

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2022**

A work session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 7:30 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

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.....present
Rege Ebner, Borough Managerpresent
Walt Healy, Police Chief.....present
Jim Huff, Manager of Golf Course & Parks Facilitiespresent
Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretarypresent
Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer.....absent

AUDIENCE: 3 (0 in person/3 via Zoom)

OLD BUSINESS - None

AGENDA REVIEW - The following September 21, 2022 regular meeting agenda items were discussed:

- Appointment of Deputy Real Estate Tax Collector – Mr. Schwartzmier asked if the Borough must approve this appointment since the Real Estate Tax Collector is elected. Mr. Junker clarified that there was a change made to the Local Tax Collection Law a few years ago making the approval mandatory.
- Oak Grove Final Subdivision – The developer has returned the signed Maintenance Agreement, but he has not yet provided the required Maintenance Bond. Mrs. Krummert reached out to the developer to inquire about the bond, but she has received no response. Mr. Junker noted that if the Maintenance Bond is not received prior to the regular meeting, Motions #4, #5 and #6 on the agenda may be tabled until such time as the Maintenance Bond is received.

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STAFF REPORTS:

Report by Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works

- He is waiting for Mele & Mele to notify him when they plan to move in and mill the Nicholson Woods Plan. Mele will post "No Parking" signs 1-2 days prior to starting to mill the roads, and it will probably take them 1-2 days to complete. Public Works will then move in to pave the 1.2 miles of roads in this plan, and it should take 3-4 days since there are five cul-de-sacs that slow down the process. This will be the final paving job this year.
- He emailed West View Water Authority (WVWA) to inquire when they expect to begin their work on Ingomar Heights Road. The WVWA representative apologized for the delay and explained that they had changed surveyors and had to replace the project manager. They are working to finalize the design and put it out for bid. They will keep Mr. Bucuren posted on the progress, but it is not looking like the work will be done this year. Due to this delay, Public Works may have to do dig outs and repairs next year to extend the life of the road since it cannot be paved until after the WVWA work is completed.
- He is receiving complaints regarding the PennDOT construction on Nicholson Road.

Report by Zach Brower, Recreation Program Director

- He has received three quotes for shade in the Blueberry Patch Playground.
- He has received a quote for the replacement/repair of play equipment in Old Orchard Park. Council will need to decide whether to fix or replace the equipment.

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

- He discussed two triplex mowers that are in very poor condition at the golf course. One unit has a bad engine and is leaking oil, which is killing the grass on the course. There are no engine parts available. He has now been informed that the new triplex mower that was ordered in April of this year will not be available until June of 2024. He has found a John Deere unit that is available immediately at a lower price, but it is not a contract purchase. Council discussed and authorized Mr. Junker to prepare a resolution authorizing the emergency purchase of the John Deere triplex mower for consideration at the regular meeting. We will still need to replace the second triplex mower next year.
- The new rough unit was supposed to be shipped out from the manufacturer to the dealer at the end of August, but he has not received any notification.

Report by Shawn Wingrove, Borough Engineer

- N & N Landscaping has completed the roads in the 2023 Curb & Gutter Replacement Program. Mr. Bucuren noted that N & N did a very nice job.
- Mr. Ebner and Mr. Wingrove met with Architect Steve Paxton, and he is preparing conceptual plans and documents for the log house on the Big Sewickley Creek Road property.
- The storm sewer work is complete in the Bliss Plan, and they will start curb work this week. They are progressing toward paving the road before the October deadline. The DEP and Conservation District visited the development again, and the violation items have primarily been addressed. There are some minor clean up items.
- They are reviewing a resubmittal for the Cardinal Ridge proposed townhome development off Aldon Drive. This application will be on the Planning Commission agenda.
- They are reviewing a new submittal for a pavilion on the YMCA site. This application will be on the Planning Commission agenda.

Report by Walt Healy, Chief of Police

- Chief Healy requested to reduce the criteria for the written test and the physical agility test for new hires from 80% to 75% because they are not getting enough applicants to go through to the interview process. They will still need to meet all other criteria. The Civil Service Commission would need to meet and agree to amend the rules and regulations for Council's approval. Mayor O'Keefe is in support. Council concurred.
- He spoke with Folino Construction this morning regarding the work on Nicholson Road. They indicated that they are fixing the base of the road. Once they are done, the road will be milled and paved from Route 910 to the five points intersection.

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SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE DRAFT ORDINANCE – Mr. Junker briefly discussed the draft ordinance that he prepared for Council's review following previous discussions by Mr. Nock requesting guidance regarding sidewalk maintenance. It was noted that this will not apply to new sidewalks covered under a Maintenance Bond. Council asked questions and discussed the draft ordinance and enforcement. Mr. Junker will make changes as discussed, and the draft will be discussed further at the October work session.

HOLIDAY PARTY – Council discussed and concurred to schedule the holiday party on Friday, December 2nd with Council, Mayor, staff and guests.

