



MINUTES
FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD JULY 15, 2024

PRESENT: Andrew C. Bennett, Council President; Harrison S. Lauer, Vice-President; Frederick C. Leech, Bradley D. Harrison, Betsy Monroe, Jonathan Colton, Councilmembers; Walter A. Scott, III, Mayor; A. Bruce Bowden, Solicitor; Gary J. Koehler, Borough Manager; Jeanine A. Mancuso, Treasurer; Larry Kurpakus, Public Works Director;

ALSO

PRESENT: Austin Henry, Chairperson for the EAC; Craig Sorg, Fox Chapel Police Sergeant; Ethan Kolek, Junior Councilmember; Ben Shopland, Chief for Foxwall EMS; Gino Mollica, Deputy Chief for Foxwall EMS; Chris Schmidt, Hampton Technical Associates, Inc; Michael Pohl, Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department

VIA ZOOM: Three attendees

ABSENT: Michael J. Stevens, Chief of Police; Shawn M. Peterson, Borough Secretary

Mr. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Lauer moved that the June 17, 2024, meeting minutes be approved. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

NONE

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairperson Austin Henry summarized Environmental Disturbance Application 24-14, 121 ½ Springhouse Lane, proposed addition.

Mr. Henry stated the EAC recommends approval of Environmental Disturbance Application 24-14 as submitted, contingent upon the following:

- Presentation of the recorded, fully executed easement agreement with the adjacent property owner.
- Satisfaction of the standard requirements outlined in the LSSE letter dated July 5, 2024.
- With a recommendation that there be a further assessment by an arborist specifically focusing on the Silver Maple and Black Walnut.

Mr. Leech moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application 24-14, as submitted, subject to the items outlined in the EAC's recommendations. Ms. Hanna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairperson Austin Henry summarized Environmental Disturbance Application 24-15, 12 James Ross Place, proposed construction of a single-family dwelling.

Mr. Henry stated the EAC recommends approval of Environmental Disturbance Application 24-15 as submitted, contingent upon the following:

- Satisfaction of the standard requirements in the LSSE response letter dated July 8, 2024.
- The addition of eight deciduous hardwoods to the replanting plan, including approval to remove tree no. 6.

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- With the recommendation to grant the waiver on very steep slopes with low risk up to 1,756 square feet or 91.12% and the waiver from the 15% limitation on disturbance of very steep slopes with moderate risk up to 422 square feet or 18.93% on the property.

Ms. Monroe moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application 24-15, as submitted, subject to the items outlined in the EAC's recommendations. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairperson Austin Henry summarized Environmental Disturbance Application 24-16, 500 Fairview Road, proposed construction of a garage and pool.

Mr. Henry stated the EAC recommends approval of Environmental Disturbance Application 24-16 as submitted, contingent upon the following:

- Satisfaction of the standard requirements outlined in the LSSE letter dated July 8, 2024.
- Along with the recommendation for the waiver as requested from the limitation on disturbance of very steep slopes with low risk to permit disturbance up to 2,366 square feet.

Ms. Hanna moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application 24-16, as submitted, subject to the items outlined in the EAC's recommendations. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Colton asked Mr. Henry if the Borough had updated information regarding the tree canopy in the Borough. He referenced the 1981 Natural Resource Plan. Mr. Henry stated there are studies for certain areas within the Borough but not the entire area. Mr. Koehler said he would ask the Borough Engineer, LSSE, to look into their data to see if they can track the tree cover in the Borough over the years.

Mr. Colton stated that an updated study showing the loss or gain of tree canopy in the Borough would be beneficial in proving that the Borough ordinances and policies are working if the Borough is gaining canopy. Mr. Henry said he would work with Mr. Koehler on this matter.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Installation of a New Fire Alarm System in the Municipal, Police, and Fire Department Spaces

Ms. Monroe moved to award the contract for the installation of a new fire alarm system in the municipal, police, and fire department spaces to replace the existing non-upgradeable fire alarm panel, smoke, and heat detectors, and notification devices to Everon, formerly ADT, under the CoStars Contract No. 4400023904 in the amount of \$20,633.39, with a monthly recurring service charge of \$226.14. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

FIRE REPORT

Mr. Pohl stated that the department had 46 actual calls in June. (The Allegheny County report shows 41 calls, but 5 calls were not received from the County during the storm on June 17, 2024, as a communication tower was lost, which meant some communication was delayed.)

FOXWALL EMS REPORT

Mr. Mollica introduced Ben Shopland to Council as the new Chief for Foxwall EMS. Mr. Shopland stated that Foxwall is in the process of increasing wages (approximately 10%) as well as increasing benefits from the money given by Fox Chapel and Aspinwall Boroughs for this purpose. A meeting will occur with Fox Chapel and Aspinwall Boroughs, and Foxwall EMS this week to review finances and transparency.

Mr. Shopland stated that Foxwall received an award from the American Heart Association for the lifesaving CPR efforts on a Fox Chapel resident.

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Mr. Bennett complimented Mr. Mollica on a job well done as the acting interim Chief for Foxwall EMS. Mr. Mollica stated that Foxwall hopes to sell the old ambulance for \$10,000.

PUBLIC SAFETY ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (PSAC) REPORT

Ms. Monroe summarized the July 10, 2024, meeting. She stated the June 17, 2024, storm caused massive disruptions in communication systems throughout Allegheny County, and it was determined that communication needs to occur with residents during times like this by the Borough. She complimented the Public Works Department and first responders on how quickly they communicated with each other, cleaned up the Borough, and opened roads. The PSAC is working with the Fire Department to include response times in their report to Council.

Mr. Bennett thanked the Public Works Department and all first responders for a job well done.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Kurpakus stated that the Old Mill Road Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Project is coming to completion this week. When the permits come in, Phase 2 of this project will be more impactful through Riding Meadow Park approximately a year from now. He said paving, including landscape restoration, is approximately 70% completed in the Borough. Utility patching will be completed later this summer.

TREASURER REPORT

Ratification of Payments – June 2024

Mr. Leech moved to ratify the payment of bills for June 2024 General Fund Vouchers 4959 - 5045 in the amount of \$670,062.55. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 731 Amending Section 338.12.A., Through Highways Established, and 338.13.A., Stop Intersections Established, of the Code of the Borough

Mr. Lauer moved to enact Ordinance 731, amending Section 338.12.A., Through Highways Established, and 338.13A, Stop Intersections Established, of the Code of the Borough by adding stop signs on Fairview Road at Fairview Manor and Whispering Pines (north, south) and a stop sign on Fairview Manor at Fairview Road (west). The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

Letter of Resignation

Ms. Monroe moved to accept Sergeant Craig Sorg's irrevocable letter of resignation from regular employment with the Fox Chapel Police Department effective August 7, 2024, as he has elected to enter into the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP). Mr. Lauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Bennett congratulated Sergeant Sorg on his next step in retirement and stated his community involvement is second to none.

Sergeant Sorg thanked Borough Council for all of their support and help throughout the years.

With no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON
Borough Secretary