

Oakmont Borough Council
Minutes of the Regular Meeting

230 (Final)
November 9, 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 Colianni, Facaros, Favo, Friday, Whalen, and President Ride; Mayor Fescemyer; Borough Manager Jensen; Assistant Secretary Jeroski; Solicitor Ott

Excused: Mr. Briney

Visitors: Bill Benusa, David Carroll, Alice Coulter, George Coulter, Paul Friday, Eric Jensen, Jerry Kenna, Jerry Kenna Sr., Rich Luciana, Sue Martin, Rose O'Connor, Bill Peoples, Ray Rogers, Shelley Shadle, Bertha Shearer, Jackie Stoner, and James Trangle

MOTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no motions for additions to the Agenda that evening.

REGISTERED COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no registered comments from the public that evening.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public to begin the evening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 12, 2015 Minutes – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 12, 2015 as amended.

Mrs. Facaros seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 0.

CORRESPONDENCE

2015 Shade Tree Contract – Ms. Jensen read an e-mail, dated November 6, 2015, from Jonathan Dreher, Shade Tree Commissioner, recommending to award the 2015 Shade Tree Contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Horhut Tree Experts.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Public Comment Timeframe – President Ride reported that the timeframe for public comments would be three minutes.

2016 Budget Discussion – President Ride noted that the discussion on the Preliminary 2016 Budget would be limited to the smaller funds that evening, including the Boulevard Project, Kerr Museum, Library Fund, Liquid Fuels and Capital Fund (Parks). President Ride concluded that discussion on the General Fund would take place on Saturday, November 21st.

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Ott had nothing to report that evening.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Meeting with OVFD – Ms. Jensen stated that she had spoken with Fire Chief Carroll about setting up a meeting between the OVFD and Council Members to discuss their 2016 Budget requests. Mr. Whalen asked for more specificity on the nature of the discussions. Fire Chief Carroll replied it would be primarily on costs for vehicle repairs and replacement of the OVFD's 25-year old fire engine.

Verona Library Board Ordinance – Ms. Jensen noted previous discussion on adding a non-voting member from Verona to the Oakmont Carnegie Library Board, and added that Verona Borough Council had sent an official communication requesting Rhoda Worf be appointed as that non-voting member. There was some discussion among Council as to whether or not to move forward with the Ordinance amending the *Code of the Borough of Oakmont* that evening. It was decided to move forward with a vote on the Ordinance.

Leaf Collection – Ms. Colianni asked if there was a problem with leaf collection by the Street Crew. Ms. Jensen replied that there was no problem with leaf collection which was underway and would continue until the middle of December.

MAYOR'S REPORT

RSD Letter – Mayor Fescemyer read a letter from Dr. Margaret DiNinno, Superintendent of Riverview School District, thanking Chief DiSanti and the Police Department for their collaborative relationship with the School District. Dr. DiNinno noted recent work on pedestrian safety and ALICE training, in conjunction with the Verona Police Department. Mayor Fescemyer remarked that ALICE was active-shooter training.

October Police Report – Chief DiSanti reviewed portions of the October 2015 Police Report for those present, and noted that Police Department had received 390 calls for service and issued 303 Borough parking tickets. Chief DiSanti reported on patrols during Halloween, traffic on the new Hulton Bridge and a community police night. President Ride asked if additional crossing guards were needed near Riverview Junior/Senior High School as a result of the new Hulton Bridge opening. Chief DiSanti replied that he did not see the need for additional school guards at this time, but that the situation was being closely monitored.

October OVFD Report – Fire Chief Carroll reported that the OVFD had 16 emergency calls in October 2015, and had received 172 calls from January through October. Chief Carroll remarked on the OVFD's participation in public events during Fire Prevention Month in October.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Budget Committee

October Warrants – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Warrant List for October 2015, dated October 28, 2015, including expenditures totaling \$669,694.32 for all funds.

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Amount</i>
General Fund	\$357,513.34
Boulevard Project Fund	\$14,987.73
Kerr Museum Fund	\$1,373.22
Library Fund	\$52,122.00
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$-0-
Sewer Fund	\$155,807.70
Capital Fund (Parks)	\$17,986.40
Capital Fund (Roads)	\$69,903.93
Capital Reserve Fund	\$-0-

Mrs. Facaros seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 0.

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Engineering & Public Works Committee

Mr. Favo had nothing to report that evening.

Planning and Land Use Committee

Zoning Solicitor – In Mr. Briney’s absence, Mr. Favo offered a motion to accept the proposal of Strassburger, McKenna, Gutnick & Gefsky to appoint Alan T. Shuckrow, Esquire, to serve as Oakmont Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor, at a rate of \$185.00 per hour.

Mr. Whalen seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 0.

