FOX CHAPEL
BOROUGH

MINUTES
FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 20, 2025

PRESENT: Andrew C. Bennett, Council President; Frederick C. Leech, Betsy Monroe, Bradley D. Harrison, Sarah Hanna, Jonathan Colton, Councilmembers; Walter A. Scott, III, Mayor; 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: Avery Litwin, Kabeer Chopra, Junior Councilmembers; Ben Shopland, Chief for Foxwall EMS; Mike Pohl, Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department; Connie George, Strategic Development, National Aviary; Conor McGarvey, Senior Director, Site Operations & Development, National Aviary, and two other attendees

VIA ZOOM: A. Bruce Bowden, Solicitor; one other attendee

ABSENT: Harrison S. Lauer, Vice-President; Ethan Kolek, Junior Councilmember

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

MINUTES
Ms. Monroe moved that the December 16, 2024, meeting minutes be approved. Ms. Hanna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RESIDENT COMMENTS
NONE

MAYOR REPORT
Mr. Bennett stated the Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy wrote a letter to Borough Council thanking them for supporting their work and what they do. Mr. Bennett thanked the Parks Conservancy.

Mayor Scott stated that he and Borough staff attended a presentation by the National Aviary a few weeks ago regarding the purchase of SSA Middle School property and the transition of the facility for Aviary use. The Aviary has submitted a request to the Zoning Administrator to see if the land use they have in mind would meet the requirements of the Borough's Zoning Ordinance. The Aviary's intended use for the SSA Middle School property is for Avian hospital research and education.

Mayor Scott said the National Aviary has contacted the property's neighbors to explain its intended use and ensure their acceptance.

POLICE REPORT
Chief Stevens stated that at the December 2024 Council meeting, a concern regarding the Whispering Pines/Fairview Road stop sign warranted more time spent by officers at the intersection. He said that the stop sign's location makes it difficult for officers to sit and monitor it, so they will continue with their presence at this location. He also said that stop bars will be installed in the spring to assist with safety at the intersection.

FIRE REPORT
Mr. Pohl stated that 2024 was the busiest year in Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department's history, with 448 calls in total.

FOXWALL EMS REPORT
Mr. Shopland stated that Foxwall intends to hold quarterly CPR training for the public. He said it is an informational experience for all ages.

He stated that Foxwall was dispatched to just over 1,000 calls in 2024; 880 were non-emergency transports.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING SUBCOMMITTEE
Mr. Bennett stated that the Municipal Waste and Recycling Contract was ready to be advertised. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2025. Bids are due on March 5, 2025, with the bid opening the same day. He said Buchanan Law, subcommittee members, and Borough staff have thoroughly vetted the contract.

Ms. Monroe asked how similar the current contract is to past contracts. Mr. Bennett stated that Option No. 1 in the contract is the same as the current contract: garage door service. The difference is the addition of Option No. 2, a curbside collection with add-on options like garage door service.

Mr. Leech moved to approve the advertisement of the proposed Municipal Waste and Recycling Contract. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT
Mr. Kurpakus stated that the PWD is planning to move forward with Phase II of the Hardie Valley Sewer Interceptor Project through Riding Meadow Park. He said this will be done in separate sections, which will result in park section closures. Residents will be alerted to closures in the Borough newsletter and website.

Mr. Kurpakus said they would begin with clearing, and excavation would begin soon in early spring.

Mr. Bennett thanked the PWD for the efforts this winter season to clear and salt Borough roadways.

ENGINEERING REPORT
Mr. Koehler stated that Fire Station No. 1 renovations should substantially be completed by Friday, January 24, 2025.

TREASURER REPORT
Ms. Mancuso stated that all 2024 reports would be available to Council at the next scheduled meeting, as she is completing the year's close-out. She also stated that the 2024 Audit is scheduled for mid-February.

CONTRACT AWARD
<u>2026 International HV507 Chassis</u>
Ms. Monroe moved to award the 2026 International HV507 Chassis contract to Hill International Trucks NA LLC via CoStars Contract No. 025-E22-519 at $123,462.00. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

<u>Truck Up-Fit Package</u>
Ms. Monroe moved to award the contract for the up-fit package for the 2026 International HV507 chassis to Stephenson Equipment via CoStars Contract No. 025-E22-432 at $99,000.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS
<u>Notice of Deferred Retirement Option Plan Entry</u>
Ms. Monroe moved to accept the irrevocable letter of resignation from Chief of Police Michael J. Stevens from regular employment with the Fox Chapel Police Department effective December 31, 2024, who has elected to enter the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP). Mr. Bennett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Bennett congratulated Chief Stevens and stated he would be missed when the three-year DROP period ends.

Public Works Contract
Mr. Leech moved to adopt the PWD Contract extension from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. Mr. Colton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 709, 2025 Edition of the Emergency Operations Plan of the Borough of Fox Chapel
Ms. Monroe moved to adopt Resolution No. 709, 2025 Edition of the Emergency Operations Plan of the Borough of Fox Chapel.

Mr. Colton stated that the plan referenced the Notification and Resource Manual (NARM) and Functional Checklist, which were not included in the documents the Council received. Chief Stevens said the NARM is the playbook for an emergency event, and it contains contact information that is not public knowledge. He stated that the Functional Checklist ensures that everything is completed at an emergency event and would be happy to share this checklist with the Council upon request.

Mr. Leech seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Reappointments
Ms. Monroe moved to approve the reappointment of Thomas Murphy to the EAC, with a term expiration of December 31, 2027. Mr. Colton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Monroe moved to approve Peggy Jayme's reappointment to the EAC, with a term expiring on December 31, 2027. Ms. Hanna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Planning Commission Reappointment
Mr. Leech moved to approve James Royston's reappointment to the Planning Commission, with a term expiration of December 31, 2028. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Colton stated he wanted to acknowledge Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, as the Council meeting is on the same day. He shared a quote by Dr. King, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve." Mr. Colton said that he thought it was appropriate that the Council meeting was on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as Borough Council is about public service.

With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON
Borough Secretary