

Oakmont Borough Council
Minutes of the Regular Meeting

174 (Final)
January 12, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of Oakmont Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Ride in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 767 Fifth Street, Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All those who were present and able stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Briney, Colianni, Facaros, Favo, Friday, Whalen, and President Ride; Mayor Fescemyer and Chief DiSanti; Borough Manager Jensen; Assistant Secretary Jeroski; Solicitor Ott

Excused: None

Visitors: Craig Aber, Karen Amodeo, David Carroll, George Coulter, Justin Flowers, Matthew Kissane, Elaine Luthor, Sue Martin, Tony Moret, Craig Olson, Bill Peoples, Krista Quinlan, Ed Saxon, Greg Schultz, George Semencar, Owen Slagle, III, Laurie Sliben, Mike Springer, Jim Trangle, and Richard Williams

MOTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Mr. Favo offered a motion to add his memo of November 10, 2014 be put under his committee on the agenda. Ms. Colianni asked if this was the same correspondence from Joann Chirico that was already on the agenda in Executive Session. Mr. Favo replied that it was not.

Mr. Briney seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 3 with Ms. Colianni, Mrs. Facaros and Mr. Whalen voting "Nay".

Ms. Jensen asked to have two items placed under Correspondence on the agenda: a letter from the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Oakmont and one from the Teamsters Union, and a report on the Borough's Certified Valuation under the Borough Manager's Report. Mrs. Friday offered a motion to add these two items under Correspondence on the agenda.

Mr. Whalen seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

COMMISSION/BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

Resolution No. R1-2015, M. Kissane to Oakmont Library Board – Mrs. Facaros offered Resolution No. R1-2015, and moved for its adoption, a resolution appointing Matthew Kissane a Member of the Oakmont Carnegie Library to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of George Coulter.

Mrs. Friday seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 32, Page 65, as **Resolution No. R1-2015**.

Resolution No. R2-2015, L. Sliben to Oakmont Library Board – Mrs. Facaros offered Resolution No. R2-2015, and moved for its adoption, a resolution appointing Laurie Sliben a Member of the Oakmont Carnegie Library to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Charles P. Erdeljac, Ph.D.

Mr. Briney seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 32, Page 66, as **Resolution No. R2-2015**.

Resolution No. R3-2015, A. Moret to Property Maintenance Board – Mr. Briney offered Resolution No. R3-2015, and moved for its adoption, a resolution appointing Anthony Moret a Member of the Property Maintenance Board of Appeals to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Domenic Dozzi.

Ms. Colianni seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 32, Page 67, as **Resolution No. R3-2015**.

Resolution No. R4-2015, A. Moret to UCC Board – Mr. Briney offered Resolution No. R4-2015, and moved for its adoption, a resolution appointing Anthony Moret a Member of the Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Domenic Dozzi.

Mrs. Facaros seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 32, Page 68, as **Resolution No. R4-2015**.

Resolution No. R5-2015, G. Schultz to Municipal Authority Board – Mr. Favio offered Resolution No. R5-2015, and moved for its adoption, a resolution reappointing Gregory Schultz a Member of the Municipal Authority Board of Governors to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of his term.

Mr. Whalen seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 32, Page 69, as **Resolution No. R5-2015**.

Resolution No. R6-2015, O. Slagle, III to Zoning Hearing Board – Mr. Briney offered Resolution No. R6-2015, and moved for its adoption, a resolution reappointing Owen Slagle, III a Member of the Zoning Hearing Board to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of his term.

Mrs. Friday seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 32, Page 70, as **Resolution No. R6-2015**.

Resolution No. R7-2015, G. Coulter to Property Maintenance Board – Mrs. Friday offered Resolution No. R7-2015, and moved for its adoption, a resolution reappointing George Coulter a Member of the Property Maintenance Board of Appeals to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of his term.

Ms. Colianni seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 32, Page 71, as **Resolution No. R7-2015**.

Resolution No. R8-2015, G. Coulter to UCC Board – Mrs. Friday offered Resolution No. R8-2015, and moved for its adoption, a resolution reappointing George Coulter a Member of the Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of his term.

Ms. Colianni seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

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President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 32, Page 72, as **Resolution No. R8-2015**.

Swearing In – Mayor Fescemyer swore-in all those appointed/reappointed that evening.

