



FOX CHAPEL
BOROUGH

MINUTES

FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 18, 2024

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Ethan Kolek, Kabeer Chopra, Junior Councilmembers; Austin Henry, Chairperson for the EAC; Ben Shopland, Chief for Foxwall EMS; Mike Pohl, Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department

ABSENT: Avery Litwin, Junior Councilmember

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

MINUTES

Mr. Lauer moved that the October 21, 2024, meeting minutes be approved. Ms. Hanna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

NONE

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)

Chairperson Austin Henry summarized the EAC meeting held on Monday, November 12, 2024. He stated that because of the Borough's commitment to tracking tree removal and replanting at larger institutions like golf courses, he wanted Borough Council to be informed of Tree Removal 24-136, Pittsburgh Field Club's removal of seven trees. As the request is to remove only seven trees, Borough Council did not need to approve the removal of the trees.

Mr. Henry said that the Pittsburgh Field Club has removed twelve trees in the last ten years, and their replanting plan has been 1:1. The trees being removed are due to overcrowding, turf damage, and safety concerns for three of the trees that have been struck by lightning. The Field Club will replace the seven trees with seven Black Tupelo trees in a large open area near the twelfth hole along Fairway Lane that will eventually act as screening from the neighboring property.

Mr. Colton asked how the Pittsburgh Field Club planned to remove trees #2 and #3 in a line of four trees entwined. He said that the removal of the trees could pose a risk of affecting the other two trees. Mr. Henry said that they generally perform stump removal when removing trees from the property. He said the EAC would look into how the Field Club plans on removing the trees.

Mr. Colton also stated that the Joint Comprehensive Plan discusses collaborating with owners of large parcels of land in the Borough and O'Hara Township on stormwater and long-range land conservation opportunities in relation to applications such as this. He said the Joint Comprehensive Plan also discusses updating ordinances regarding tree removal and other environmental ordinances, and he wanted to ensure the Tree Committee is advising residents about stormwater.

Mr. Henry stated that Nanette Bennett, a member of the EAC, will be stepping down from her position at the end of her term (December 31, 2024). He said the EAC will begin the process of interviewing interested residents for the position. As Ms. Bennett is also a member of the Tree Committee, the EAC has appointed Cate Mettenburg to the Committee.

MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Page 2

POLICE REPORT

Chief Stevens reminded Borough Council that Light Up Fox Chapel will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, from 5 to 7 p.m. behind the Borough Building.

FIRE REPORT

Mr. Pohl stated that October was one of their busiest months for fire calls, with a total of 50 calls.

FOXWALL EMS REPORT

Mr. Shopland stated that October was also a record month for Foxwall for the year. He said that being fully staffed makes them more consistent with non-emergency calls, increasing contributions and making Foxwall more sustainable.

He also said that he noticed some concerns with response times for a few calls last month and has met with his staff to address this issue. Mr. Shopland said that Foxwall is looking at ways to reduce lights and sirens without impacting clinical outcomes.

PUBLIC SAFETY ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (PSAC)

Ms. Monroe stated that the PSAC met on Wednesday, October 30, 2024. The meeting's focus was on reviewing the traffic calming policy resolution, which was coordinated with and close to O'Hara Township's adopted policy.

Ms. Monroe said that, in response to last month's Council recommendation to discuss resident notification of canvassers in the Borough, the Borough would write an article for the newsletter when canvasser traffic is higher, typically around elections.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Kurpakus provided an update on the construction at McCahill Park. He said the rain garden construction has been completed, the aggregate trail is 90% complete, the paving for the courts is complete, and the fencing around the courts is approximately 50% complete. He said the completion date has been delayed to early spring due to weather. The baseball infield planting, coating for pickleball courts, and some larger plantings the contractor is doing require warmer weather.

TREASURER REPORT

Ratification of Payments – October 2024

Ms. Monroe moved to ratify the payment of bills for October 2024 General Fund Vouchers 5280 - 5365 in the amount of \$952,754.32. Mr. Colton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Advertisement

Mr. Lauer summarized the 2025 budget that was reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the advertisement of the proposed 2025 budget and an ordinance for the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) sewer rate increase. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The proposed budget will be available for public viewing between December 2 and December 13, 2024, at the Borough Building from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A discussion was had on including year-end financial information with the budget on the website. Ms. Mancuso stated that additional information could be provided if the Finance Committee directed.

Mr. Bennett stated that Ms. Mancuso did a wonderful job on the budget, making it even more user-friendly. Mr. Lauer seconded Mr. Bennett's comments and stated that the budget was efficient and detailed.

MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Page 3

Mayor Scott stated that Bonnie DuMotte from Second Harvest met with him and Fred Leech to see if the Borough would like to collaborate with Second Harvest. She asked if the Borough would be willing to provide a space for donation drop-offs once a week and if Second Harvest could place information on their organization in the Borough newsletter.

Mr. Koehler stated that the Cooper-Siegel Community Library's additional parking lot may be a good location for the once-a-week donation drop-off as the space is out of the way. Mr. Leech stated that Second Harvest is a remarkable organization. Borough Council as a whole thought this was a good idea.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:04 p.m., Borough Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. At 7:52 p.m., the meeting was reconvened.

With no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON
Borough Secretary