

**Oakmont Borough Council**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**234 (Final)**  
**December 14, 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; Borough Manager Jensen; Assistant Secretary Jeroski; Solicitor Ott

Excused: None

Visitors: William Albright, Joanne Anderson, William Benusa, Becky Briney, Hank Buechli, David Carroll, George Coulter, Donna DeTurck, Sherry Ehrlich, Fred Federici, Mike Federici, Mark Gleeson, Eric Jensen, Jane Miller, John Murray, Judy Murray, Margo Naus, Rose O'Connor, Craig Olson, Gary Rogers, Frank Schranghamer, Bertha Shearer, Don Stoner, Jackie Stoner, Diane Sullivan, John Thompson, James Trangle, Kate Tunney, Gail Whalen and Richard Williams

**COMMISSION/BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS**

**Resolution No. R37-2015, W. Albright as EM Coordinator** – Ms. Colianni offered Resolution No. R37-2015, and moved for its adoption, a Resolution appointing William Albright as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough of Oakmont, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Brian Stuart.

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

President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 33, Page 8, as **Resolution No. R37-2015**.

**Resolution No. R38-2015, G. Rogers to Oakmont Boulevard Project** – Mrs. Friday offered Resolution No. R38-2015, and moved for its adoption, a Resolution appointing Gary Rogers to the Oakmont Emergency Management Team, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Michael Maggio.

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

President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 33, Page 9, as **Resolution No. R38-2015**.

**Swearing-In** – Mayor Fescemyer swore-in Mr. Albright and Mr. Rogers.

**MOTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Ms. Jensen asked to add a resignation letter from a school crossing guard to the Agenda.

**REGISTERED COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Tim Favo** – Mr. Favo noted the proposed increases in funding to the Oakmont Carnegie Library, and recommended that the additional \$50,000.00 in funding to repair the Library's HVAC system be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Favo admitted this to be a procedural issue, any future changes in the Library allotment could negatively impact the RAD funding levels that the Library receives. Mr. Favo noted previous disagreements with

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President Ride, but acknowledged his respect for her and complimented her handling of the Council Presidency.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Tom Whalen** – Mr. Whalen thanked President Ride and Ms. Colianni for their service. Mr. Whalen felt that Ms. Colianni worked toward government transparency. Regarding the draft 2016 Budget, Mr. Whalen stated that the Borough needed to increase taxes, but that he would vote against the 2016 Budget, as he felt it did not adequately cover capital expenditures. Mr. Whalen remarked on past increases in salaries and cost of employee benefits, and felt these increases took away funds for capital improvements. Mr. Whalen expressed his support for a tax increase earmarked for the Library.

**Richard Williams** – Mr. Williams noted the work involved in being a Council Member, and recognized Ms. Colianni for her service and speaking her mind. Mr. Williams hoped for a good discussion on the 2016 Budget, and felt that it was important to fund the Oakmont Carnegie Library as it was valuable to the community.

**Tom Bland** – Mr. Bland acknowledged working closely with President Ride over the past few years, and thanked her on behalf of the Oakmont Recreation Board. Mr. Bland applauded President Ride for her efforts to listen to everyone in the community.

**Jackie Stoner** – Ms. Stoner thanked the Police Department for their patrols in Riverside Park, and the installation of a stop sign at the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance to Dark Hollow Woods.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**November 9, 2015 Minutes** – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2015 as amended.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Property Donation Offer** – Ms. Jensen read an undated letter, from Donna Tarasi, owner of a landlocked lot at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Second Street. Ms. Tarasi stated that she cannot use the property or pay taxes on it, and offered to donate it to the Borough. Solicitor Ott noted that the Borough could accept the property in lieu of taxes owed, and explained the process to Council Members. President Ride asked Ms. Jensen to contact adjoining property owners to gauge their interest in purchasing the property should the Borough clean the title.

**Solicitor Reappointment** – Ms. Jensen read a letter, dated December 7, 2015, from Solicitor Ott, requesting reappointment as Borough Solicitor and her firm's legal rates for 2016. Ms. Jensen stated that the Solicitor's reappointment would take place at the Reorganization Meeting in January 2016. Mr. Whalen asked if there would be a new contract with Goehring, Rutter & Boehm. Solicitor Ott replied that there would be a new fee agreement letter. Mr. Whalen felt that Council needed to enforce the budgeted amount for legal services. President Ride agreed that legal fees needed to be kept under control, and said it would be the prerogative of the next Council to ensure this.

