

BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

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MINUTES OF THE JULY 19, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

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BOROUGH OF WHITEHALL

Regular Meeting July 19, 2023

The Council of the Borough of Whitehall met at the Borough Building, 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, July 19, 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: Kathleen N. DePuy
Linda J. Book
Philip J. Lahr
Glenn P. Nagy
Stone Sobieralski
William J. Veith
James F. Nowalk, Mayor
Irving Firman, Solicitor
Scott Rusmisl, Engineer

Absent: Robert J. McKown

STAFF:

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

CITIZENS' REQUESTS:

Lacey Thomas, 4708 Baldwin Manor Road, appeared before Council and asked if a traffic study could be conducted at the intersection of Baptist Road and Old Boston Road. There is a marked crosswalk, but no signage and traffic does not yield to pedestrians.

Chief Gagorik stated that Baptist Road is a State Road, and this can be a lengthy process with the State. Chief Gagorik will investigate further.

Ms. Thomas also inquired about the In Brentwood-Baldwin-Whitehall Magazine and asked why Whitehall Borough is not featured.

Mrs. DePuy stated that the Borough was approached by a different publication many years ago, the Borough accepted, and the magazine was never published. The In magazine is a private publication and the Borough has not been approached for information.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS & PAYROLL:

- M-1 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Ms. Book, that the bills contained on the bill list presented to Council on July 19, 2023 for \$213,329.11 from the General Fun and \$118,536.19 from the Sanitary Sewer Fund be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-2 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book, that checks and transfers for \$58,831.74 from the General Fund and \$55,701.02 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 pay period ending July 14, 2023 for \$179,700.30 as presented to Council on July 19, 2023 be ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

- M-4 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve the Regular Minutes of the July 5, 2023 Council Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
- M-5 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve the Minutes of the July 12, 2023 Continuation Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR:

Mayor Nowalk presented the Animal Control Report for June 2023:

The Police Department received 82 animal complaints for the month of June. 59 calls were referred to South Hills Animal Control, which represents a 6.92% system usage rate.

Mayor Nowalk stated that on June 13, Juvenile Officer Smith participated in the Handle with Care workshop hosted by the Allegheny County Intermediate Unit. Handle with Care is a national initiative designed to create effective communications between police and school personnel to better support students exposed to traumatic events outside of school.

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik reports that on June 18, Officer Seese completed 8 hours of quarterly in-service training with the SHACOG Accident Team.

Mayor Nowalk stated that Chief Gagorik was selected to participate on the search committee for the next Program Manager of the Justice & Safety Institute at Penn State University. The institute provides training, education, and consulting services to thousands of law enforcement and criminal justice professionals in the U.S. and abroad.

Mayor Nowalk stated that National Night Out will be held on August 1, 2023.

Skip Brown, Secretary of the Fire Company gave a report:

Calls during period:

Total Calls Year-To-Date: 330

Membership:

32 Members

Assistant Fire Chief, Bryan Pearson was recognized with Life Membership. Life Membership is given for 20 years of service to the Fire Company. Bryan has served as a line officer for 13 of those 20 years.

Training:

The Fire Company will be conducting a "live burn" training session this Fall in Butler County.

Fund Drive:

1,400 residents donated for total of \$106,000.00

Jeff Martson, 4770 Frich Drive, stated that if more residents donated to the Fund Drive, that would prohibit a future fire tax on Borough Residents.

Cindy Guenther, 4819 Old Boston Road, recommended that the Fire Company use social media to promote the Fund Drive.

Mr. Brown stated that the Whitehall Fire Company is excited to participate in Community Day.

SOLICITOR:

No report.

ENGINEER:

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

- Overlook Park – The pre-bid meeting will be held on July 26, 2023.

- Pool Construction – Punchlist items are being addressed and construction cleanup is occurring. The Whitehall Borough Swimming Pool will open on Saturday, July 22, 2023. Staff are preparing for opening.

Mr. Sobieralski stated that there are several cracks in the concrete and asked if the cracks would be addressed. He provided pictures of the cracks.

Mrs. DePuy asked Mr. Sobieralski how he entered the Swimming Pool complex to take pictures of the concrete as it is an active construction site.

Mr. Sobieralski stated that it does not matter how he entered the site. The Swimming Pool is a large capital project and we expect high quality work.

Mr. Rusmisl stated that he was unaware of multiple cracks, but contractors will still be addressing punchlist items even after the pool season is complete.

Mr. Sobieralski asked if the Construction Manager would have records of the temperature outside when the concrete was poured.

Mr. Rusmisl stated that the Construction Manager would have records and documentation.

Mayor Nowalk thanked Council for how hard they have worked to complete the Swimming Pool Improvement Project. The pool project was 50 days delayed, but the Swimming Pool is beautiful and will be an outstanding amenity for Borough Residents.

