

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023**

A work session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, August 2, 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 Vice President Luke Myslinski called the meeting to order.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Jiang Lipresent
Brian S. Malkinpresent
Lucas R. Myslinski, Vice Presidentpresent
Uday Palledpresent
John P. Parks, Presidentabsent
Thomas C. Schwartzmier, Second Vice Presidentabsent
Junior Councilperson Ava DiGiacomoabsent
Mayor Dennis E. O'Keefepresent

ENGINEER:

Shawn Wingrove, Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, 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 Treasurer.....absent
Rege Ebner, Borough Managerpresent
Walt Healy, Police Chief.....absent
Jim Huff, Manager of Golf Course & Parks Facilitiespresent
Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretarypresent
Andy Nock, Assist. Bldg. Insp./Fire & Tech Official.....present
Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer.....present
Sam Snyder, Police Lieutenant.....present

AUDIENCE: 3

ANNUAL MEETING WITH RECREATION BOARD CHAIRPERSON RACHEL BRICKER – Ms. Bricker reported that the Board is happy with how the recreation events have been going and with the attendance at the events. She noted that the Board works very well together, and they appreciate and respect each other. She expressed the Recreation Board's concern regarding Council's discussions to allow political booths at the Festival in the Park next year. They are very concerned because the country is very polarized and next year is an election year. The Festival is a fun family event, and the Board is nervous and apprehensive to have anything political at the Festival. She asked Council to reconsider allowing political booths. Mr. Myslinski explained that Council discussed limiting political activities to two party booths that the public may visit if they choose. Mr. Junker explained the legal aspects since they have the right to engage in the event. Council will consider this matter over the next year and may put a policy in place. They will keep the Recreation Board informed and will seek their feedback.

OLD BUSINESS - None

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA REVIEW:

- A public hearing will be held regarding the Zorich Conditional Use Application that was recommended by the Planning Commission.
- A public hearing will be held to take public comments regarding the Franklin Park and Ohio Township Joint Comprehensive Plan. HRG will make a presentation to Council and then the floor will be open for public comment. The Planning Commission will do a final review and make their recommendation the night before the public hearing. Allegheny County has reviewed the plan and has provided comments. Mr. Junker indicated that the plan is to hold the public hearing, take public comments, think about the comments over the next month or so and then take potential action to adopt a resolution to approve the Joint Comprehensive Plan at the September regular meeting.
- Mr. Wingrove noted that the developer submitted a request for a final inspection of the Squire Ridge III Plan last week. LSSE will provide a letter prior to the regular meeting, and Mr. Wingrove indicated that it appears the physical improvements are complete.

STAFF REPORTS:

Report by Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works

- They finished the sidewalk installation on Wedgewood Drive.
- They will be starting the final paving on Georgetown Drive on Monday, weather permitting.
- Ingomar Heights Road had been removed from the paving list due to the ongoing water line replacement. Royal Oak Drive was also removed from the paving list because of the concrete curbs. Mr. Bucuren would now like to add the paving of the upper section of Hopkins Church Road. These changes would be under budget.
- He received complaints from residents in the Ramblewood Plan regarding stormwater damage and possible failing stormwater pipes. MTSA then televised the pipes and found three problem areas that will need to be addressed. The first issue is a corrugated tin whistle pipe that is starting to deteriorate and will require repair. This pipe is approximately 20-25 feet deep going down toward the Barrington Plan. Mr. Bucuren recommends lining the pipe to prevent future problems. The costs would be very high if we had to get into this area to excavate the pipe. The second issue is a 15-inch concrete pipe coming down from Acorn Court that has some separations in the pipe, and it will also need to be lined. The third area is a concrete pipe section on Dogwood Drive that is partially blocked with debris and concrete. We will need to hire a jet truck to attempt to remove the material. Mr. Bucuren will ask CEC to review these three issues and make recommendations.

Report by Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer

- The Planning Commission will review the Joint Comprehensive Plan and make a recommendation to Council.
- The Zoning Hearing Board will consider two applications for front yard encroachments.

Report by Zach Brower, Recreation Program Director

- There are 2-1/2 weeks of camp remaining for the summer.
- Council noted that Mr. Brower did a great job on the National Night Out Event.

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

- The Golf Course new POS system is up and running. He is still working to create the monthly report.
- The Golf Course looks great and has been very busy.
- Mr. Ebner thanked Mr. Huff, Mr. Brower and Ms. Platt for their work on the Scholarship Golf Outing.