REGISTERED COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

OVFD Fire Chief David Carroll – President Ride recognized David Carroll the new Fire Chief of the OVFD. Chief Carroll thanked Council for their time and the community for their financial commitment to the OVFD, and recognized the newly elected officers of the OVFD. Chief Carroll noted that currently the OVFD had 16 members, and that efforts were underway to recruit additional members. Chief Carroll remarked on the on-going NIMS certification efforts and mutual aid to/from other fire departments. First Lieutenant Justin Flowers gave an overview of the equipment operated by the OVFD.

Chief Carroll recognized Craig Aber, who was heading up the grant writing efforts of the OVFD. Mr. Aber stated that the OVFD failed to get a FEMA grant to replace their 1990 Pierce Fire Engine, but that they would re-submit for the grant in 2015. Mr. Aber remarked that a recent FEMA grant for the OVFD to purchase self-contained breathing apparatuses was the largest ever received by the OVFD.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Krista Quinlan – Ms. Quinlan asked if something could be done about traffic flow along Eighth Street during school hours. Ms. Quinlan remarked that there was high cut-thru traffic along Eighth Street during these hours, and asked for some speed restrictions. Chief DiSanti said he would review the problem and follow-up with Ms. Quinlan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 18, 2014 Minutes – Ms. Colianni offered a motion to approve the Minutes from the Special Meeting of November 18, 2014 as written.

Mr. Whalen seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

December 8, 2014 Minutes – Mrs. Friday offered a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of December 8, 2014 as written.

Mrs. Facaros seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

December 22, 2014 Minutes – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Minutes from the Special Meeting of November 10, 2014 as written.

Mr. Briney seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ken Anthony Resignation – Ms. Jensen read a letter, dated January 7, 2015, from John Dunlap, General Manager of the Municipal Authority, to the Borough Manager noting that Ken Anthony had resigned from the Municipal Authority Board of Governors on January 1, 2015. Mr. Dunlap stated that the Board had unanimously agreed to recommend Tim Milberger fill the vacancy.

Mr. Briney offered a motion to accept the resignation of Ken Anthony from the Municipal Authority Board of Governors.

Mrs. Friday seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

Teamsters Letter – Ms. Jensen read a letter, dated January 1, 2015, from Teamsters Local 249 to the Borough Manager stating that Thomas Huck would be representing the Borough of

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Oakmont Public Works employees. Ms. Colianni asked if it was a conflict of interest for the same individual to represent two bargaining units in the Borough. Solicitor Ott replied that this was an internal union matter.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

2014 Goals/2015 Accomplishments – President Ride thanked Council Members for submitting their goals and accomplishments, and said that there would be more discussion on the matter at the February 2015 Work Session.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Ott had no items to report that evening.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Cedar Way Drainage Project – Ms. Jensen asked that council authorize the Borough Engineer to develop specifications for the Cedar Way Drainage Project, so that the project could be completed in advance of the 2015 Paving Project. Mr. Favo offered a motion for the Borough Engineer to develop specifications for the Cedar Way Drainage Project.

Mr. Whalen seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

Certified Valuation – Ms. Jensen remarked that the Borough had received its Certified Valuation from Allegheny County, and the amount was slightly higher than the projection used in the 2015 Budget for determining Real Estate Tax collection.

MAYOR'S REPORT

December Police Report - Chief DiSanti reviewed portions of the December 2014 Police Report for those present, and noted that Police Department had received 361 calls for service and issued 316 Borough parking tickets. Chief DiSanti stated that several burglaries were under investigation, including one at the Oakmont Carnegie Library. Chief DiSanti concluded that a speed study was underway on Hulton Road in conjunction with PennDOT.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Budget Committee

Warrants – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Warrant List for December 2014, dated December 31, 2014, including expenditures totaling \$468,594.26 for all funds.

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Amount</i>
General Fund	\$246,721.81
Boulevard Project Fund	\$1,751.63
Kerr Museum Fund	\$4,049.39
Library Fund	\$29,205.34
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$-0-
Sewer Fund	\$181,974.77
Capital Fund (Parks)	\$4,891.32
Capital Fund (Roads)	\$-0-
Capital Reserve Fund	\$-0-

Ms. Colianni stated that she would be voting against the approval due to the costs of legal services, which she noted were \$23,764.00 for the three-month period at the end of 2014. There was extensive discussion of the cost controls in place for legal services, the reasons for the legal fees in the last quarter of 2014 and the oversight ability of Council with regard to the

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Warrant List. Ms. Jensen said she was working with Solicitor Ott to keep legal costs under control.

