

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022**

A work session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 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 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 Facilitiesabsent
Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretarypresent
Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer.....present

AUDIENCE: 4 (2 in person and 2 via Zoom)

SUBURBAN WHITETAIL MANAGEMENT DEER CULLING PROGRAM – Mike Clinebell and Luke Leonard of Suburban Whitetail Management (SWM) were present to discuss the Borough’s deer culling program. They noted that it has been slow since they are only hunting on a limited number of Borough properties. The prior organization took a lot of the contact information for private properties with them when they left. SWM is seeing less deer, and their biggest goal is to gain more access to private landowners. They had some homeowners contact them recently, but they could not help because they must be at least 50 yards away from another occupied dwelling. If they do not have permission from neighbors on both sides, and often times the neighbor(s) behind the landowner, they cannot hunt on the property. SWM also has hunters in McCandless, Ross and Bradford Woods. There was discussion regarding public outreach via an email blast, newsletters and having SWM attend the Festival in the Park along with the PA State Game Commission. Mr. Clinebell and Mr. Leonard will provide a FAQ sheet and other information for the Borough to distribute. It is important to educate people regarding how the deer culling program works. SWM provides the police with a list of all hunters and their vehicle information.

COMMUNITY GARDEN – Letty Savage was present to review the first year of the Community Garden. The garden started slowly, and we did not charge for the first year. There were issues with soil and an animal eating the plants/vegetables. One half of the garden participants responded to a survey. We need to improve the soil by putting in raised beds, possibly using double stacked concrete blocks and hauling in leaf compost. The deer fence worked to keep out the deer, but it is suspected that a small animal dug under the fence and ate some of the plants/vegetables. Ms. Savage suggested installing a safe electric fence down low on the inside of the fence to keep small animals out. It could possibly be wired to go off when people enter the garden and

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go off when they exit the garden. Gardeners from this year will be given priority for next year before advertising available plots. We may want to consider increasing the price per plot to help cover the costs. We should also consider providing some type of education with guidance for gardeners, and we could possibly ask Soergels for assistance. The draft rules will need to be refined and distributed to gardeners this year. Mayor O'Keefe thanked Ms. Savage and everyone involved with the community garden.

OLD BUSINESS - None

AGENDA REVIEW - The following November 16, 2022 regular meeting agenda items were discussed:

- Introduction of Ordinance No. 673-2022 – Mr. Junker briefly reviewed the ordinance required by Act 57 of 2022 which pertains to new homeowners who do not receive their tax bill. The Tax Collector must exonerate the penalties if the resident submits the required form and meets the requirements. This must be in place by January 1, 2023.
- Ordinance No. 672-2022 – Mr. Junker noted that the ordinance regarding sidewalk maintenance was introduced in October and will be considered by Council at the November 16th regular meeting. Council directed that information regarding this ordinance be included in the November electronic newsletter and a PDF should be easily accessible on the website.
- WetGo Pro Car Wash Agreement – Mrs. Krummert explained the new proposed car wash agreement with WetGo starting in 2023 at a much lower cost than the current company. The cost will be \$5.00 per car, per month, for unlimited car washes at any WetGo location. The current company charges \$7.00 per car wash, and they were proposing to increase the price to \$10.00 per wash or \$16.00 per vehicle for an unlimited wash plan in 2023. The Borough will be saving money, and once the new WetGo opens in the Borough next year, it will be even more convenient. The agreement covers police vehicles and some staff vehicles.

STAFF REPORTS:

Report by Cindy Crain, Finance Director/Borough Treasurer

- She is moving forward with the Springbrook accounting software transition in January, and she briefly discussed automated workflows, online approvals and signatures. She would also like to remove the Treasurer as a check signer to be replaced by the Borough Manager if the auditors want a staff member to be a check signer.
- She had started working on an RFP for the pension actuary and asked if Council still wants to move forward. It was noted that there has been some frustration with Mockenhaupt, and they are working to make some changes due to feedback from municipalities. Mr. Ebner suggested giving Mockenhaupt more time to implement changes and improve their service as we have seen some recent improvements.
- The Pension Committee had discussed amendments to the General Employees' Pension Plan and a possible early retirement option. Mrs. Crain will follow up with Colleen Deer of Mockenhaupt regarding her comments on the proposed amendments and the early retirement option.

Report by Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works

- Brush chipping will begin Monday, November 7th and will continue for several weeks.
- The yard waste site is scheduled to close December 1st but may stay open later if weather permits.
- He reached out to West View Water Authority (WVWA) again regarding their planned water line work on Ingomar Heights Road. WVWA indicated that their project design is 90% complete, and they have started marking the road. They have a lot of materials on order for the project, but many materials are coming in slowly. The Borough cannot pave the road until after WVWA completes the water line work.
- Mr. Myslinski indicated that Waste Management seems to be skipping weeks for leaf collection, and it was suggested that he speak with Donna Platt. It was noted that many residents are dumping leaves at the yard waste site.

