

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK  
BOROUGH COUNCIL PRE/POST MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023**

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A pre/post meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, March 15, 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

**BOROUGH ENGINEER:**

Kevin Brett, Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, 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  
Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretary .....present  
Andy Nock, Assist. Bldg. Insp./Fire & Tech Official.....present  
Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer.....present

**PRE-MEETING**

**AUDIENCE:** 2 in person plus virtual attendees

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE ARVIND VENKAT** – Representative Venkat was recently elected and wanted to meet with Council and Mayor. His primary goal is to make sure that he represents the entire community as best as he can. He would like to hear from elected officials regarding priorities when it comes to our state government. They are starting budget season, and appropriations requests and needs will need to be communicated with his office by early to mid-April. Representative Venkat has a good working relationship with Senator Robinson who also represents Franklin Park. Council and Representative Venkat discussed the McCandless Franklin Park Ambulance Authority (MFPAA) finances. Representative Venkat indicated that Franklin Park has been the most responsible community making a consistent financial commitment to the MFPAA, and he is disappointed that the other municipalities have not provided any type of financial support although they benefit from those services. McCandless provides some in-kind services. He encouraged Council to speak with other officials and residents to urge them to contribute to the MFPAA. The Borough had previously written a letter outlining the Borough’s legislative priorities, and it will be forwarded to Representative Venkat. Some of the priorities include MFPAA, MS4, use of radar by local police, and the volunteer fire company.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

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

- A motion was added to reauthorize the Borough Manager to input data into the claims process for Allegheny County's participation in the National Opioid Settlement.
- Squire Ridge III and Willow Ridge Plans– Both plans are close to being done, and motions were added to the agenda to reduce the securities.
- A motion to hire a new full time police officer was added to the agenda.
- Bid for Curb and Gutter Replacement Program for 2024 Road Paving Program and two alternates – A motion was added to award the bid for the curb and gutter replacement work. However, we are not prepared to make the award for the two alternates that are for the developer's portion and the Borough's portion of the sidewalks in the Summer Fields Plan. The Public Works Contract Law says we need to award within 60 days of bid opening or 120 days in certain circumstances. There is one low bidder for both, and they have agreed to leave the bid open until July 11, 2023. Staff will crunch the numbers and discuss with Council at a future work session.
- Emma B. Gross Plan of Lots – Motions were added to the agenda for an Addendum to extend the completion period for an additional year and to increase the security.
- YMCA Pavilion – A conditional use public hearing will be held, and a motion for the land development application will also be considered. The applicant will make a presentation.
- Cardinal Ridge Plan – The resolution has been amended to reflect the updated review letters. The Planning Commission reviewed the stormwater change and recommended approval. Mr. Junker referenced a previous denial of an application for the extension of the Sturbridge Plan by the Borough noting that residents had opposed the extension, but there was no basis for denial by Borough Council. The applicant appealed and Judge James issued a scathing opinion and overturned the Borough's decision. Mr. Junker pointed out that there are no open items or anything we can point to in the ordinance for a potential denial. The only item is the modification for the length of separation between Lorrick Lane and the driveway. Mr. Parks asked Council to understand the implications if voting "No" on this application. If the application is denied, it will open the door for an appeal and ultimately a win by the developer because we do not have a basis to support a denial. All Council Members have concerns regarding development in the Borough. The way we can make it better is through the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO), the basic law that creates the criteria by which development is approved. Mr. Parks suggested that all Council Members review the SALDO and make recommendations for amendments to make things more effective. Mr. Junker cautioned against tightening the SALDO too much that no one could meet the requirements.
- Yochus Conditional Use – Mr. Junker provided Council with an update regarding the Condemnation Process. He had updated Judge James regarding the public hearings and let him know that it is on the agenda for a vote this evening. Judge James directed Mr. Junker to inform the Clerk tomorrow as to what happens. Council and Mr. Junker discussed.

**MANAGER'S REPORT DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Schedule Personnel Committee meeting – Mr. Ebner noted that we will soon have 50 employees and will fall under FMLA guidelines. We also have some other items to update in the Employee Handbook. A Personnel Committee meeting was scheduled on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to discuss.

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS & MAYOR**

- **Mr. Schwartzmier** mentioned that he was contacted by Jim Lawrence inquiring about flags that were placed in residents' yards. Mr. Bucuren noted that flags were placed because underground communication lines will be installed in the area of Cole Road and Fountain Hills Road. Mr. Lawrence had asked if there was some easy way to notify residents why flags are placed in their yard.

The regular meeting was held from 8:00 p.m. to 9:42 p.m.

**POST-MEETING**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held to discuss Bliss potential litigation and a police grievance.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy L. Krummert  
Borough Secretary