel's is typically held at Overlook Park. Since construction is not taking place until later this year, he requests Council allow the school to use the park for this event on May 30.

Ms. Wertz stated that there are safety concerns with the playground equipment and the shelter house has not been prepared for water turn-on due to future construction of the park.

Mr. McKown asked if the Borough could turn on the water at the facilities for this event.

Ms. Wertz stated that she would speak with the Public Works Supervisor and report at the May 17, 2023 Council meeting.

Mrs. Bower stated that a parent reached out to her about using Snyder Park and she has been working with them.

Mr. Sobieralski asked about adult swim at the pool.

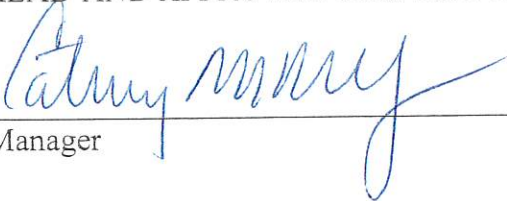
Mrs. Bower stated that she has been in contact with Residents who spoke at the previous meeting and has been investigating alternative options. A formal proposal will be presented to Council at the May 17, 2023 Council Meeting.

ADJORNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF MAY 17, 2023:



Manager