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Report by Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer

- The Planning Commission will consider the Cardinal Ridge Plan application again.
- The Zoning Hearing Board will consider an application submitted by the YMCA for a pavilion. The Borough owns and leases the property to the YMCA, and Mr. Phillips suggested that the Borough provide a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board in support or in opposition of the application. Mr. Ebner and Mr. Junker will draft the letter.
- Mr. Phillips received a phone call from Steven Victor wanting to drop off a conditional use application for a medical use office building on the Yochus property on Wexford Bayne Road. Mr. Phillips advised Mr. Victor that he is welcome to submit the application, but it is usually submitted with a land development application. Mr. Phillips noted that Mr. Victor is not ready to submit a land development application at this time.

Report by Zach Brower, Recreation Program Director

- The Halloween Event had approximately 500 in attendance and only 350 had registered.
- On Monday he will open resident registration for the Visit with Santa to be held in December.
- He indicated that Play and Park Structures had extended their COSTARS registration and pricing through November 14th to allow for the purchase of the playground flowers for Old Orchard Park and the sun shade for Blueberry Hill Park. Motions will be added to the regular meeting agenda to ratify the purchases.

Report by Shawn Wingrove, Borough Engineer

- He will be sending letters recommending Council deny the request to accept the LaPlace Pointe/Taylor Ridge Apartments and also recommending two bond reductions.

Report by Walt Healy, Chief of Police

- The Civil Service Commission will meet tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. to discuss changes to the scoring on the Civil Service written exam and oral interview. They will also name Chief Healy as the test administrator.

Parks Report

- Mr. Ebner reported that over the next two weeks, the Parks employees will be working to cut down old trees, clean up weeds and plant Northway spruce trees to improve the buffer between the municipal building property and a neighboring property.

LAPLACE POINTE (TAYLOR RIDGE APARTMENTS) – The developer does not want to install the unfinished sidewalk behind Apartment Building No. 1 to the northern property line as shown on the approved plans. Mr. Phillips is recommending that the sidewalk be installed to make the connection to the Deerfield Estates Plan. Mr. Wingrove and Mr. Phillips discussed the sidewalk details and answered questions regarding the proposed sidewalk. Council concurred that the sidewalk must be installed as approved.

SQUIRE RIDGE PLAN WALKING TRAIL – The walking trail was approved but there was no consideration as to whether or not it was feasible. The detail shows a 20 ft wide mulch trail, and it is only in Phase III of the Squire Ridge Plan. If the trail is installed now, it will significantly impact the developed lots, and it will be a very steep trail through the woods. The trail would end at property that is not owned by the developer or the Borough, and it has no access to McDevitt Road. There may be other options that could be discussed under potential property acquisition in executive session. Council discussed the ramifications if the trail would be installed and, if it is not, it will need to be documented in some way since the trail is shown on the recorded plan. Mr. Phillips also discussed that there is no access easement to the detention pond. They have an agreement of sale for the lot where the detention pond is located, and they intend to put an access easement to the detention pond on the property before it is closed. The developer is also asking for relief from installing the approved 8 ft fence around the detention pond. Mr. Phillips indicated that the fence height is usually 6 ft. Staff will meet with the developer to discuss how to resolve all of these issues.

UPDATED FIRE PREVENTION CODE DRAFT ORDINANCE, UPDATED PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE DRAFT ORDINANCE AND COMMERCIAL FIREWORKS PERMITS/FEEES – Mr. Junker discussed the draft ordinances and Mr. Nock's request regarding the regulation of fireworks and a commercial firework permit fee. Council and staff discussed. We will move forward with the Fire Prevention Code and the Property Maintenance Code and will also consider the regulation of consumer fireworks.

BOARD/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS – Council received a list of all current board/commission members whose term will end December 31st. Letters were mailed to everyone on the list on November 1st asking they notify Mrs. Krummert by November 15th if they would/would not want to be reappointed for another term. A notification was also sent out and posted on the website on November 1st that applications for all board/commissions will be accepted until November 15th. Mrs. Krummert will provide a final list with all responses for Council's review at the November 16th meeting so Council may schedule the interviews in early December.

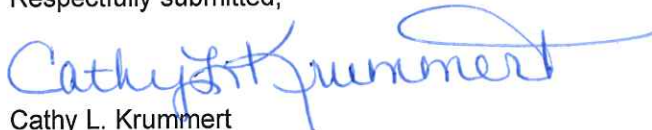
REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- **Mr. Palled** inquired about the entrance slope in the Cardinal Ridge Plan and asked if fire trucks could get in and out of the entrance. Mr. Phillips indicated that the slope meets the grade requirements of the ordinance. Council once again discussed potential issues since the developer did not include visitor parking on the plans. Although it is not required by ordinance, it may be brought up to the developer.
- **Mayor O'Keefe** noted that firefighter and seasonal employee Jared Dauer was recently involved in a serious accident.
- **Dr. Li** asked Chief Healy about a resident noise complaint involving garbage collection at Concordia of Franklin Park. Chief Healy has spoken to Vogel Disposal and warned them that they will be cited if they collect the garbage from the facility too early in the morning.
- **Mr. Myslinski** thanked the McCandless Franklin Park Ambulance Authority for providing flu shots for staff and elected officials this week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An executive session was held to discuss the potential purchase of property, the Davies litigation, the Bliss Development potential litigation and a personnel matter.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy L. Krummert
Borough Secretary