

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

A work session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 7:00 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 John Parks called the meeting to order.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Jiang Li present
Brian S. Malkin present
Lucas R. Myslinski, Vice President present
Uday Palled present
John P. Parks, President present
Thomas C. Schwartzmier, Second Vice President present
Junior Councilperson Ava DiGiacomo present
Mayor Dennis E. O’Keefe present

ENGINEER:

John Valinsky, Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc. present
Justin Wagner, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. present

SOLICITOR:

Robert Max Junker, Babst Calland present

STAFF:

Zach Brower, Recreation Program Director absent
Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works present
Cindy Crain, Finance Director/Borough Treasurer present
Rege Ebner, Borough Manager present
Walt Healy, Police Chief absent
Jim Huff, Manager of Golf Course & Parks Facilities present
Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretary present
Andy Nock, Assist. Bldg. Insp./Fire & Tech Official present
Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer present
Sam Snyder, Police Lieutenant present

AUDIENCE: 10 (1 in person and 9 via Zoom)

BOROUGH PENSION PLANS – Derek Eichelberger of Schneider Downs reviewed the investment results for the General Employees’ Pension Plan and the Police Pension Plan, and he answered questions.

RJM SUMMARY REPORT - WIRELESS & RADIO COVERAGE – Bob Monfredi of RJM Wireless reviewed the summary report prepared following their analysis of wireless and radio coverage in the Borough, and he answered questions. He noted that coverage in the Borough is in the poor range, and he reviewed four possible options to address the coverage issues.

FIRE COMPANY – Fire Chief Bill Chicots thanked Council and staff for their support. He provided a recap of the fire company’s calls in 2022, and he discussed the purchase of equipment, radios and a new truck noting that many delivery dates have been delayed due to supply chain issues.

OLD BUSINESS

- MS4 Program – Justin Wagner of CEC discussed the \$390,900.00 in grant funds the Borough received from Growing Greener for two MS4 projects. There were only six awards in Allegheny County, and the Borough was the only municipality to receive funding. Mr. Wagner reviewed the status of the MS4 projects. NPDES permits have been issued for the Ramblewood and Matterhorn Projects that are moving forward. They hope to have the bidding documents finalized this month to put the projects out for bid in March. Construction would more than likely be done over the summer. The Borough did not receive any grant money for the Bear Run Restoration Project. The joint permit application has been submitted, and CEC responded to some initial administrative comments from the DEP. The E&S plan was submitted to the Conservation District, and CEC is addressing some minor comments. All private property owners have agreed to participate in the project. We need to work on access for the Fish Run Project site and access off Shadowbrook Drive would be best.
- Recent court case regarding stormwater fee – Mr. Junker discussed the recent Commonwealth Court case finding that a local stormwater charge in a Pennsylvania Home Rule municipality constitutes a tax. Therefore, a tax immune entity would not have to pay the tax. Since the Borough is required to form a stormwater authority under the Borough Code, we will continue to have CEC provide feedback so we may provide reasonable cost estimates to determine what a reasonable fee level would be.
- Potential Montgomery Road water district – Residents along Montgomery Road, between Royal Oak Drive and McAleer Road, do not have public water. A few water wells are starting to fail, and some residents are looking into the possibility of creating a water district. Mr. Ebner reached out to West View Water Authority (WVWA), and they estimate a cost of \$1,000,000.00 to extend the water line down to McAleer Road. The residents are only looking to extend the water line approximately 60% of that length. Mr. Ebner asked Council if the Borough is interested in the possibility of extending the water line down to McAleer Road since there is no service to McAleer Road. The cost for the last 40% of the water line would then be paid by the Borough. The residents will have to decide if they want to form a water district and how they will repay the cost of the water line extension. Council discussed and concurred that the Borough will not pay to extend the water line down to McAleer Road. Mr. Ebner will work with the residents to determine if they want to proceed with forming a water district.

AGENDA REVIEW - The following February 15, 2023 regular meeting agenda items were discussed:

- The Yochus public hearing will be continued, and we are expecting renderings of the building to be presented as requested by Council during the public hearing.
- Mr. Wingrove received revised plans for Cardinal Ridge that address the requests for modifications, and he will review the plans and provide a letter. The applicant has eliminated the stormwater detention pond and moved to an underground system alleviating the need for the requested slope modifications.
- There was brief discussion regarding Ordinance No. 674-2023 "Property Maintenance" and Ordinance No. 675-2023 "Fire Prevention".
- Cronin Trucking, the current company who provides trucking services for the Borough, has indicated that they do not want to extend the current contract. The Borough will need to advertise for new bids.

