



FOX CHAPEL
BOROUGH

MINUTES
FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AUGUST 19, 2024

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Kevin Brett, Borough Engineer; Austin Henry, Chairperson for the EAC; Jeff Clark, Fox Chapel Police Sergeant; Avery Litwin, Junior Councilmember; Ben Shopland, Chief for Foxwall EMS; Jill McConnell, Executive Director of the Cooper-Siegel Community Library, Steve Lackey, President of the Community Library Association

VIA ZOOM: Betsy Monroe, Councilmember; Michael J. Stevens, Chief of Police

ABSENT: Ethan Kolek, Junior Councilmember

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

MINUTES

Mr. Lauer moved that the July 15, 2024, meeting minutes be approved. Ms. Hanna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

NONE

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairperson Austin Henry summarized Environmental Disturbance Application 24-17, 140 Willow Farms Court, proposed construction of a single-family dwelling.

Mr. Henry stated that since the EAC meeting, the applicant's engineers at Fahringer, McCarty, and Grey, Inc., submitted a letter on August 18, 2024, that included a few updated calculations, which were reviewed and approved by the Borough Engineer. There was a very slight post-development increase in stormwater runoff, so the applicant's engineer added a small additional detention facility. Mr. Henry also said that the Allegheny County Conservation District gave their approval for the project as well.

Mr. Henry stated that the EAC recommends approval of Environmental Disturbance Application 24-17 as submitted and amended per the letter submitted by Fahringer, McCarty, and Grey, Inc., with an additional stormwater detention facility and the following:

- The tree replanting plan as submitted
- Granting of the requested waiver from the limitation on disturbance of very steep slopes with low risk from 15 to 21.1%

And contingent upon:

- Satisfaction of the standard requirements set forth in the LSSE letter dated August 13, 2024

Ms. Hanna moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application 24-17, as submitted, subject to the items outlined in the EAC's recommendations. Mr. Leech seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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At the July Council meeting, Mr. Colton asked Mr. Henry if the Borough had updated information regarding the tree canopy. Mr. Henry reported that Mr. Koehler, Dante Moretti, the Zoning Administrator, and LSSE have been comparing the tree canopy from 1938 to the present with aerial photographs to determine the tree coverage in the Borough. They will continue to analyze the satellite photographs and put their findings together to present later. Mr. Henry said that it reinforces the work of the Borough and the EAC to preserve the tree canopy.

CONTRACT AWARDS

OBIC Liner System

Mr. Leech moved to approve the contract to Advanced Rehabilitation Technology for lining 13 manholes of approximately 104 vertical feet with OBIC Liner System via CoStars Contract No. 380975 for \$28,080. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed unanimously.

McCahill Park Improvements Contract No. 24-P01

Mr. Leech moved to approve McCahill Park Improvements Contract No. 24-P01 to Dun Rite Construction in the amount of \$819,622.40, which includes the base bid and alternate no. 2, concrete edger, contingent upon the review and approval from DCNR. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Leech asked Mr. Koehler to summarize the work being done at McCahill for this contract. Mr. Koehler stated that four pickleball courts would be installed along with a new basketball court that would be shared with the pickleball courts, a new backstop, and a multi-use field. A trail will loop around the entire park and the Borough will utilize reclaim from the millings from Hemlock Hollow Road for the trail. A large stormwater detention facility will be installed where the t-ball field is now. The Western PA Conservancy and the Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy will plant a rain garden in this area, and members of the Park Commission and Parks Conservancy will be trained by the Western PA Conservancy on how to care for and maintain the garden.

Paving Royston Road as an Addition to the 2024 Roadway Improvement Program Contract No. 24-R01

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the paving of Royston Road as an addition to the 2024 Roadway Improvement Contract No. 24-R01 in the amount of \$18,065.76 to Youngblood Paving Inc. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Fox Chapel VFD Station 1 Renovation

Mr. Leech moved to approve the base bid and add alternate nos. 1, 2, and 3 for the Fox Chapel VFD Station 1 Renovations Contract No. 24-FD1 to FMS Construction Company in the amount of \$567,900. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Koehler stated the renovations included making the restrooms ADA compliant, removing the old paneling, adding drywall, a new floor, and a new ceiling. It also includes the addition of a rec room for the volunteer members and a gym for the VFD, police, and Borough staff to use.

