



## MINUTES

### FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 17, 2025

PRESENT: Harrison S. Lauer, Vice-President; Frederick C. Leech, Betsy Monroe, Bradley D. Harrison, Sarah Hanna, Jonathan Colton, Councilmembers; Gary J. Koehler, Borough Manager; Jeanine A. Mancuso, Treasurer; Michael J. Stevens, Chief of Police; Larry Kurpakus, Public Works Director

ALSO

PRESENT: Ethan Kolek, Avery Litwin, Kabeer Chopra, Junior Councilmembers; Austin Henry, Chairperson for the EAC

VIA ZOOM: Walter A. Scott, III, Mayor; A. Bruce Bowden, Solicitor; Shawn M. Peterson, Borough Secretary; Wesley Posvar, Chairperson for the Park Commission; three other attendees

ABSENT: Andrew C. Bennett, Council President

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

## MINUTES

Ms. Monroe moved that the January 20, 2025, meeting minutes be approved. Ms. Hanna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## RESIDENT COMMENTS

NONE

## ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)

Chairperson Austin Henry summarized the Environmental Disturbance Application 25-01, 102 Woodland Farms Road, proposed single-family dwelling construction.

Mr. Henry stated that the EAC recommends approval of Environmental Disturbance Application 25-01 as submitted, along with the waiver of steep slopes with moderate risk limitation up to 42.2% and a waiver of the 15% limitation on very steep slopes with moderate risk up to 33% and subject to ACCD approval, road bond, and other standard requirements outlined in the LSSE letter dated February 10, 2025.

Mr. Lauer moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application No. 25-01 as submitted along with the waivers for steep slopes and very steep slopes and all the other requirements outlined in the LSSE letter.

Mr. Henry said this is not a topographically challenged site, and the EAC thought it was unnecessary to require a geotechnical report, but rather a letter with the opinion from a soil engineer, and appropriate to grant the waivers from the limitations of disturbance for steep and very steep slopes as they will not negatively impact stability on the site. This letter was received by the Borough on Friday, February 14, 2025. Mr. Lauer stated that often, when the limits of steep slopes and very steep slopes are encroached upon, the Borough asks for a geotechnical report, but Mr. Henry has made it abundantly clear that this situation is way less significant than many of those and that is a reason for a letter as opposed to the report.

Mr. Leech seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Henry summarized the Environmental Disturbance Application No. 23-17, 21 Fairview Manor replanting plan submission.

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Mr. Henry stated that the EAC recommends that Environmental Disturbance Application No. 23-17 be approved with an amendment to include planting at least twelve hardwood trees instead of the seven in the original application, with at least 31 trees replanted in total. He stated that the applicant had already agreed to the amendment.

Mr. Leech moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application No. 23-17 with an amendment to include planting at least 12 hardwood trees instead of the seven in the original application. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Henry stated that he, Donald Newman from the EAC, and Melinda Guinn from the Park Commission attended an Allegheny County-hosted meeting with tree commissions and EACs from other municipalities around the city of Pittsburgh. He said the meeting's concept was to exchange information and improve operations. He said it was clear from the interaction that Fox Chapel was light-years ahead of most other municipalities in terms of how the committees and the Public Works Department work with Borough Council to accomplish things. The support that EAC and Park Commission get from Borough Council is vital.

### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Stevens stated that the camera systems from the District Attorney's office have been installed and that most are working. He said there was a series of package thefts on North Drive. Chief Stevens stated that after obtaining security camera footage from residents' homes, the Police Department was able to get a description of the vehicle responsible for the thefts, and using the DA's camera system, officers were able to ascertain a license plate for the vehicle. The case is currently being investigated. He said that getting information on the vehicle would have been very tough without the cameras.

He also stated that the 2025 Fox Chapel Community Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 14, 2025, from noon to 4 p.m. Ms. Hanna asked if Fox Chapel Day will still take place at McCahill Park. Mr. Kurpakus stated that the construction at McCahill Park is still tentative, but there will be a backup plan if needed.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (PSAC)**

Ms. Monroe stated that the PSAC was able to review the VFD's annual report at the last PSAC meeting on January 29, 2025. She said that the PSAC appreciated the VFD's amazing work for the community. In an environment where many departments are struggling, the Fox Chapel VFD has 44 members, and a number of individuals have quite advanced training.