Mr. Briney seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 1, with Ms. Colianni voting "Nay".

Treasurer's 4th Quarter Report – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to add the Treasurer's 4th Quarter 2014 Report to the Minutes of the January 12, 2015 Regular Meeting. Mr. Whalen disputed the report's conclusions that the Borough finances were in great shape, and felt that the Carnegie Library's financial sustainability was questionable and there were outstanding capital requests. Mr. Favo disagreed with this assertion, and noted that the Borough's bond rating had been upgraded by Standard & Poor's in the past year and end-of-year cash balances in the General Fund exceeded Mr. Whalen's previous projections.

Mrs. Friday seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

Recycling Bins/Budget – Mr. Whalen read a prepared statement, expressing concern about breach in the Borough Manager's and Council's duties in not preparing for the long-term capital needs of the Borough. Mr. Whalen also remarked that he had lost all trust and confidence in Ms. Jensen due to the handling of the recycling carts with the Commons and Fairways. Mr. Whalen offered a motion to terminate the appointment of Ms. Jensen as Borough Manager.

Ms. Colianni seconded the motion.

Ms. Jensen felt this matter should be discussed in Executive Session. Ms. Colianni thought that the matter relating to the recycling carts should be discussed in open session. There was general discussion among Council of what fund the money for the recycling carts would come from, the history of the recycling cart situation with the Commons and Fairways and whether the matter should be discussed in public or Executive Session. Mr. Briney offered a motion to table the motion before Council.

Mrs. Friday seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 3, with Ms. Colianni, Mrs. Facaros and Mr. Whalen voting "Nay".

Engineering & Public Works Committee

Joann Chirico Memo – Mr. Favo said he had submitted this memo three times to Council and offered for anyone to call him on the matter.

Mr. Favo thanked President Ride for hosting the Borough's Christmas Party.

Planning and Land Use Committee

Mr. Briney had nothing to report that evening.

Culture, Library, & Recreation Committee

Mrs. Facaros had nothing to report that evening.

Personnel, Boulevard Project & Shade Tree Committee

Mrs. Friday had nothing to report that evening.

Public Safety Committee

Chair Cushions – Ms. Colianni offered a motion to purchase chair cushions for Council Chambers at a cost of \$630.00.

Mrs. Facaros seconded the motion, which failed on a 4-3 vote, with President Ride, Mr. Briney, Mr. Favo and Mrs. Friday voting "Nay".

Mr. Briney remarked that the matter could be revisited when the Borough had a better feel for its finances later in the year, and asked for more detail on the cushions.

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Civil Service Ad – Ms. Colianni asked when the advertisement for a written Civil Service Exam would run in the newspapers. Ms. Jensen replied that it would run the following week.

Park Camera Repairs – Ms. Colianni remarked that the cameras in Riverside Park were inoperative. Ms. Jensen replied that the requisition for repair had just been issued, and Chief DiSanti added that the work would be completed within a month.

Part-Time Police Apology – Ms. Colianni said she was disappointed that the part-time police officers were not invited to the Borough's Christmas Party and felt Council should apologize to the officers. President Ride gave some background on the situation, and added that she had spoken with Chief DiSanti about the matter, who had in-turn already spoken with the part-time officers.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Elaine Luthor – Ms. Luthor remarked that many problems in the Borough could be resolved by looking at how other towns are operating. Ms. Luthor felt that legal fees were an issue of cost control.

Richard Williams – Mr. Williams noted the political leanings of the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review* and *Valley News Dispatch*. Mr. Williams thanked Council for passing a balanced budget with no tax increase, though he stated that he did not mind tax increases occasionally.

Ed Saxon – Mr. Saxon said he was embarrassed to be present to witness what he termed the "public flogging" of a 30-year employee in Ms. Jensen. Mr. Saxon felt this was a terrible thing to do someone and the matter should have been taken to Executive Session.

Richard Williams – Mr. Williams felt that politics in Oakmont had gotten argumentative, and he would not be a part of bad politics in the town any longer. Mr. Williams noted his involvement in the hiring process of a previous Borough Manager.

President Ride apologized to Ms. Jensen for not moving previous discussion to Executive Session.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS – President Ride referred those present to the list of public meetings itemized in the Agenda, noting that dates were correct as of publication of the Agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

There were no miscellaneous items to discuss that evening.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

There being no further business to conduct that evening, Mr. Briney offered a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Whalen seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Cooper Jensen
Borough Manager

Transcribed by:
Ryan Jeroski