

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

A work session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, March 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:

Shawn Wingrove, 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 present
Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works..... present
Cindy Crain, Finance Director/Borough Treasurer present
Rege Ebner, Borough Manager present
Walt Healy, Police Chief..... present
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: 5 (3 in person and 2 via Zoom)

OLD BUSINESS

- New Borough logo designs – Mr. Ebner contacted Imagebox, a local company that does logo design. Council concurred to move forward and have the company design a new logo and write a mission statement for the Borough. They should have something back to us by the end of the month.
- Old Orchard pickleball – It was previously discussed that we would get the two groups together again to discuss each side's perspective and where we are. We will try to arrange a meeting to discuss the issues and alternatives, if any. The courts will reopen on April 1st and quiet balls will be required. We will restock the supply of quiet pickleballs at the court.

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

- Yochus Conditional Use application and Cardinal Ridge Plan – Mr. Junker indicated that both applications can be discussed in executive session. He noted that the Cardinal Ridge Plan went back to the Planning Commission on February 21st. The Commission reviewed the revised stormwater plans, and they made a recommendation to approve. Mr. Junker amended the resolution to reflect the more recent developments since the February 15th regular meeting.

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- YMCA Pavilion – The Planning Commission recommended approval for both the Conditional Use application and the Land Development application. Because this is an accessory structure over 1,000 square feet in a residential zoning district, a Conditional Use public hearing is required.
- Emma B. Gross Plan – Mr. Wingrove indicated that LSSE will be recommending a reduction of the bond and not a full release. They met with the developer in the field and noted that they must clean up the access road. An additional motion may need to be added to the agenda to enter into a First Addendum to the Development Agreement since the two-year period will be expiring in the near future.

STAFF REPORTS:

Report by Cindy Crain, Finance Director/Borough Treasurer

- Mrs. Crain noted that we will hit 50 full-time employees this year and will need to update the Personnel Handbook.

Report by Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works

- N&N Landscaping will start up the curb and gutter work again next week in the Sturbridge Plan.
- Public Works employees have started to remove the fence and asphalt in Acorn Park.
- We have saved a lot of money on salt this year, but we still need to purchase 1,600 ton of salt to meet the minimum purchase amounts for the year. As a result, we will have to stockpile salt. We currently have 3,000 ton in the salt dome. If the weather continues the way it has been, we will probably start out with at least 4,000 ton. We will only purchase from American Rock Salt next year and not Morton Salt.
- Mr. Myslinski and Mayor O'Keefe noted that the Public Works employees did a great job cleaning the Veterans' Memorial.
- Mr. Parks asked about the item on Mr. Bucuren's report that indicates Public Works employees are taking water samples. Mr. Bucuren clarified that they are taking water samples of the outfalls as required for MS4.

Report by Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer

- The Planning Commission has received no applications for the March meeting, and the deadline is tomorrow.
- The Zoning Hearing Board will have one application under Old Business for a property on Pegher Lane. The property owner has made some revisions that he will present to the Board.
- Staff Report revisions for the Yochus Conditional Use application are in the packet.

Report by Zach Brower, Recreation Program Director

- The Newsletter is being printed and should be mailed in the next week.
- They started some trail marking in Acorn Park. They have received proposals for the playground and pump track, but they are reaching out to other companies for additional playground options. Mr. Ebner noted that because we will be disturbing over 1 acre for this project, we will need to obtain an NPDES permit. We do not anticipate receiving the permit until August or September, and we cannot do any grading or major earth moving until then. We are permitted to do demo work, and we can grub the trail and put down millings. We are also adding a public restroom to the project.
- Mayor O'Keefe continues to receive inquiries regarding the monthly Senior Lunch that was discontinued by the Borough. Although this was a nice program, the costs were increasing, and the seniors were not willing to pay higher fees to help cover the costs. The Borough could consider it again in the future.
- Mr. Schwartzmier asked about the new play equipment and shades that are in the budget for Old Orchard Park and Blueberry Hill Park this year. Mr. Brower indicated that the play equipment and shades will be installed in Old Orchard Park once we are sure the spring weather has officially arrived. The shades for Blueberry Hill Park will not be ordered until later in the year.
- The Recreation Board meeting was cancelled.

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

- The Parks Department has been working on dead tree removal in the parks.
- The oak tree in front of the municipal building had to be taken down because it was rotten and had oak wilt. Mr. Ebner has asked the EAC for some guidance to replace the tree.
- Mr. Huff is planning to replace some of the plants around the municipal building.
- The equipment will be installed in Old Orchard Park in March.
- There are some issues with the contract for the golf course POS system, and he is looking into other options.
- There was discussion regarding improvements to baseball fields in Blueberry Hill Park.

Report by Shawn Wingrove, Borough Engineer

- The Squire Ridge Plan developer has completed some punch list items and more information is forthcoming.
- LSSE received a submittal with as-built information as requested for the Willow Ridge Plan. One of the outstanding items was functionality of the detention basin, and they will need a few dry days to evaluate the facility. LSSE will continue to follow up.
- Mr. Malkin asked questions regarding the Cardinal Ridge Plan that were answered by Mr. Wingrove pertaining to the geotechnical report, the neighbor's stormwater concerns and the operation and maintenance for the proposed underground detention facility and there was a brief discussion.