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STAFF REPORTS:

Report by Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works

- Requested approval to purchase an excavator at a cost of \$127,653.00 which is \$22,342.00 under the approved budget amount. He is recommending that we keep the current 2007 excavator to use for some of the upcoming park projects and sell it at a later date.
- West View Water Authority is asking for the Borough specifications for the repair of the asphalt following the installation of a 16 inch water line down the center of Ingomar Heights Road. Mr. Bucuren noted that WVWA will have a 5-7 foot wide opening that they must repair following the water line installation. He asked if the Borough should consider sharing the cost with WVWA since this road is scheduled to be repaved this year. Staff will talk with WVWA and make a recommendation.
- He noted that our ordinance does not provide specific requirements for road repairs by utility companies after they open a road. We need to update the ordinance standards to ensure that proper repairs are made after road openings.

Report by Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer

- The Baierl YMCA application will be back in front of the Planning Commission in February, and tomorrow is the deadline for applications for the February meeting.
- The Zoning Hearing Board will have a continued hearing for a garage on Pegher Lane and also a variance request to allow a utility trailer to be parked in the front yard of a property on McAleer Road.
- He will have six District Magistrate hearings and one court hearing this month.

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

- The parks employees will be clearing trees and removing invasives. They will replant grasses and trees that are native.
- He is investigating a new POS system for the golf course, and he asked for guidance regarding a lease or purchase and credit card fees.

Report by John Valinsky of LSSE, Borough Engineer

- They will review the Cardinal Ridge revised plans.
- The formal kick off with DCNR will be held tomorrow for the Acorn Park Project.
- They provided a bond reduction recommendation for the installation of conduit in the Deerfield Estates Plan.

Report by Sam Snyder, Police Lieutenant

- They received 14 applications for police officer. One person was disqualified because they did not meet the requirements. Eleven candidates took the written test on Tuesday and seven passed. They are now in the process of conducting the physical agility tests.

REQUEST FOR EASEMENT TO EXTEND SANITARY SEWER TO 1576 PANNO LANE – Mr. Ebner was contacted by someone who is looking to purchase property on Panno Lane. He would like to build a house and would need a small easement from the Borough to extend the sanitary sewer to the property. He has provided all of the information for the Solicitor to prepare the agreement. Council concurred. Mr. Junker noted that the agreement would need to be with the current owner of the property.

DESIGN OF NEW BOROUGH LOGO – Council received samples of other municipal logos. Mr. Ebner noted that staff members indicated that most people know the Franklin Park logo because of Ben Franklin and the triangle shape of the Borough. Council discussed and concurred to send information to a graphic designer to create some new modern logo designs for consideration using the triangle shape of the Borough, Ben Franklin and also adding something to show our greenspace and parks.

MANAGER'S REPORT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Mr. Ebner noted that PennDOT has received funding for the I-79/Route 910 Wexford Interchange Project to improve traffic flow. It will be a \$48,000,000.00 project, and they expect to have it done by mid-2027. They came up with a very simple design and there will be minimal disruption to traffic. Mr. Ebner and Lieutenant Snyder sat in on a Teams meeting yesterday, and the same Teams meeting will be presented to the public next Tuesday, February 7th at 6:00 p.m.

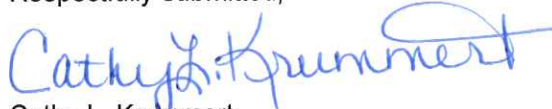
REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- **Mr. Palled** reported that a Comprehensive Plan meeting was held, and it was very productive with a lot of good ideas. The next meeting will be held in March. Staff will have a meeting behind the scenes in February. Mr. Palled noted that he just noticed the sign for the designated meeting spot outside the Police Department, and he suggested that we get the word out to let our residents know that it is there for their use. He has spoken with a possible new member for the TAC, and he will keep looking for additional members. He has been speaking with residents who live in the area of the proposed Cardinal Ridge Plan. He has also been observing the Nicholson Road area and speaking with other municipalities to see if they have similar situations. He noted that the applicant was more willing to work with others and make some concessions at the beginning of the process. He strongly encouraged the Borough to request an infrastructure improvement for a turning lane on Nicholson Road. He also thought it was strange that the Borough did not request a traffic study. Mr. Phillips indicated that the Borough has no authority to request a study and there is no mechanism or standard that requires the applicant to make these improvements since their access is on a dead-end street off Aldon Drive. The state does not allow the Borough to ask for off-site improvements.
- **Mayor O'Keefe** viewed a social media post regarding a guided winter hike in Linbrook Park this Saturday with Allegheny County Naturalist Katie Stanley. Mr. Ebner noted that Ms. Stanley is the president of the Big Sewickley Creek Watershed Association, and she works for Allegheny County. Mr. Ebner met with her on Friday, and she provided a long list of programs they can do through the EAC. Mr. Ebner noted that we have a good working relationship, and he had granted approval for the hike.
- **Mr. Schwartzmier** noted that since the last meeting he has visited the site of the Cardinal Ridge Plan and looked at the natural drainage in the area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An executive session was held to discuss personnel matters, the Yochus quasi-judicial deliberations, Washington Lane pending litigation and Carriage Lane potential litigation.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy L. Krummert
Borough Secretary