

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK  
BOROUGH COUNCIL PRE/POST MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023**

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A pre/post meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, August 16, 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 .....absent

**BOROUGH ENGINEER:**

Shawn Wingrove, 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.....absent  
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

**PRE-MEETING**

**AUDIENCE:** 6

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA REVIEW:** Mr. Junker reviewed the following agenda items:

- **Zorich Conditional Use Public Hearing** – A public hearing will be held to consider an application for the expansion of a detached in-law’s quarters. The Planning Commission recommended approval subject to Mr. Phillips’ Staff Report conditions.
- **Joint Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing** – The public hearing will be opened, and HRG will make a public presentation. The Planning Commission met last night and recommended approval; however, there was an issue with posting the agenda within 24 hours, so they will submit the recommendation a second time on September 19<sup>th</sup> prior to Council voting on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Once the HRG presentation is done, we will open the floor for any comments or questions from members of Council and then open the floor for public comments. The vote is planned for the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, so a motion to table the adoption of the Plan this evening will be in order. The next phase following adoption would be to consider reviews of the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. It was noted that Ohio Township has already adopted the plan.

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- LaPlace Pointe/Taylor Ridge Apartments – The developer has provided the required as-builts and also a cash bond. LSSE provided a follow up letter today. Mr. Myslinski noted an issue with the sidewalk connection between Taylor Ridge and the Deerfield Estates Plan. Mr. Phillips indicated that Deerfield Estates will be required to address the issue since it was a condition of their approval.

Stormwater Management Ordinance – Mr. Malkin asked Mr. Junker to review the path that the Stormwater Ordinance will take for review. Mr. Junker noted that it will be included in Council's meeting packet for the September work session for a quick update by the Land Use Committee. If Council agrees, the ordinance would be introduced at the September meeting for a potential vote at the October meeting.

I-79 TRAFFIC NOISE ISSUE – Council received an email and attachments from State Representative Venkat regarding this matter. Mr. Ebner indicated that the letter from Representative Venkat to the residents who had complained about the noise states that they are ready to help us to apply for grants to cover the cost of sound barriers. However, Mr. Ebner recommends conducting a noise study before applying for grants to erect barriers. If we apply for a grant to erect barriers, we will have to state the specific type of barrier we want to place at a specific location, and we are not ready to do that until we know where the problems are located. PennDOT had indicated that a study would cost anywhere between \$500,000 and \$1 million. We can apply for a grant for the study, but if the grant does not cover the full cost of the study the Borough would have to cover the difference. If we cannot find funding for the difference, we would have to turn down the grant which would jeopardize the Borough receiving future grants. It was pointed out that a \$1 million sound study would be 10% of our yearly budget. We would need a cost estimate from an engineer to submit a grant application. We can reach out to an engineer that specializes in sound studies and ask for a cost estimate to decide if we want to proceed. The estimate for sound barriers is between \$5 million and \$10 million. Since PennDOT has indicated that they will not erect the barriers, they would have to permit the Borough to install the barriers in their right of way. If permitted, there is also the question of whether the Borough would be required to maintain the barriers on PennDOT property. Following the discussion, Mr. Ebner was asked to reach out to Harmony Borough about the sound barrier that was constructed in their area.

REQUEST BY WEST VIEW WATER AUTHORITY CONTRACTOR TO CLOSE INGOMAR HEIGHTS ROAD – The WVWA contractor has reached out to the Borough with a preliminary request to close Ingomar Heights Road for a two-week period starting in 2-3 weeks at the intersection with West Ingomar Road and Highland Road in McCandless. Council also discussed the current conditions of Ingomar Heights Road caused by the construction. Mr. Ebner will set up a meeting with the contractor, the Borough and McCandless to discuss the request to close the road, and he will report back to Council.

Mr. Junker noted that he, Mr. Bucuren, and Mr. Wingrove have been working on an update to the street opening and excavation ordinance that will be coming to Council in September.

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS & MAYOR**

- Mr. Malkin scheduled a Land Use/Planning Committee meeting for October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Palled discussed an inquiry from a resident regarding a sinking concrete slab that is part of a sidewalk.
- Mr. Myslinski stated that Council will miss Ava as the Junior Council Person, and he thanked Lieutenant Snyder for providing the Karen Drive speed study. Lieutenant Snyder noted that there was a large volume of vehicles, but speeding is not an issue. He reached out to the resident who had made the request, and she appreciated the police department taking the time to do the study. Lieutenant Snyder recommended that the HOA consider a digital speed sign in the neighborhood. The police department will also paint VASCAR lines and will post a police car from time to time.

The regular meeting was held from 8:00 p.m. to 9:25 p.m.

**POST-MEETING**

As there was no further business, no post meeting was held.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy L. Krummert  
Borough Secretary