Report by Justin Wagner, Stormwater Engineer

- MS4 Ramblewood Project – Mr. Wagner and Mr. Ebner met with the landowner who had requested the addition of a wet pond/permanent pool to the design. This is not what we are looking to do. It may be challenging to permit, and it would mean more time and money. The landowner would also like to have an access road cut to the northern side of the pond, which would also be more time and money. Because it is a steep slope, Mr. Wagner would also like his geotechnical staff to do a desktop review and borings may be necessary.
- MS4 Bear Run Project – CEC is ready to submit responses to minor comments from the Allegheny County Conservation District (ACCD). They received a minor deficiency letter from the DEP for a few comments that CEC had addressed, but the DEP could not find CEC's responses. There are also a couple new comments.
- MS4 Fish Run Project – This project is on hold until we can define the project. Time is of the essence and we will need an extension. The more we get done prior to the request for extension will increase the likelihood of them being receptive to the extension. We are still trying to find the property owner for the middle property. We need to nail down access for the project, and they are also trying to look for alternatives. There was brief discussion regarding possible ways the Borough could obtain the property.
- CEC did the second day of field verification for storm sewer mapping on Monday, and they made updates to the maps. They estimate 1-2 days of camera work to clarify the connectivity of some of the areas. This should be done this month.
- Nevin/Dalton/Lenora stormwater – Mr. Wagner indicated that there is nothing actively going on for that area. They had discussed possible options, but some would be cost prohibitive.
- Mr. Ebner noted that we will need to assess all stormwater projects and decide how to proceed.

JUNIOR COUNCIL PERSON POSITION FOR 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR – Council discussed and concurred to proceed with soliciting applicants for the next school year. Since Ava will be a senior next year, she will have the option to reapply.

MANAGER'S REPORT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- CEC proposal for continued MS4 engineering – Council received a proposal from CEC to continue the MS4 work. Council concurred to proceed.

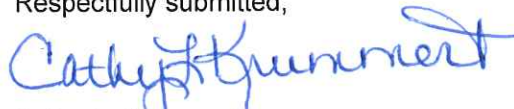
REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- **Mr. Palled** noted that sidewalks were installed inside the Taylor Ridge development, and we should ask when they plan to install the remainder of the sidewalk to connect to the Deerfield Estates Plan. He sees many pedestrians walking from Taylor Ridge to Deerfield Estates on the side of Nicholson Road, and it is dangerous. Mr. Wingrove noted that he has met with the developer several times, and they do not want to install the sidewalk. It would be challenging to get down the hill and they would have to build a wall. Mr. Phillips indicated that the developer is threatening court action over this section of sidewalk. There was discussion regarding the possibility of seizing the bond for the Borough to install the sidewalk or allowing the developer to install a bituminous path rather than a concrete sidewalk. Staff will contact the developer.
- **Mayor O'Keefe** continues to have concerns regarding safety when pedestrians cross Rochester Road near Old Orchard Park. Council discussed the sight distance issue, and if there is anything that could be done with signage. Chief Healy suggested a flashing "Park Entrance Ahead" sign, but it would need PennDOT approval since Rochester Road is a PennDOT road. Mr. Ebner will contact PennDOT to discuss. Mayor O'Keefe also noted that a resident has requested a flashing stop sign at the intersection of Rochester Road and Wexford Bayne Road near Dragan's since vehicles do not always stop at this intersection. Mr. Ebner will also discuss this request with PennDOT, and he will reach out to state officials.
- **Dr. Li** was contacted by someone who is interested in a community garden plot. Mr. Ebner noted that we first contact gardeners from the previous year and then we offer open plots to others. Residents may contact Donna Platt if they are interested in a plot. Dr. Li requested that Waste Management be reminded to place cans back on the side of the road after emptying them because he has seen cans in the road. Staff will remind Waste Management.
- **Mr. Myslinski** indicated that Council had previously discussed setting standards for private lanes to ensure adequate emergency access, and this matter should be discussed further. Mr. Junker discussed, and Mr. Phillips noted that we would need to establish standards for the construction of new private lanes. For existing private lanes, we could notify current owners of our concerns regarding the condition of their private lane. Mr. Myslinski also mentioned that the emergency vehicle signal activators on Route 910 do not work very well. Lieutenant Snyder indicated that he would have the officers on duty tonight check the operation of the signal activators. Mr. Myslinski received an email and questions from a resident regarding the fireworks ordinance, and he asked for confirmation that the Borough ordinance is about as strict as the state allows. Mr. Junker confirmed that we are generally following the state requirements, and he noted that we did not include the permitting process for consumer fireworks because it would be too cumbersome.
- **Mr. Parks** noted that the Audubon Society report regarding the Mel Lubert nature preserve in Old Orchard Park was extremely comprehensive. We will move forward with the recommendations, and it will be a five-year process to remove all of the invasives. We will need to obtain a permit from DCNR to do a burn next spring.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An executive session was held to discuss Police personnel, a Police grievance, Bliss potential litigation and Carriage Lane potential litigation.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy L. Krummert
Borough Secretary