

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023**

A work session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, July 5, 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 Lipresent
Brian S. Malkinpresent
Lucas R. Myslinski, Vice Presidentpresent
Uday Palledpresent
John P. Parks, Presidentpresent
Thomas C. Schwartzmier, Second Vice Presidentpresent
Junior Councilperson Ava DiGiacomopresent
Mayor Dennis E. O'Keefepresent

ENGINEER:

Shawn Wingrove, Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc.present
Justin Wagner, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.present

SOLICITOR:

Robert Max Junker, Babst Callandpresent

STAFF:

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

AUDIENCE: 1 (1 in person and 0 via Zoom)

OLD BUSINESS:

Deer Culling program – Mr. Ebner contacted the COG Managers to inquire if any of them have deer culling programs. The majority do not have programs and those that do use Suburban Whitetail Management. Fox Chapel has an in-house program through their police department that works very well. Mr. Ebner has been trying to schedule a call with their Manager and Police Chief to discuss their program.

Cell/Radio coverage RFP update – Mr. Ebner will finalize and send the RFP to Council by Friday for discussion at the next meeting.

MS4 Program update – Mr. Ebner provided an update regarding the four projects under the MS4 program that are supposed to be completed by March 2024. Work has not begun on any of the projects. Two projects are stormwater detention facility retrofits and two of them are stream bank restorations. There are varying levels of difficulty.

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023**

We are ready to get the specifications out as soon as possible for the Matterhorn detention pond, but we want to combine it with the Ramblewood detention pond. The Ramblewood detention pond will be discussed in executive session because there may be a property acquisition for an easement. We are in good shape to get started on the Bear Run stream bank restoration along Montgomery Road, although we probably will not start construction until next year.

The problem with the Fish Run stream bank restoration project is that the property that the HOA thought they owned is still owned by the developer. A property owner on Shadowbrook Drive owns 25 acres from Shadowbrook Drive all the way down to Brandt School Road near Pine Creek Road and is agreeable to allowing us to use his driveway as the access point for that project. However, the first 75 feet is owned by the homeowner at the end of Shadowbrook. We have a few months to figure it out. Mr. Wagner indicated that there is no update on the Bear Run permit. The Fish Run Joint Permit Application will go in to the DEP this month. We are hoping to do the two detention facilities this year and the stream bank restorations next year.

Concrete curbs update – The developers of the Cardinal Ridge and Deerfield Estates Plan have both agreed to switch from concrete to asphalt curbs. Staff members have discussed finding a way to have Palombo Contracting fulfill the contract in a different way rather than completing the concrete curb repair. Mr. Junker discussed that Palombo has mobilized and completed some of the concrete curb repair work, and it may be best to have them complete the contract in some way. Mr. Bucuren discussed some possible alternate options to have Palombo replace concrete curbs, and he will make some recommendations to Council for Palombo to finish out the contract.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA REVIEW:

- Several presentations will be made under Preliminary Matters.
- Ordinance No. 678-2023 is in order for the adoption of Windsor Court in the Willow Ridge Plan. Letters were mailed to residents as required by Borough Code.
- Mr. Ebner noted that we hope to add motions for the pump track and playground in Acorn Park. The DCNR has specific language that they want to be included in the contracts.

STAFF REPORTS:

Report by Cindy Crain, Finance Director/Borough Treasurer

- The mid-year budget review will be held on July 19th.
- The TAC will meet tomorrow night, and they will put together a formal document with recommendations to Council. Mr. Myslinski asked that the TAC minutes list the names of the members that are present at the meetings.

Report by Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works

- They have completed the paving of Fox Chase Drive.
- Gary Sippel started the concrete curb work on Georgetown Drive today. This work must be complete before paving.
- Royal Oak Drive has been removed from the paving list this year because there would be approximately 1,200 to 1,400 feet of concrete curb repair required. State Game Lands Road and Weinman Road will be added to the paving list instead of Royal Oak Drive. No curb work is needed on these roads.
- Mr. Malkin asked who had opened up Nevin Drive, and Mr. Bucuren indicated that it was most likely West View Water since they do not notify the Borough when they open roads. He noted that other utilities notify the Borough of road openings.

Report by Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer

- The Planning Commission will review the draft Comprehensive Plan and will consider a Conditional Use application for an accessory use building over 1,000 square feet on Bellmonte Road.

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023**

- The Zoning Hearing Board will consider an application for appeal for two dwelling units on one property on Camp Meeting Road. One of the units is used as a rental property.

Report by Zach Brower, Recreation Program Director

- There are five upcoming summer camps that are all filled. We have the largest registration numbers that we have had in a long time.
- All dates are booked for rentals in the month of July.
- The musical flowers were installed in Old Orchard Park.
- Council noted that Mr. Brower did a great job managing the Festival in the Park and discussed the event. Jim Huff and his crew did a great job getting the park set up and lining extra parking spaces. Donna Platt spent a lot of time setting up the history displays at the Activity Center that were lightly attended. The Police and Fire directed traffic. The Mayor suggested a way to provide the sale of water for attendees later in the evening after the food vendors leave.

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

- He is looking into options for baseball field lighting. A suggestion was made to approach State Representative Venkat regarding the availability of grant funds.
- The rain has helped the Golf Course conditions.
- The Scholarship Golf Outing will be held July 24th, and more teams are needed. We could also use an additional lunch sponsor and outing sponsor.

Report by Shawn Wingrove, Borough Engineer

- Provided an update regarding permit applications for projects.
- A bond reduction request has been submitted for the Black Oak Office Building.

