

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK  
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024**

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A work session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7:34 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 2344 West Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237. The meeting was also held virtually via remote audio and video conferencing.

Council President Uday Palled called the meeting to order.

- COUNCIL MEMBERS:**
- Laura Czekaj, Second Vice President.....present
  - Jiang Li, Vice President.....present
  - Brian S. Malkin .....present
  - Lucas R. Myslinski.....present
  - Uday Palled, President.....present
  - Thomas C. Schwartzmier .....present
  - Junior Councilperson Julia O'Keefe .....present
  - Mayor Dennis E. O'Keefe .....present

- ENGINEER:**
- Dave Kovac, Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc. ....present
  - Justin Wagner, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. ....absent

- SOLICITOR:**
- Robert Max Junker, Babst Calland .....present

- STAFF:**
- Zach Brower, Recreation Program Director .....present
  - Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works.....absent
  - Rege Ebner, Borough Manager .....absent
  - Jim Huff, Manager of Golf Course & Parks Facilities .....present
  - Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretary .....present
  - Aron Leach, Police Chief.....present
  - Gina Leibach, Finance Director/Borough Treasurer .....present
  - Andy Nock, Assist. Bldg. Insp./Fire & Tech Official.....present
  - Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer.....present

**AUDIENCE:** 3

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA REVIEW:**

- Mr. Junker briefly reviewed the January 17, 2023 regular meeting agenda.

**WETGO PRO CAR WASH** -There was a brief discussion regarding revisions submitted to the Planning Commission for their January meeting for design changes to the WetGo Pro Car Wash.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

- Report by Dave Kovac, Borough Engineer
- Bids will be opened on January 30<sup>th</sup> for the municipal building fire alarm system replacement.
  - LSSE met with ACCD to review their comments regarding the Blueberry Hill Park trail project, and a plan has been prepared for review with staff. In conversation with ACCD, the plan should address all their comments.
  - LSSE completed the Northmont Farms Dam inspection and forwarded it to the DEP.

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Report by Jim Huff, Manager of Golf Course & Parks Facilities

- The golf course is closed for the season.
- Staff met with the baseball association to discuss the grant they received to install lighting on Field #4 in Blueberry Hill Park. They want to use a current standing pole, but we are worried about the load and the pole having issues down the road. There is also a concern regarding power in the existing building. They will need to do additional calculations to be sure the power will be sufficient for the LED lights that the association wants to install. During the meeting, they also discussed slope issues on Field #4. Mr. Huff and Mr. Ebner had discussed additional improvements to this field for next year. We will need to do something down the road with the other lights on the baseball fields.
- The golf course had another record year. Mr. Huff is proposing to use an honor system that he explained for regulars who play golf during the winter months when the temperatures are over 50 degrees, and the course is playable. Staff would place a green flag out if the course is playable or a red flag if it is not playable. Council thought this was a good system and indicated that Mr. Huff could move forward.

Report by Zach Brower, Recreation Program Director

- This is a slower time of year since all events finished in December and they were very successful. Mr. Brower thanked Council for the carriages added to the Santa Event this year, noting that they were a big hit.
- Staff talked to McCandless and received the information for the engineering firm who certified the poles at Vestal Field. We will work with the baseball association to determine the cost and to see if we want to pursue certification of the existing pole for the lighting the association wants to install on Field #4.
- Mr. Brower will be inspecting all playgrounds over the winter, and he noted that there are issues in some areas with old playground equipment.
- The hunters participating in the Deer Culling Program did not start hunting again until after December 27th. There should be a full month of hunting in January, and he will have more information in his next report.

Report by Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer

- The Planning Commission will consider the WetGo Pro Car Wash revisions.
- The Zoning Hearing Board will consider a front yard encroachment application.

Report by Gina Leibach, Finance Director/Borough Treasurer

- The 2024 Budget was approved, and an electronic copy is in the packet.
- The Audit is scheduled from February 12<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> with an interim date on February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The new Financial Coordinator will start January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Report by Aron Leach, Chief of Police

- The Chief thanked the Mayor and Council for approving his attendance at the FBI National Academy from January 6<sup>th</sup> through March 14<sup>th</sup>, and he thanked them for their support. The National Academy is a leadership program hosted by the FBI, and only 200 people are selected to attend each year. They have leadership courses and physical fitness taught by the FBI. The Chief will live at Quantico during this time, and he is very excited to attend.
- Mr. Myslinski thanked the Chief for taking care of an abandoned car. He also commented on the Chief bringing in a guest speaker during a recent departmental meeting. The speaker was the Co-Founder and CEO of Aurelius. Aurelius focuses in helping active military veterans and first responders suffering from depression and PTSD to overcome their psychological obstacles and achieve exceptional post-traumatic growth. Mr. Myslinski may contact them about speaking with the fire company members.

Report by Max Junker, Borough Solicitor

- Mr. Junker thanked Council for his reappointment and provided a brief overview of the Sunshine Act.

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**ALOM SPRING CONFERENCE** – Mrs. Krummert asked Council and the Mayor to let her know by Friday if they plan to attend the conference so she can make the reservations early next week.

**2024 ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOROUGH ASSOCIATION (ACBA) DELEGATE APPOINTMENT** – Council discussed the appointment and Ms. Czekaj agreed to serve as the delegate. Council will vote on the appointment at the regular meeting.

All staff members except Chief Leach left at this time.

**2024 NORTH HILLS COG DELEGATE & ALTERNATE APPOINTMENTS** – Council discussed the appointments. Mr. Palled agreed to serve as the delegate and Mr. Schwartzmier agreed to serve as the alternate. Council will vote on the appointments at the regular meeting.

**McCANDLESS FRANKLIN PARK AMBULANCE AUTHORITY VACANCY** – Two applications were received for the vacancy on the MFPAA Board. Council discussed the candidates and Mrs. Krummert will reach out to Chief Chris Dell to get clarification regarding one of the candidates who may work for MFPAA.

**2024 COUNCIL SCHEDULE** – Mrs. Krummert discussed the proposed 2024 schedule and asked if Council would want to move the July 3<sup>rd</sup> work session due to the holiday and vacations. Council discussed and concurred to move the meeting to July 10<sup>th</sup>.

**2024 COMMITTEE LIST** – Mrs. Krummert noted that as the new Council President, Mr. Palled would be responsible for establishing the list of Council Committees for the year. Mr. Palled asked each Council Member to email him directly to let him know on which committees they would like to serve.

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- **Mr. Malkin** noted that the Land Use Committee will meet on January 17<sup>th</sup> and he would like to formerly invite the EAC to participate. He also scheduled additional Land Use Committee meetings on February 7<sup>th</sup> and February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m.
- **Mayor O'Keefe** congratulated Mr. Palled, Dr. Li and Ms. Czekaj. He has full confidence that everyone will work together to continue to do good things for the Borough.
- **Julia O'Keefe, Junior Council Person** wished everyone Happy New Year.
- **Mr. Schwartzmier** would like to get an update from Mr. Ebner and Mr. Bucuren at the next meeting regarding his neighbor's stormwater issue on Cole Road. He also noted that former Council Member Paul Black had passed away on December 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mrs. Czekaj** thanked everyone and noted that she is excited to get started.
- **Mr. Palled** congratulated Dr. Li and Ms. Czekaj and noted that he is looking forward to working with everyone.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held to discuss police personnel, personnel, Scarlett Bednar/Hartman Farms litigation and attorney-client privilege regarding CityScape contract negotiations.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy L. Krummert  
Borough Secretary