Ms. Monroe mentioned that the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer has recognized the Fox Chapel VFD as a Gold Helmet Department. The Registry is the largest effort undertaken to understand and reduce the risk of cancer among U.S. firefighters.

Ms. Monroe also said that Chief Stevens provided a map of crashes in the Borough from the last three years, which will help the PSAC begin evaluating traffic crashes and identify any areas they want to address with traffic calming measures.

### **REFUSE AND RECYCLING SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Lauer stated that the Refuse and Recycling Subcommittee met on February 11, 2025, with five refuse haulers for the pre-bid meeting. The haulers in attendance were Vogel Disposal Service, Republic Services, Waste Management, Noble Environmental (County Hauling), and Earthwise Environmental (Big's).

Mr. Lauer said that one change worth mentioning to the bid documents was the haulers' request to alter the length of the contract from a three-year contract with two option years to a five-year contract with two option years. He said that this allows for better bids from the contractors as they can amortize the purchases of vehicles and other materials for

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the contract over a longer period of time. Mr. Lauer said that bids are due on March 5, 2025, and will be opened the same day. The bid will be awarded either at the March 17, 2025, Council meeting or the April 21, 2025, Council meeting.

### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Mr. Kurpakus stated that stormwater improvements will begin when the weather improves to get roads in the Borough ready for paving. He said that the PWD has begun working on the Hardie Valley Interceptor project with clearing activity.

Mr. Kurpakus said that he met with members of the Park Commission to attempt to harvest some natural vegetation from their clearing activities to be replanted along streambank areas. He said it is estimated that the Hardie Valley project should be completed by fall 2025.

### **ENGINEERING REPORT**

Mr. Koehler stated that in addition to the Engineer Report, the solar panels on the PWD Operations Building have been installed and inspected, and a production meter from Duquesne Light Company is awaiting installation.

### **TREASURER REPORT**

Ms. Mancuso stated there was an \$88,000 gain in 2024. Mr. Lauer gave Ms. Mancuso another pat on the back because the projected gain was less than actual. He said he didn't want it to go unnoticed that the year ended better than they had thought.

#### Ratification of Payments – December 2024

Mr. Leech moved to ratify the payment of bills for December 2024 General Fund Vouchers 5413 – 5498, 5501 – 5518, and 5531 – 5538 in the amount of \$1,272,446.87. Ms. Hanna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### Ratification of Payments – January 2025

Mr. Leech moved to ratify the payment of bills for January 2025 General Fund Vouchers 5499 – 5500, 5519 – 5530, and 5539 - 5580 in the amount of \$1,176,594.96. Ms. Hanna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **CONTRACT AWARD**

#### HTC 1800 Belt Conveyor Spreader with Chute and Reverse Valve

Mr. Harrison moved to award the HTC 1800 belt conveyor spreader with chute and reverse valve to U.S. Municipal via CoStars Contract No. 025-E22-441 at \$12,721.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Colton and passed unanimously.

#### Caterpillar LTC 420 07A Backhoe Loader

Mr. Leech moved to award the Caterpillar LTC 420 07A Backhoe Loader to Cleveland Brothers via CoStars Contract No. 4400028102 at \$144,208.00, with the optional hydraulic thumb at \$6,570.00, for a total cost of \$150,778.00. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### Phase II Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Project – Pipe and Manholes

Ms. Monroe moved to award LB Water the \$40,950.00 pipe contract for the Phase II Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Project via CoStars Contract No. 016-E22-212. Ms. Hanna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Monroe moved to award Eagle Concrete Products Co. the contract for manholes for the Phase II Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Project at \$13,090.00. Mr. Colton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### McCahill Park Riparian Forest Buffer

Mr. Leech moved to award the McCahill Park Riparian Forest Buffer contract to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy for \$14,000.00. The Borough's portion of this amount will be \$6,500, and the remaining \$7,500 will be donated by the Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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**SALE OF EQUIPMENT**

Mr. Leech moved to award the sale of the 2008 Ford F550 4X2 XL to Nick Liokareas in the amount of \$6,550.00. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Police Department New Hire

Mr. Colton moved to approve extending a Conditional Offer of Employment letter to Brandon Rourke, whose appointment will be contingent upon passing both the medical and psychological examinations. Ms. Hanna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:02 p.m., the Borough Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss police personnel matters, including the new hire salary, a succession plan, and a police policy matter. At 8:28 p.m., the meeting was reconvened.

With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON  
Borough Secretary