MANAGER'S REPORT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Pension Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMOs)** – The MMOs for each pension plan were provided. The Police Pension Plan MMO will increase by approximately \$45,000 and the General Employees' Pension Plan MMO will increase by approximately \$37,000. The Borough must fund the MMOs, and they are offset by the funds we receive from the state.
- **Bicentennial Planning** – Mr. Ebner provided an update. Tom Rooney will focus on promotion and fundraising. He is recommending that we have the formal celebration as an extension of the Festival in the Park on June 24, 2023. The River City Brass Band has set that date aside to play patriotic music during the fireworks, and Mr. Rooney will try to obtain a sponsor to cover the cost. He will also seek sponsors for other events. Mr. Rooney has reached out to a Ben Franklin impersonator to attend events throughout the year. Mr. Rooney provided an example of a booklet that could be made available for sale, and it would include historical information and advertisements for sponsors. Andy Nock has suggested dedicating a veterans' trail to honor veterans, and Mr. Rooney has reached out to Rocky Bleier about attending the dedication of the trail in Blueberry Hill Park on the same day as the Festival. Andy Nock and Katie King are working on historical information to see what is available and how we can use it. Tom Rooney suggested quarterly events for the public to focus on the history of the Borough in 50 year segments. Christina Malkin is working to establish programs for kids through the schools. There is a lot of work to be done. We will be asking residents to volunteer to go through our historical documents or to loan pictures and other things to display. We may also sit down and interview residents who have lived here over 50 years. Mr. Ebner will keep Council informed.
- **Borough logo design** – Mr. Ebner asked if Council wants to proceed with a new logo/identity for the Borough or do we want to continue using the existing Ben Franklin logo. Council discussed, and Mr. Ebner will reach out to companies to see if they can update the existing Ben Franklin logo. There was also discussion about signage for the Bicentennial.
- **Acorn Park DCNR Grant update** – The DCNR has approved a \$682,000 grant for Acorn Park. The DCNR indicated that the Borough should ask for 50% of the grant up front for seed money, and we will get paid as we go along. The Borough can also use our people and materials as an offset. We are in a position to move forward and start the work next year. The plan is to install formal trails with signage, bridges over Little Sewickley Creek, observation decks and benches along the trail, a new parking area with handicapped parking, the replacement of the existing playground, an outdoor classroom with a gazebo and benches, a dirt pump track, security cameras, lighting, green stormwater infrastructure and various landscaping. This will be a major improvement to Acorn Park.
- **Council Stormwater Committee** – Mr. Ebner requested that the stormwater committee meet prior to the October work session to review the CEC proposal with Mr. Wagner.

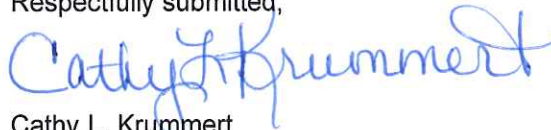
REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- **Mayor O'Keefe** received an email from a resident on Oakleaf Drive who is concerned about pedestrian safety on Reis Run Road. The Mayor met with Chief Healy and talked with Mr. Ebner. A draft letter to the resident will be sent out to Council. The Mayor had a conversation with Janet Seydor who spoke at a meeting a few weeks ago regarding the deer population & ticks. Ms. Seydor has suggested that the Borough spray for ticks, and the Mayor informed her that it was not possible. She then asked if the Borough could arrange a discounted rate through a company that residents could hire to spray their property for ticks. It was noted that if one yard is sprayed and another is not, the ticks will migrate back into the yard that has been sprayed. There was discussion regarding revisiting the deer culling program to reduce the number of deer. The Mayor received a call from Joe Wall requesting recognition for Chuck Mazur who recently passed away. Mr. Mazur was a very big part of the Ingomar Franklin Park Little League (IFPLL) for many years. Mr. Brower will work with IFPLL on this matter since McCandless would also be involved with the recognition. Mr. Wall also informed the Mayor that McCandless cannot continue to solely support the history center, and he is suggesting intergovernmental cooperation to support the history center.
- **Dr. Li** discussed the deer population issue and asked if there is a company that can help control the deer population. There was discussion regarding the current deer culling program and it was pointed out that there is no easy solution. The deer population also depends on what neighboring municipalities do to control the deer population. Mr. Ebner will meet with Suburban White Tail Management to discuss the program.
- **Mr. Schwartzmier** briefly commented on the Zoning Hearing Board applications. He informed Council that Jim Lawrence called him to say that his health is improving but not as quickly as he would like. Mr. Lawrence would still like to be involved with Borough history, but he is not really interested in the Bicentennial. Resident Howard Pfeiffer is turning 99 this fall, and he is doing well. Mr. Schwartzmier commended Chief Healy on the good news in his monthly report, and he noted that the officers are doing a good job. Mr. Schwartzmier will be away for the next regular meeting, but he plans to call in or participate via Zoom.
- **Mr. Palled** noted that the glass recycling container appears to be full and asked how often it is emptied. Mr. Ebner noted that Donna Platt checks it regularly and calls when it needs to be emptied. Mr. Palled spoke with a resident regarding stormwater issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An executive session was held to discuss the Estates at Franklin Fields Maintenance Bond and the Bliss Development potential litigation.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy L. Krummert
Borough Secretary