Report by Justin Wagner, Stormwater Engineer

- Mr. Wagner discussed the report submitted for the CCTV inspections of 2,000 feet of the Borough storm sewers and recommended a long-term and routine yearly maintenance plan for the storm sewers. We will need to start looking at what we think the total cost would be and come up with a ten-year plan, but first, we need to know what we have, what the conditions are and what we need to do. There was a brief discussion regarding the creation of a stormwater authority. CEC will provide a proposal to put together a recommended ten-year plan.

Report by Lieutenant Snyder and Detective/Sergeant Aron Leach

- Lieutenant Snyder and Detective/Sergeant Leach briefly discussed the proposed amendments to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations regarding the requirements for police officer candidates. The Civil Service Commission will meet on July 10th to make the recommendation to Council to approve the amendments.

Report by Max Junker, Borough Solicitor

- Mr. Junker cautioned Council regarding the use of the SharePoint chat and collaboration features. The Sunshine Act would apply if there were a discussion or chat with a quorum of Council, and he noted that deliberation must occur at public meetings.

Staff members left the meeting at this time.

MONTGOMERY ROAD WATER DISTRICT – Council received the estimate provided by WVWA for the extension of the water line on Montgomery Road. Mr. Ebner noted that the estimate included the final paving, but since Montgomery Road needs to be paved, the Borough would do the final paving at the end of the project. The water line extension would require the creation of a water district, and the cost would be over \$30,000 for each homeowner. Generally, it is the responsibility of the property owners to pay for a water line extension, but Mr. Ebner asked if Council would consider looking into grants to help in that respect. Mr. Junker reviewed how the Hopkins Church water line extension was previously handled. Council discussed and Mr. Ebner will proceed.

MANAGER'S REPORT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Mr. Ebner reviewed the following volunteer projects:
 - Last week the Girl Scouts held a dedication ceremony for the little lending library that is temporarily located in the front of the municipal building. Eventually it will be moved to Old Orchard Park.
 - Two Girl Scouts are designing a perennial pollinator memorial garden in Old Orchard Park in honor of their friend who passed away recently.
 - A Girl Scout Troop will plant a perennial garden at the municipal building in the grassy area near the lower side parking lot. The garden will be 25' x 35' and they will plant seeds in late August/early September. The Borough will install a walking trail and a picnic table.
 - One Eagle Scout project will include the design and building of a little lending library that will be placed near the perennial garden at the municipal building. This project must be complete before November.
 - One Eagle Scout project will be to design and build a boardwalk that will cover a section of the trail in Blueberry Hill Park that is always muddy and washing away.
 - The Sewickley Valley Garden Club received a grant for a pollinator garden in Linbrook Park on top of the hill near the new parking area. The Borough will install a trail that will hook up with the existing trail system in the park. The planting will take place this fall.

- A new homeowner on Big Sewickley Creek Road has a failing septic system and has applied for permission for a new system to be installed. The Borough has received letters from two adjacent property owners opposing the new system. Mr. Ebner forwarded the complaints to the Allegheny County Health Department.

- Mr. Ebner noted that there was a Facebook post regarding the need for sound barriers along I-79 that has gained steam to the point that State Representative Venkat's office reached out to PennDOT regarding the matter. Since PennDOT was not receptive, Representative Venkat has asked if the Borough would be willing to apply for a grant to have the barriers constructed. Council discussed, and Mr. Ebner will reach out to PennDOT to request that they pay for a sound study.

- Mr. Ebner received a call from the Marshall Township Manager indicating that her board had asked her to reach out to the Managers of the other municipalities that are part of the McCandless Franklin Park Ambulance Authority. They recognize that it is going to take a while to work through all of the MFPAA issues, and the MFPAA has an immediate need for funding for capital improvements. Therefore, they are asking the Managers to come up with a formula and a way to fund the capital improvements. Mr. Ebner will participate in the meeting when scheduled.

- Mr. Ebner had a virtual meeting last week regarding the I-79/910 Project. They wanted to know if the Borough had any needs for connectivity for pedestrians and bicycles while they are planning the project. Mr. Ebner spoke to the founder of North Hills Bike, Walk and Run, and he suggested a pedestrian bridge over I-79 or a jersey barrier on the existing bridge over 910 to separate bikers and walkers from cars or at the very least painted lines. PennDOT indicated that they cannot do any of those things, but they will look at our Comprehensive Plan to see if they can address it some way. They noted that they will not put crosswalks on the new ramps because the whole idea of the project is to improve vehicle traffic and movement. The project is on schedule to be put out for bid in April 2025 and to be completed by the end of 2026.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Mr. Palled requested that we put information on the website to explain MS4. He is starting to receive questions from residents and suggested that we post information similar to other municipalities. The mid-year budget review will be held on July 19th, and he asked Council members to think about cost savings ideas.

- Ava DiGiacomo, Junior Council Person, provided an update regarding her project/presentation that she will be making to middle school students once the school year starts.

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023**

It was noted that Julia O'Keefe will take the Junior Council Person Pledge for the 2023/2024 school year at the September meeting since she is not able to attend the August regular meeting.

- Dr. Li noted that his son and other NA High School students are working with the American Red Cross to schedule a blood drive and they would need a location to hold the event. It was noted that they could use the municipal building for the event.
- Mr. Schwartzmier mentioned that he spoke to Howard Pfeiffer regarding the upcoming Veterans' Breakfast to be held in October. It was noted that Donna Platt is actively trying to locate and reach out to veterans regarding this event.
- Mr. Myslinski noted that the Ingomar Franklin Park Little League will be playing Little League World Series games this weekend in Blueberry Hill Park, and everyone is encouraged to support them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An executive session was held to discuss personnel and a potential property acquisition.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy L. Krummert
Borough Secretary