

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023**

A work session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, November 1, 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 Julia O'Keefepresent
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 Treasurer.....present
Rege Ebner, Borough Managerpresent
Walt Healy, Police Chief.....absent
Jim Huff, Manager of Golf Course & Parks Facilitiesabsent
Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretarypresent
Aron Leach, Police Sergeant.....present
Andy Nock, Assist. Bldg. Insp./Fire & Tech Official.....absent
Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer.....absent
Sam Snyder, Police Lieutenant.....present

AUDIENCE: 4

INTERVIEWS FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION CONSULTANT – Borough Council interviewed the following consultants:

- CityScape Consultants, Inc. - Susan Rabold, Vice President Planning & Project Management explained that CityScape specializes in providing unbiased information to their clients who are only local government entities. Travis Page of Federal Engineering, a sub-consultant, explained that they specialize in public safety. They provide an unbiased objective assessment and recommendation as to what will be best to accomplish the Borough's objectives. Ms. Rabold and Mr. Page reviewed their proposal and experience, and they answered questions.
- Seidel Planning & Design, Ltd. - Brian Seidel, President, and J. Wesley Beers explained that they are a land planning firm that works in all aspects of zoning with all types of uses, and they have extensive experience in the telecommunications industry. They have represented a number of projects for tower companies, with wireless carriers, for telecommunications facilities, wireless communications facilities, and a variety of different situations including rooftop, new towers, and small cells. They represent municipalities for projects, as well as having relationships with the telecommunications industry and carriers, tower companies, and radio frequency engineers. Mr. Seidel and Mr. Beers reviewed their proposal and experience, and they answered questions.

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Mr. Ebner noted that the RFP included a rating system for the proposals. He asked Council Members to rate both proposals and then come back in two weeks to compare the ratings and decide how to proceed. Mr. Ebner will prepare a rating spreadsheet for Council Members to complete.

Staff members joined the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS - None

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA REVIEW:

- Ordinance No. 683-2023, amending the General Employees' Pension Plan – The ordinance was introduced in October and will be up for a vote on November 15th. Mr. Schwartzmier asked if Council could receive a copy of the ordinance showing the changes. Mr. Junker and Mr. Parks explained that the pension committee had completed an extensive review of the ordinance during many meetings with several redline versions that would be difficult to recreate.

STAFF REPORTS:

Report by Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works

- They are waiting for the milling company to let us know when they will have time to mill Ingomar Heights Road in preparation for paving.
- The cost to purchase solar powered speed signs would be anywhere from \$2,800 and up.
- He was notified by Hunter Truck Sales this week that they are no longer authorized to sell International trucks. Hill International out of Eight Four PA will now be the only dealer in the area, and their price for the previously authorized International cab and chassis is higher. The warranties are lower cost, but they also cover less. Mr. Bucuren is checking to see if we can get the same warranties for the same price, but it is unlikely. We will also have to sign an Agreement with Hill International that if we cancel the order, we will be liable for \$5,000. Council discussed the dealer change and associated costs and decided to rescind the October 18th motions for the purchase of the International cab and chassis and warranties and move forward to authorize the purchase of a Peterbilt cab and chassis from Hunter Truck Sales at the November 15th regular meeting.
- Public Works has cut back the pine trees that are blocking the sight distance at Mystic Valley Drive and Nicholson Road. However, a resident sent an email stating that the trees are still blocking the sight distance. The only solution is to remove the pine trees, but if they are near the wires, we will have to hire a company to do so. Council discussed, and Mr. Palled and Dr. Li will visit the area and make a recommendation.

Report by Zach Brower, Recreation Program Director

- The Halloween Event was held this past Saturday, and everything went well.
- Registration will begin Monday for the Visit with Santa on December 9th.
- He reported on some of the issues that hunters are experiencing while hunting for the deer culling program. There was an incident with someone spraying deer repellent in one of the parks, and hunters have now been instructed to call 9-1-1. There have been other issues with someone putting cow bells on their dog and walking it in one of the parks and off leash dogs in the parks. Council discussed the need for cameras in Acorn Park. Mr. Brower briefly reviewed the requirements for the hunters, and he noted that he is keeping track of the number of hunting hours and the number of deer taken.
- IFPLL received a grant from the Pittsburgh Pirates for lighting, and they approached Mr. Myslinski with a request for funds for additional lighting on Field #4 at Blueberry Hill Park. The first option would use one existing light pole and one new light pole, and it would allow them to play a little longer after dusk. The cost would be \$40,000. The grant would cover \$20,000 and IFPLL would pay the other \$20,000. The second option would add a third light pole and would make it completely safe to play as late as they want. There would be an additional cost of \$12,000 to add the third light pole, and they are asking if the Borough would cover the additional cost. It was noted that the Borough is also looking into changing lights and poles in Blueberry.