2024 Traffic Improvements Contract No. 24-TS01

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the 2024 Traffic Signal Improvements Contract No. 24-TS01 bid to Traffic Control & Engineering Co., Inc., in the amount of \$489,188.50. Mr. Leech seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Koehler stated that two crosswalks will be installed at the intersection of Fox Chapel Road and Field Club Road as part of the project.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Stevens provided an update on the address changes that were effective August 1, 2024, for Woodland Farms Road residents. Moving forward, the Chief will contact the Allegheny County Emergency Services Department before

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any changes are implemented and on the effective date to ensure any address changes have been updated in their system.

Council was informed of the upcoming community events in the Borough:

- Touch-a-Truck - Saturday, September 21, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Paint Pumpkins with Police – Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Light Up Fox Chapel – Wednesday, December 4, 2024, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Residents are also reminded that the First annual Foxtrot 5k Race, sponsored by the Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy, will be held on Sunday, September 8, 2024, at McCahill Park.

FOXWALL EMS REPORT

Mr. Shopland stated that Foxwall implemented their wage improvements at the end of July. They used an equitable model and were able to provide 10 to 18% raises to employees.

He also said that three members of Foxwall left for medical school, so Foxwall has posted the job positions and will begin interviews next week.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Kurpakus stated that Youngblood Paving Inc. will finish up on the main roads this week and begin utility patching later. Royston Road will be added to the list of projects to be completed when they return for the utility patching.

He also said that landscape restoration will begin immediately following the completion of the main roads.

The Public Works Department will begin to gear up for Leaf Season once the landscape restoration is complete.

ENGINEER REPORT

Mr. Brett commended the Public Works Department for all the work they completed on stormwater restoration and for being ahead of schedule with paving because of all the prep work the Department did to prepare for paving.

TREASURER REPORT

Ratification of Payments – July 2024

Mr. Lauer moved to ratify the payment of bills for July 2024 General Fund Vouchers 5046 - 5140 in the amount of \$1,350,892.01. Ms. Hanna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

LIBRARY REPORT

Ms. McConnell, from the Cooper-Siegel Community Library provided an update to Council on their Capital Campaign that was launched earlier this year. \$1.4 million has been raised out of their goal of \$2.5 million. The Library, with the assistance of the Borough, will be applying for a Keystone Grant in the amount of \$750,000. The Capital Campaign is to finish the lower level's unused space and to begin a fund for future capital projects. If the Library receives the Keystone grant, they will begin construction on the lower level next spring.

Ms. McConnell also stated that 63% of Fox Chapel residents are members of the Cooper-Siegel Community Library.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Borough of Fox Chapel Code of Conduct and Ethics was amended at the February 2024 Council meeting to include revisions based on participants covered by the policy, specifically the Borough's volunteers. Since then, Borough staff has worked on obtaining signatures from all Council/committee/commission members, staff members, and volunteers, such as the Volunteer Fire Department. Eight VFD members and three commission/committee members have yet to sign the document.

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In addition, the Borough of Fox Chapel obtained supplemental abuse and molestation insurance coverage beginning August 1, 2024, due to its involvement in contact activities. As a condition for obtaining this coverage, the Borough must demonstrate that it has implemented a formal prevention plan.

At the insurance company's request, all Borough of Fox Chapel employees and volunteers had to obtain PA Criminal Background and Child Abuse Clearances. A few members of the Borough committees/commissions have begun the process of obtaining their clearances and are waiting for one clearance to be granted. Eleven VFD members have not yet turned in any clearances.

Borough Council advised Borough staff to continue the conversation with VFD members to ensure they understand the seriousness of obtaining their clearances and signing the Code of Conduct and Ethics form. Council stated that a meeting with the VFD's Chief, Assistant Chief, and Secretary needs to be held to explain the importance of obtaining this information. Council will be updated on the progress of obtaining clearances and signatures from members of the VFD at the September Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Hearing Board Case 24-03

Mr. Leech moved to remain neutral on the Variance Request for Case No. 24-03, 102 Woodland Farms Road. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Leech moved to remain neutral on the Variance Request for Case No. 24-04, Old Indian Trail, Parcel No. 621-P-11. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 696

Mr. Bennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 696, revising the Borough's Fee Schedule, which was last updated on March 18, 2019. Mr. Leech seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 697

Mr. Colton moved to adopt Resolution No. 697, authorizing Gary Koehler to act on behalf of the Borough of Fox Chapel. The Community Library Association and the Borough of Fox Chapel have applied for a Keystone Grant in the amount of \$750,000 for public library facilities from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 698

Mr. Bennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 698, which confirms that the Borough of Fox Chapel has formally requested a \$500,000 grant from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County (RAAC) for the Dorseyville Fire Station Improvements project. Ms. Hanna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

With no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON
Borough Secretary