Steve Gearson, The Residence at Whitehall, asked about the cost of any recent change orders to the Swimming Pool project.

Mrs. DePuy stated that she would allow Mr. Gearson's question but asked that Residents who wish to speak or ask questions do so under citizen's request. Comments during reports of the meeting disrupts the order of the Council Meeting.

Mr. Rusmisl stated that there have been change orders, but he does not have the pay application in front of him. He can clarify at the next meeting.

MANAGER:

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

- Credit Card Payments – Ms. Wertz asked that Council table the motion as the Borough Solicitor would like to further review the contracts.

M-6 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to table the motion to implement credit card payments until the August 2, 2023 Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

- Refuse & Recycling Contract – After calculating all available options, Waste Management is the low bidder for a bid that includes maintaining automated refuse collection, moving to automated recycling collection, maintaining a seasonal yard waste dumpster at Prospect Park and maintaining curbside leaf waste collection. Recycling totes will be purchased by Waste Management and delivered directly to Residents. A meeting with Waste Management will be scheduled to coordinate the details of the rollout.

Mr. Lahr raised concerns of moving to automated recycling for elderly Residents.

Mr. Nagy stated that the refuse and recycling industry is moving toward automated refuse and recycling. There is no way around the industry changes. It may be easier for elderly Residents to wheel a recycle bin than it would be to lift a bin.

Mayor Nowalk asked if there would be different size recycle bins.

Ms. Wertz stated that there is one size, a 65 GAL recycle bin.

M-7 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Ms. Book to authorize the proper Borough Officials to enter into a 5-year agreement with Waste Management. Mr. Lahr opposed. The motion carried 5-1.

- Meeting - Mrs. Bower and Ms. Wertz will be meeting with a representative from Congresswoman Summer Lee's office next week if Council has any topics that you would like Staff to bring to their attention.

- Building Maintenance – Ms. Wertz and Chief Gagorik met with representatives from Ruthrauff to review the current service agreement. There are units in the Library and on the Administrative level that are at the end of their useful life. Another meeting will be held to assess the building and upgrading costs.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Mr. Veith stated that the Planning and Zoning Committee met prior to the Council Meeting to discuss deer fencing regulations.

Mr. Dellett stated that Staff requests Council consider a motion to act on the 2023-SLD-05 Grove Pointe Phase Two Fourth Amendment subdivision plan application. The applicant requests approval for a subdivision of Lot 23 of the Grove Pointe Residential Land Development to establish property lines along party walls of five townhouse units under construction.

Mr. Dellett stated that Staff recommends Council grant approval of 2023-SLD-05 Grove Pointe Phase Two Fourth Amendment combined preliminary and final subdivision plan application subject to the following conditions:

1. Borough Engineer Review Letter – The applicant shall address all outstanding issues referenced in the Borough Engineer’s review letters dated July 5, 2023 and July 12, 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 and Code Review Memorandum - The applicant shall address all outstanding issues referenced in the Director of Planning, Zoning and Code’s memorandum dated July 7, 2023 in a manner acceptable to the Director of Planning, Zoning and Code. Any additional issues raised by the Planning Director shall be resolved to the satisfaction of the Planning Director.
3. Review Fees – The applicant shall agree to pay all professional review fees of the Borough in connection with this application and approval.

M-8 Mr. Veith moved, seconded by Ms. Book to approve the 2023-SLD-05 Grove Pointe Phase Two Fourth Amendment subdivision plan application, 241-249 Chesna Drive, subject to the conditions in the Director of Planning, Zoning and Code’s Review Memorandum. The motion carried unanimously.

LIBRARY:

Christy Kuehn, a member of the Library Board gave a report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Lahr stated that the Public Works Supervisor is requesting authorization to place an order for the 2024 truck replacements.

M-9 Mr. Lahr moved, seconded by Ms. Book to authorize the Public Works Supervisor to place an order for 2024 truck replacements. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

No report.

RECREATION:

No report.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

No report.

PARKS:

Mrs. DePuy stated that the Parks Committee met last night to discuss Snyder Park. There are 4 potential designs for the park and the Committee will be meeting with the sports organizations to receive feedback. There will be an event held in September to receive feedback from Residents.

NEW BUSINESS:

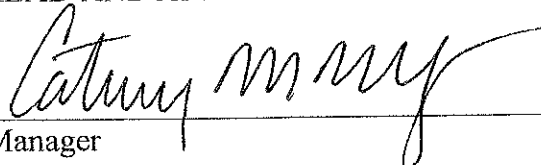
Mr. Veith stated that Saturday's weather is 82 degrees and sunny!

ADJOURNMENT:

M-10 Ms. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Lahr to adjourn the meeting The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.

READ AND APPROVED THIS DAY OF AUGUST 2, 2023:



Manager