



MINUTES
FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 17, 2025

PRESENT: Andrew C. Bennett, Council President; Harrison S. Lauer, Vice-President; Frederick C. Leech, 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: Ethan Kolek, Junior Councilmember; Wesley Posvar, Chairperson of the Park Commission; Michael Pohl, Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department; Brandon Rourke, Fox Chapel Police Department; Ben Shopland, Chief for Foxwall EMS; Jennifer Swab, Deputy Chief for Foxwall EMS; Ronald Bianchini, resident; three other attendees

VIA ZOOM: Betsy Monroe, Bradley D. Harrison, Councilmembers; A. Bruce Bowden, Solicitor; two other attendees

ABSENT: Sarah Hanna, Councilmember; Avery Litwin, Kabeer Chopra, Junior Councilmembers

Mr. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Lauer moved that the February 17, 2025, meeting minutes be approved. Mr. Colton seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Bennett abstaining due to his absence at the February meeting.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

Ronald Bianchini, 724 Fairview Road, stated that he and his neighbors from "Flower Hill Drive" agree with officially changing their private lane name to Flower Hill. He said he and his neighbors agree that there is a need for the address change and favor it. Mr. Bianchini stated two incidents where emergency responders had difficulty locating neighbors' properties: one slip and fall and one gas leak.

He asked Council if the drive would be called Flower Hill Road or Flower Hill Lane. Mr. Koehler stated that the Borough began naming private drives 'Lane' to keep it consistent throughout the Borough and to let emergency responders know that 'Lane' typically means a private drive. Mr. Bianchini also asked if the address numbers would change along the drive, to which Mr. Koehler stated yes. Mr. Bennett added that the address number sequence is important due to emergency response.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Stevens introduced Brandon Rourke, the newest officer in the Fox Chapel Police Department. Mr. Bennett welcomed Mr. Rourke and stated the Borough is thrilled to have him.

FOXWALL EMS REPORT

Chief Shopland stated that the Run for the Hill of It event, which benefits Foxwall EMS, will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2025, and begin at 9 a.m. in Aspinwall.

He also said that the call volume for Foxwall for February was down compared to the prior month and that all call response times were fantastic.

PUBLIC SAFETY ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (PSAC)

Ms. Monroe stated that the PSAC reviewed the reports provided by the Fox Chapel Police Department, Foxwall EMS, and the Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department. She said Chief Stevens is gathering information on the types of training required and necessary for the Police Department. This information will be reviewed at the next PSAC meeting and

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presented to Council in April. She asked Chief Stevens if he had an update regarding the cameras for the Fox Chapel Area School District buses. Chief Stevens stated he would follow up with ABC Transit and update the PSAC at their next meeting.

The PSAC reviewed the Fairview Road address changes, and Ms. Monroe stated the PSAC believes the residents concerned about the address changes had great suggestions on improving signage, improving identification of each house, and having all existing house numbers along their private drive be in consecutive order. She said the PSAC had already considered these suggestions and integrated them into the guidelines Borough Council adopted at its May 2024 meeting.

Ms. Monroe said that the PSAC submitted a proposal to the Fox Chapel VFD that included information on the standards for the fire sirens and mass notification sirens and asked the department if the current fire siren could be adapted to the standard. The PSAC has asked the VFD to provide information and feedback to be presented to Council to decide on the length of the current siren cycles.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Kurpakus stated that Public Works employees met with Tim Byan from Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve to be trained to treat Hemlock Woolly Adelgid using trunk injections. The PWD will treat approximately 120 trees in Borough parks, and the trunk injections have a seven-year treatment plan.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Mr. Koehler stated that the Borough will meet with LSSE and O'Hara Township this week to discuss the 2025 Paving Program, which is out to bid.

TREASURER REPORT

Ms. Mancuso stated that the Department of Transportation awarded \$222,000 to the Borough for its Liquid Fuels Fund, which will be used along with the Green Light Go grant received for the traffic signal installation at Fox Chapel and Field Club Roads.

Ratification of Payments – February 2025

Mr. Lauer moved to ratify the payment of bills for February 2025 General Fund Vouchers 5581 - 5657 for \$293,643.45. Mr. Leech seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Lauer stated the bid opening for the Residential Municipal Waste and Recycling Collection Contract was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, and the Borough received bids from Vogel Disposal Service, Inc. and County Hauling.

He summarized the work of the Refuse and Recycling Subcommittee over the past year. He explained that the Borough decided to bid out the current service, garage door unlimited collection, as well as curbside cart collection, because when the subcommittee met with the haulers at the beginning of the process, the haulers stated that the Borough should anticipate the cost of garage door service to double with the next contract.

Mr. Lauer stated that when the bids opened on March 5th, Vogel Disposal Service, Inc. was the lowest bidder on the garage door service option and the only one for the curbside collection option. He said the Borough was surprised to see that the bid from Vogel Disposal Service, Inc. for garage door service only increased by approximately 25% compared to the current rate paid.

CONTRACT AWARD

Residential Municipal Waste and Recycling Collection Contract

Mr. Lauer moved to award the Residential Municipal Waste and Recycling Collection Contract for March 1, 2026, through February 28, 2031, with two option years from March 1, 2031, through February 29, 2032, and March 1, 2032,

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through February 28, 2033, to the low bidder, Vogel Disposal Service, Inc. for Garage Door Service in the amount of \$6,401,446.56 for March 1, 2026, through February 28, 2031, and \$2,932,349.04 for the two option years, with a total of \$9,333,795.60. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

Mr. Lauer thanked everyone who served on the subcommittee. Mr. Leech thanked Mr. Koehler and Ms. Peterson for their good stewardship in beginning the contract process early.

NEW BUSINESS

Negotiating Committee

Mr. Bennett stated that the Fox Chapel Police Department contract expires on December 31, 2025, and the Public Works Department contract expires on December 31, 2026, due to their one-year extension to their contract. He said negotiations with the Police Department typically begin in March or April, and a vacancy on the committee needs to be filled. Mr. Bennett stated the committee consists of three members, and Mr. Leech and Ms. Monroe are on this committee. He asked the other Council members for a volunteer to fill the third position. After a brief discussion, Mr. Harrison volunteered to be on this committee.

Mr. Bennett, as President of Council, appointed Mr. Harrison to the Negotiating Committee.

Mayor Scott stated that the Cooper-Siegel Community Library has been raising money for their capital campaign and just received confirmation that it received a \$750,000 Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund Grant from the state, which will complete its fundraising efforts. Mr. Koehler stated the library had begun the process of bidding out the work to improve the existing meeting spaces on the lower level.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:53 p.m., the Borough Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter on the Uniform Construction Code Administration. At 8:03 p.m., the meeting was reconvened.

With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON
Borough Secretary