Report by Shawn Wingrove, Borough Engineer

- LSSE will be meeting with staff regarding the fire alarm system replacement. They will have a meeting with the sub-consultant tomorrow to move the project along for fall bidding.
- They received The Ross Plan, a minor subdivision, and a review letter will be forthcoming. There are some minor comments, and it should be in order for consideration.
- Acorn Park – They are working toward submittal to DCNR next week.
- Blueberry Hill Park – Received permit.
- LaPlace Pointe/Taylor Ridge Apartments – The sidewalk was constructed, but no formal request for an inspection has been received. Council and staff discussed, and Mr. Wingrove was asked to proactively issue a letter to encourage the developer to complete the project and request the final inspection.
- Mr. Wingrove discussed upcoming grant opportunities.
- Mr. Wingrove and Mr. Bucuren met with Palombo Contracting regarding a possible solution for the Curb and Gutter Replacement Contract; however, Palombo was not agreeable. Palombo feels that it would be more expensive to replace a curb in its entirety rather than replacing sections. They had no issue with the installation of the Summer Fields sidewalks. They will complete the Sturbridge Plan curb and gutter work around mid/end of August and then will begin the sidewalks in the Summer Fields Plan in September. Council discussed how to proceed with Palombo, and additional spot repair in the Sturbridge was suggested. Council will leave it up to staff to determine the additional area(s) for spot repair to get to 75% of the contract.

Report by Sam Snyder, Police Lieutenant

- They found a suitable location for the Jaymar unit for the Karen Drive speed study and will have a report for the next meeting.
- They have received one application for the police officer position so far, and the majority of the applications are turned in on the last day. Sergeant Leach spoke with the current Police Academy class. There are six eligible cadets who will be complete their training in December.

MANAGER'S REPORT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Solar for municipal complex – Mr. Ebner received an email from Bob Brecht asking when the solar panels would be installed on the building. Mr. Ebner noted that he reviewed the previous discussions, and Council had decided to wait and revisit the matter at a later date.
- Opioid Settlement payment – We received our first check a couple months ago in the amount of \$17,414.03. Mr. Ebner does not believe that there are any strings attached, but he asked if Council would like to set up some kind of a program to educate residents regarding Opioid addiction. Staff will discuss and come back to Council with ideas.
- Shed question – After completing the Wedgewood sidewalk, one of the adjacent homeowners asked if the Borough would allow him to construct a shed on the Borough property. His back yard is a steep slope, and he has nowhere to construct a shed on his property. Council discussed and suggestions were made for the sale of the property or an exchange of property. Mr. Ebner will reach out to the resident to see if he has any interest.
- Allegheny County's CDBG and HOME Programs – Mr. Ebner noted that this is the time for the Borough to opt in for the next three years to be able to be considered for CDBG grants. The grants are mostly for low income areas, and the Montgomery Road water line extension may qualify. A resolution will be added to the regular meeting agenda to opt in.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Mayor O'Keefe welcomed Julia O'Keefe as the incoming Junior Council Person. He thanked all departments for their work for the National Night Out. He reviewed his attendance at the Pennsylvania State Mayors Conference. He received a call from Nancy Pfeifer whose husband Howard Pfeifer will turn 100 on September 22nd asking if the Borough would honor him with a Proclamation. On July 23rd, Dee Jay's BBQ donated 10% of their proceeds to the Scholarship Fund. Soergel Orchards will host an event tomorrow night to celebrate Soergel Orchards and the Franklin Park community. Mayor Okeefe mentioned that he has received complaints regarding the removal of trees in Old Orchard Park. Mr. Ebner noted that we are removing old cherry trees, many of which are dying, and we will have a program in place to return as much of the area as we can to nature. We will plant trees that will serve a purpose for food or habitat.
- Mr. Malkin reported that the Council Land Use/Planning Committee met earlier this evening, and they discussed the following:
 - Underground storage facilities and stormwater. Mr. Junker provided a draft ordinance for further review;
 - Revamping steep slopes and they will work on the details;
 - They obtained a copy of the Ross Township ordinance and will do some more research on tree buffers;
 - Conditional Uses and they will wait for the Joint Comprehensive Plan to see exactly where some of the undefined uses might default to depending on some cooperative efforts between the Borough and Ohio Township.
- Mr. Myslinski asked Mr. Bucuren when the Ingomar Heights Road water line project will be completed by West View Water Authority. Mr. Bucuren noted that WVWA had projected that the work would be complete in mid to late August, but they have been running into problems. Mr. Myslinski forwarded email complaints regarding noncompliant pickleball play in Old Orchard Park. The issue is continuing to get worse, and enforcement is an issue. Council discussed the matter at length, and Council Members provided some possible suggestions to address the issues. There was discussion regarding the installation of additional courts in Blueberry Hill Park, but it was noted that parking in that area is already very limited. It is difficult to come up with a short term solution. We need to know what the needs are before planning for additional courts, and we have applied for a grant to update the Parks and Recreation Plan. Pickleball is growing and there is a lot of demand. After discussing several options including removing all restrictions, restricting hours, closing the courts, or repurposing the courts, the consensus of Council was to close the courts permanently for pickleball play. Signs and notices will be posted listing the compliance issues and suggesting the use of other pickleball courts. Council will continue to investigate options for additional pickleball courts in another location.
- Dr. Li asked about the status of the deer culling program. Mr. Ebner noted that staff will have a final recommendation for Council at the September work session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An executive session was held to discuss personnel and Davies litigation.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Cathy L. Krummert
Borough Secretary