



MINUTES
FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD JUNE 16, 2025

PRESENT: Andrew C. Bennett, Council President; Harrison S. Lauer, Vice-President; Frederick C. Leech, Bradley D. Harrison, 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, Assistant to the Manager

ALSO

PRESENT: Austin Henry, Chairperson for the Environmental Advisory Council; Wesley Posvar, Chairperson of the Park Commission; Ben Shopland, Chief for Foxwall EMS; Kevin Brett, P.E., Borough Engineer; Philip Weis, Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney PC; Julie Bastianini, Marshall Township Manager; Robert Belicose, MaherDuessel; Dante Moretti, Zoning Administrator; Michael Pohl, resident; Joshua and David Lowe, Scout and father; five other attendees

VIA ZOOM: Dan Martone, Martone Engineering; Kento Ohmori, Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department; two other attendees

ABSENT: Betsy Monroe, Sarah Hanna, Councilmembers

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

MINUTES

Mr. Lauer moved that the May 19, 2025, meeting minutes be approved. Mr. Leech seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

Michael Pohl, 116 Wilmar Drive, stated that personally, the property at 104 Wilmar Drive does not adversely affect him, his family, his property value, or public safety. If there is something the Borough can do within its power under the Borough Code and all its ordinances, that's great, but he doesn't feel adversely affected by it. He would like to see it cleaned up, but he understands it is private property.

Mr. Moretti stated he is waiting for the property owner to respond to the violation letter sent on May 29, 2025.

PARK COMMISSION

Eagle Scout Projects

Chairperson Wesley Posvar introduced Joshua Lowe, a scout asking for formal approval of his Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Lowe stated that his project is to create a connector trail from Country Day School to Riding Meadow Park. He said his trail would be a faster, easier path for the students.

Mr. Harrison moved to approve Joshua Lowe's Eagle Scout Project as recommended by the Park Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

Mr. Posvar said that Victor White, another scout working on his Eagle Scout Project, had just completed his Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) project in Borough parks. Mr. White inventoried the hemlocks in Borough parks and identified those affected by HWA. The Public Works Department then treated the affected trees with trunk-infused pesticides. Mr. White treated two trees in Salamander Park as part of his project with beetles. He was able

MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 16, 2025

Page 2

to raise money for the beetles and has donated the remaining balance of the money raised to the Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy. Mr. Bennett thanked Mr. White for the project and the donation to the Parks Conservancy.

Pickleball Court Rules

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the Pickleball Court Rules as recommended by the Park Commission. Mr. Colton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Posvar stated that the rules have two potential items of interest: no reservations for the courts at this time, and no recreational wheeled devices permitted on the courts. Mr. Bennett said the rules are temporary and can be revised later once tested.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)

Chairperson Austin Henry summarized the Environmental Disturbance Application No. 25-04, 104 Haverford Road, proposed pool and pool house.

Mr. Henry stated that the EAC recommends approval of Environmental Disturbance Application No. 25-04, as submitted with a waiver for the use of a level spreader and a waiver for a geotechnical report, contingent upon ACCD approval and the submission of a replanting plan with at least ten deciduous hardwoods.

Mr. Leech moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application No. 25-04, as recommended by the EAC. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion. Mr. Colton stated he thought the Borough ordinance required approval from downstream property owners for level spreaders. Mr. Henry stated that this is generally the case, but the EAC does not believe there is a potential impact on adjacent properties or water sources. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Henry summarized the Environmental Disturbance Application No. 25-11, 103 Catalpa Ridge Road, proposed pool house and sanitary sewer relocation.

Mr. Henry stated that the EAC recommends approval of Environmental Disturbance Application No. 25-11, as submitted with a waiver for the geotechnical report and contingent upon ACCD approval, and the submission to the EAC for approval, a replanting plan that includes at least twelve deciduous hardwoods.

Mr. Lauer moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application No. 25-11, as recommended by the EAC. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Scott stated that a meeting was held on May 21, 2025, at Shady Side Academy (SSA) with SSA personnel, Borough personnel, and three Councilmembers to discuss the proposed West Gate Entrance. He said SSA is revising its plans, and there is still a long process ahead.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Stevens stated that Fox Chapel Day was held on Saturday, June 14, 2025, and Sergeant Craig Sorg informed him the event was well-attended. He said Sergeant Sorg told him the biggest issue was that there were not enough ponies. He also stated that Sergeant Sorg thanked Borough staff for their help with the event. Mr. Bennett thanked Sergeant Sorg and Borough staff for the great event.

FIRE REPORT

Mayor Scott stated the Fire Department was very busy in May due to the aftermath of the April 29th storm. He thanked the department for doing a great job for the Borough.

MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 16, 2025

Page 3

Mayor Scott recognized the passing of Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department member Thomas Eichenlaub. He said Mr. Eichenlaub had been a department member for 50 years. He said the department has lost two members who served the Borough well, as John Miclot passed recently. Mr. Bennett, on behalf of the Borough Council, was very sorry for the department's loss.

Mr. Bennett introduced Julie Bastianini as the incoming Borough Manager, who will start in mid-July, when the current Borough Manager, Gary Koehler, retires.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Kurpakus stated that Shields Paving will begin working in the Borough at the beginning of July. He also said the emergency brush collection after the April 29th storm took six weeks to complete. He said that twenty loads of chips and approximately eight loads of logs were collected.

Mr. Bennett thanked the Public Works Department for its help with Fox Chapel Day. Mr. Leech said he has received compliments from residents on the work the PWD did on McCahill Park to ensure the park was ready for Fox Chapel Day.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Mr. Brett stated that LSSE requested pricing for canopy structures to convert the open storage bin area to a salt storage facility. Mr. Bennett asked about the timing for this structure. Mr. Kurpakus stated the Borough would need to get cost estimates from LSSE and have them prepare the bid documents to be ready for the 2026 budget.

TREASURER REPORT

MaherDuessel 2024 Audit

Robert Belicose, from MaherDuessel, provided a brief presentation regarding the 2024 Audit. Mr. Belicose stated there are no findings and the Borough is in good financial condition.

Ratification of Payments – May 2025

Mr. Colton moved to ratify the payment of bills for May 2025 General Fund Vouchers 5806 - 5868 for \$874,914.51. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Session Meetings

Mr. Bennett stated that Borough Council held two Executive Session meetings on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 10 a.m., and Monday, June 16, 2025, at 8 a.m., to discuss a personnel matter and a potential litigation matter.

Resolution No. 711 – Destruction of Records

Mr. Leech moved to adopt Resolution No. 711, authorizing the destruction of certain records in accordance with the Municipal Records Manual. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CONTRACT AWARD

Borough of Fox Chapel Gym Equipment Purchase

Mr. Leech moved to authorize the purchase of gym equipment for the Borough of Fox Chapel from Advantage Sport & Fitness Inc. via CoStars Contract No. 014-001, in the amount of \$22,000. The total purchase is \$40,901.22. The Borough budgeted \$22,000 for this purchase, and the Volunteer Fire Department's contribution will pay the remaining \$18,901.22. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed unanimously.

MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 16, 2025

Page 4

3 Rivers Fire Equipment – Fire Hose Purchase

Mr. Colton moved to ratify the purchase of fire hoses for the Volunteer Fire Department from 3 Rivers Fire Equipment in the amount of \$44,832.00 via CoStars Contract No. 213254. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:01 p.m., the Borough Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss a potential litigation matter, a personnel matter, and a land acquisition matter. At 9:16 p.m., the meeting was reconvened.

With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON
Assistant to the Manager