Culture, Library, & Recreation Committee

Ordinance No. O36-2015, Addition to Library Board from Verona – Mrs. Facaros offered Ordinance No. O36-2015, and moved for its enactment, an Ordinance amending Chapter 26 of the *Code of the Borough of Oakmont*, “Library Board,” to add one non-voting representative from Verona Borough to the Library Board.

Mrs. Friday seconded the motion, which passed 5 to 1, with Mr. Favo voting “Nay”. In explaining his “Nay” vote, Mr. Favo felt that Verona Borough should have requested an appointment to the Library Board first.

President Ride declared the Ordinance enacted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 33, Page 7, as **Ordinance No. O36-2015**.

Personnel, Boulevard Project & Shade Tree Committee

2015 Shade Tree Contract – Mrs. Friday offered a motion to accept the bid of Horhut Tree Experts, lowest responsible bidder, for the 2015 Shade Tree Contract, at a cost not to exceed \$40,400.00.

Mrs. Facaros seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 0.

NIMS Training – Mrs. Friday offered a motion to require all elected and appointed officials of the Borough of Oakmont, as well as all non-uniformed and parks employees, to complete NIMS Training by the end of the first quarter of 2016.

Mrs. Friday explained NIMS training to Council Members and the public, and the different levels of NIMS training for first responders and elected/appointed officials. Mrs. Friday noted that this training was recommended for elected/appointed officials, and could be done entirely over the Internet.

Mr. Whalen seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 0.

Public Safety Committee

Ms. Colianni had nothing to report that evening.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Bertha Shearer – Ms. Shearer commended the police for their work, and thanked those veterans in the room that evening.

Sue Martin – Ms. Martin expressed her appreciation for Council’s efforts on the 2016 Budget that evening, and asked why Kacin Companies would not be responsible for repairs at Creekside Park. Mr. Favo replied that Kacin had met its court-ordered financial obligations to the Creekside Park project.

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

2016 Preliminary Budget – Ms. Jensen began the discussion on the 2016 Budget by highlighting the proposed budget for the Boulevard Project. Ms. Jensen provided an overview of the major revenues and capital expenditures for the Boulevard Project that are proposed for 2016. Ms. Colianni asked if the 2.5% cut from the Borough's allotment in 2015 had been restored to all Borough capital funds. Ms. Jensen replied that this was the case, and that the capital allotments had been returned to their pre-2015 levels. There was some discussion among Council Members about whether or not to keep the across-the-board 2.5% allotment cut in 2016. Mr. Whalen felt there also needed to be a conversation on separating funds raised through contributions from the allotments by the Borough's General Fund. It was discussed among Council and determined that this is the current practice.

Moving to the Kerr Museum, Ms. Jensen noted that the Antique Show was their major fundraiser. There was discussion among Council about the large fund balance in the Kerr Museum. President Ride noted that the high fund balance could function in the future as an endowment for the museum.

Ms. Jensen reported that the Liquid Fuels Fund was made up of state liquid fuels tax revenues, and that these funds were restricted for certain uses under state law.

Ms. Jensen noted the planned capital projects in the Capital Fund (Parks), including: a kayak launch, trail development in Riverside Park, work at Creekside Park and development of a trail along Dark Hollow Road. There was minor discussion on the relationship between the Capital Fund (Parks) and the Recreation Board's 501c3. Mr. Whalen stated that most of the fund balance in the Capital Fund (Parks) would be spent under this proposed budget. There was general consensus among Council to move forward with the preliminary Capital Fund (Parks) Budget.

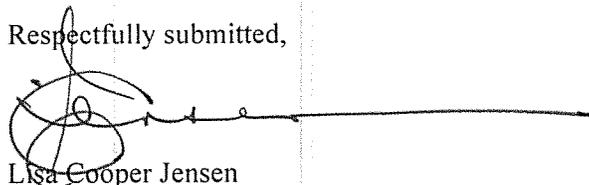
Ms. Jensen reviewed the preliminary budget for the Library Fund, and highlighted major capital expenditures including a \$40,000.00 overhaul of the HVAC system. Mr. Whalen expressed his concerns about the state of the Library Fund, and reviewed the increased operational cost and capital needs of the Library. There was some discussion on earmarking millage specifically for the Library. Ms. Jensen remarked on some of the cost saving efforts the Library had undertaken recently, and added that the Library Board needed to consider increasing certain fees and developing a new fundraising arm. There was some discussion on staff salaries and other operating costs. Mrs. Facaros remarked on the Library's importance as a community center. Discussion continued among Council Members about options for addressing the shortfall in the Library Fund.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

There being no further business to conduct that evening, Mr. Whalen offered a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. Colianni seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Cooper Jensen
Borough Manager

Transcribed by:
Ryan Jeroski