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Mr. Brower noted that IFPLL had previously met with staff to request funds, and they were informed that because the additional light pole would not benefit the Borough in any way, the Borough would not cover the additional cost. Council discussed the request and concurred that the Borough will not cover the additional cost.

- The Mayor thanked the Parks Department employees who helped to set up the Activity Center for the Veterans' Breakfast. He noted that the PA system in the Activity Center did not work very well and needs to be improved. Mr. Brower explained that the wireless microphones only work in 60% of the room and it would cost approximately \$1,000 to upgrade the system.

Report by Shawn Wingrove, Borough Engineer

- Palombo Contracting is still working on the construction of the Summer Fields sidewalks and will hopefully be finished in the next week or two.
- They are hoping to receive a response back from the ACCD for the Acorn Park Project.
- It was noted that construction has begun on the second house in the Bliss Development.

Report by Justin Wagner, Stormwater Engineer

- MS4 updates:
 - Fish Run Project – They had a pre-application meeting with DEP this morning for the Fish Run resubmission. The DEP reaffirmed that they want the signed easements from Mr. Richey prior to resubmission. Mr. Ebner spoke with Mr. Richey today, and Mr. Richey noted that the Agreements are lengthy, and he will need to have an attorney review them. He asked if the Borough would be willing to pay for his attorney to review the Easement Agreements. During the pre-application meeting, the DEP also discussed an MTSA sewer easement in the valley, and they questioned if MTSA has been or will be notified. There was also discussion regarding whether there should be some sort of easement obtained from MTSA.
 - Ramblewood Project – Mr. Myslinski asked about the discovery of the wetland disturbance and if it will be an issue. Mr. Wagner indicated that we would need to find a different location for the staging area and will exclude that area of wetlands from our limited disturbance.
Dogwood Drive was televised a few weeks ago, and they discovered a 36" corrugated metal pipe that had rotted out. We may want to consider lining the pipe sooner rather than later and some type of material will need to be placed in the voids of the pipe before lining. The length is approximately 200 feet, and an RFP would be required. The area is very steep, and the pipe is deep. It was noted that there is a lot of bad pipe work in the Ramblewood Plan.
 - Matterhorn Detention Facility Bid – We received one bid in the amount of \$348,000 and the project estimate was \$180,000. Mr. Wagner suggested rejecting the bid and rebidding it with the Ramblewood Project to get a better price. We will have to ask DEP for an extension for the MS4 projects until the end of 2024.

Mr. Wagner and Mr. Wingrove left the meeting at this time.

2024 BOARD/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS – Mrs. Krummert provided Council with a list of current board/commission members that will be up for reappointment in 2024. Letters were sent to these members asking if they are interested in reappointment for another term. A newsflash was sent out today asking for applications for the various boards/commissions by November 15th. Mrs. Krummert will provide an update at the November 15th meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Allegheny Land Trust request – The ALT has requested a letter in support of a water quality study of Big Sewickley Creek in conjunction with the Big Sewickley Creek Watershed Association. Council concurred.

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REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Mr. Malkin noted that a resident at 2400 Antrim Court asked if the Borough could check to see if the stormwater tie-ins could be improved in the area. Mr. Malkin will ask the resident to forward an email that he can forward to Mr. Ebner and Mr. Bucuren.
- Mr. Palled noted that the damage to Nicholson Road near the WetGo construction is now causing people to swerve to avoid the damage. Mr. Ebner will follow up with PennDOT. Mr. Palled stated that a resident had reached out to say that there is activity happening on the Yochus property. It was noted that no plan has been submitted. Mr. Palled will ask the resident to contact Mr. Phillips.
- Mayor O'Keefe continues to receive comments of concern from a resident regarding vehicles running the stop sign at the intersection of Big Sewickley Creek Road and Fairmount Church Road. Lieutenant Snyder noted that the police monitor the area regularly. He noted that he has received complaints regarding speeding and there have been no enforcement issues and very few accidents. The Mayor discussed the Veterans' Breakfast and thanked Donna Platt for her work on the event. The veterans were very appreciative.
- Julia O'Keefe, Junior Council Person noted that she lives across from Clover Hill Golf Course, and when the possibility of a cell tower was previously discussed a few years ago she remembers complaints regarding radiation and decreased property values. She asked if there have been any studies and how Council would address those issues. Federal law says that towers are deemed safe in terms of radiation. There is no general study on property values. It was noted that we will be hiring a third party to assist the Borough through the process. Miss O'Keefe also noted that she had toured the McCandless Franklin Park Ambulance Authority with Chief Dell, and she was thankful for the information he provided.

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

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy L. Krummert
Borough Secretary