

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL PRE/POST MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**

A pre/post meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, September 20, 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 Liabsent
Brian S. Malkinabsent
Lucas R. Myslinski, Vice Presidentpresent
Uday Palledpresent
John P. Parks, Presidentpresent
Thomas C. Schwartzmier, Second Vice Presidentpresent
Mayor Dennis E. O'Keefepresent

BOROUGH ENGINEER:

Shawn Wingrove, Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc.present

SOLICITOR:

Harlan Stone, 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.....absent
Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretarypresent
Andy Nock, Assist. Bldg. Insp./Fire & Tech Official.....present
Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer.....absent
Sam Snyder, Police Lieutenant.....present

PRE-MEETING

AUDIENCE: 3

OLD BUSINESS

- Snow Angels Program – The program has been slow starting, but it is early. We will publicize the program more as we get into fall and winter.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA REVIEW:

- Scholarship Committee resignation – Annette Blonar submitted her resignation and also provided some suggestions. Mr. Ebner noted that some of the suggestions were already discussed when the committee members met in the spring.
- Joint Comprehensive Plan – The Planning Commission recommended approval again last night.
- Street Opening Ordinance – Mr. Schwartzmier asked questions regarding bonding and permit fees in the proposed ordinance that were then discussed. Mr. Stone suggested following up with Mr. Junker to provide clarification.

MANAGER'S REPORT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Summer Fields sidewalks – Letters were mailed last Thursday to the five lot owners in the development and also to the owners of the end parcels on each side of the development. A letter was also sent to the developer. No responses have been received. As it stands now, Palombo Contracting is planning to finish the concrete work in the Sturbridge Plan and will then move to install the sidewalks in the Summer Fields Plan at the end of September, at the Borough's expense, on the parcels on Secretariat Drive and EMS Lane. They will also install the sidewalks on three of the five lots within the Summer Fields Plan, and we will recoup the money from the developer. Once the builder constructs the new home on the empty lot, the builder will then construct the sidewalks on this lot and the adjacent lot.

- Grant applications – The CDBG grant pre-applications must be submitted through the North Hills COG. Mr. Ebner is submitting one application for stormwater work and flood control on Montgomery Road. The grant would cover 65% of the cost, so the grant application is for \$214,520. If they are agreeable to have us proceed, we have until November 15th to submit the full application. The deadline for the GEDTF grant is Friday. Mr. Ebner is submitting an application for the Acorn Park Project in the amount of \$300,000, and the funds must be used within a year. We were not prepared to start work on the Public Works Garage addition next year, so we can consider applying for that next year. The deadline for the Local Share Account grants will be November 30th. Mr. Ebner will be looking to apply for additional grants for projects through that program.

- 2024 Health Plan mandated changes – The Borough was informed that the Highmark premiums will increase by 8.75% and the UPMC premiums will increase by 3.75%. In addition, the IRS is mandating an increase in the minimum deductible amounts for high deductible plans. The current deductibles for the high deductible plans are \$1,500 individual/\$3,000 family. Municipal Benefit Services (MBS) will be increasing the deductible amounts to \$1,750/\$3,500. A new lower cost Highmark Performance Blue option will also be available that restricts usage to Highmark facilities. UPMC plans currently restrict usage to UPMC facilities. Staff will put together some information for Council to review at the October work session and decide how to proceed with funding deductible amounts, whether we want to offer the Performance Blue Plan, and whether we want to consider changes to employee contributions for the 2024 open enrollment. A decision must be made that evening so the information can be prepared for employees for open enrollment.

- Public Works software proposal – A sales representative of Vialytics, a company based in Europe, met with Mr. Ebner, Mr. Bucuren and Mayor O'Keefe regarding their software. The software allows a phone camera to be mounted in a vehicle that takes pictures of the road conditions every ten feet and it analyzes the condition of the street, catch basins and manholes to determine which roads need to be paved. They originally indicated that it would be \$10,000 for start-up costs and \$22,000+ per year for a three year contract for the software. Staff negotiated no up-front costs and \$12,500.00 per year. Mr. Ebner and Mayor O'Keefe do not feel that we have the need for this software, and they do not recommend making this purchase. Staff, Council and the Mayor attend a spring road tour to determine the streets to be paved each year. Council concurred.

- Gary Sippel's second request for Georgetown Drive curb work reimbursement – Mr. Gary Sippel reached out again requesting reimbursement. Mr. Ebner explained that since Mr. Sippel had agreed to perform the work on his own and it was not put out for public bid by the Borough, the Borough cannot reimburse him for his costs. Mr. Sippel then asked to be reimbursed for a lower amount. Council concurred that no reimbursement can be made to Mr. Sippel.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS & MAYOR

- **Mayor O'Keefe** received a text from Ava DiGiacomo indicating that she is unable to attend the meeting this evening and she sent her regards to Council and wished Julia O'Keefe the very best on her appointment as the new Junior Council Person.
- **Mr. Parks** reminded everyone of the Emergency Drill scheduled on September 27th at the fire station from 5-8 p.m. Council and Mayor should bring their EOP binders and computers. There was discussion regarding whether it would be appropriate for the HAM radio operator to attend, and Mr. Parks will check with Dr. Stein because a portion of the EOP is confidential.

The regular meeting was held from 8:00 p.m. to 8:26 p.m.

POST-MEETING

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

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy L. Krummert
Borough Secretary