**School Guard Resignation** – Ms. Jensen read an undated letter, from Keara Campbell, a School Crossing Guard, resigning from her position with the Borough as of December 11, 2015. Ms. Campbell thanked those who supported her during her employment at the Borough.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

**2016 Budget Discussion** – President Ride gave an overview of the draft 2016 Budget in front of Council Members that evening, and noted the various Funds, sources of revenue and major expenditures that encompassed the Budget. President Ride concluded that, in order to meet expenses, the draft 2016 Budget included a millage increase of 0.33 mills.

At the request of Mayor Fescemyer, President Ride noted a recent change to increase funds for Police Department training. Mr. Whalen, Mayor Fescemyer and Chief DiSanti all requested additional funds for ammunition. There was some discussion among Council regarding the proposed increase. It was the consensus of Council to increase the funds for ammunition to \$2,100.00. Ms. Colianni asked about the discrepancy between gas and electric costs across departments. Ms. Jensen replied that the costs depended on the type of heating that these departments had in place, and that historical use rates were used to determine future expenditures.

President Ride reviewed the proposed budget for the Library Fund, and noted previous discussion on this matter that had occurred throughout 2015. President Ride highlighted Ms. Jensen's work with the Library Director and Library Board to address a \$49,000.00 hole in their budget. Ms. Jensen remarked that the Library would need to cut hours and programs to meet the draft Budget, unless Council Members wanted to increase funding to the Library. There was extensive discussion among Council Members regarding potentially increasing the Borough's allotment to the Library to \$100,000.00, a dedicated tax to the Library and the operational/capital costs of the Library over the last ten years. Mr. Briney likened the Library to a community center, and felt that Council needed to make sure it was financially sustainable. Ms. Colianni agreed that the Library was vital to the community, but stated that she did not have enough information to vote in favor of the funding increase to the Library. There was some minor discussion of increasing funding the Library by an additional \$35,000.00, but it was the consensus of Council to keep the General Fund allotment to the Library at \$275,000.00 in the 2016 Budget.

President Ride said that Council was now at the point of considering adoption of the 2016 Budget. A poll of Council found only Mr. Briney, Mrs. Friday and President Ride in favor of the draft 2016 Budget. After some discussion by Council Members, Ms. Jensen stated that she would go back to the initial 2016 Budget presented in November, which did not include a tax increase. Mr. Favo offered an alternative budget proposal, which included using money in the Capital Reserve Fund earmarked for the purchase of a new fire engine to repair existing OVFD vehicles. Mrs. Facaros was confident that the Borough could carry a deficit budget into 2016 and still be in good financial shape. Mr. Whalen worried about the impact of the 2016 Budget prepared in November on the Borough long-term capital program, and reiterated his desire to see a tax earmarked for the Library.

Mrs. Friday offered a motion to pass the draft 2016 Budget presented before Borough Council that evening.

Mr. Favo seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 3, with Ms. Colianni, Mrs. Facaros and Mr. Whalen voting "Nay". Mr. Favo repeated his opposition to a tax increase, but stated that the taxpayers of Oakmont were not served by government dysfunction. President Ride stated that a final vote on the Budget Ordinance would occur at the December 28, 2015 Special Meeting.

**Facebook Policy** – President Ride asked Chief DiSanti if there was a policy on the use of the Police Department's new Facebook page. Chief DiSanti replied that he was working with Solicitor Ott on clarifying how the page would be used, and a social media policy for employees. There was discussion among Council on posting rules and interactive features of the Facebook page, and its usefulness as a tool for disseminating information. President Ride deferred the discussion to the new Council taking over in 2016.

#### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

**Traffic Signal Agreement** – Ms. Colianni asked the status of the Traffic Signal Agreement with Speedway LLC. Solicitor Ott replied that she was waiting from a response from Speedway's legal counsel. Ms. Colianni asked if the lack of an agreement hindered the Borough from using the funds in the escrow account. Solicitor Ott responded that it did not, as the Borough was already in possession of the funds and under the direction of the Conditional Use Approval granted to Speedway LLC.

#### **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

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**Board/Commission Terms** – Ms. Jensen noted that a list of those Borough Board/Commission Members whose terms expire at the end of December 2015 was included in the weekend Council packet.

**Cell Tower Rental Fees** – Ms. Jensen reported that Crown Castle, which owns the cell tower lease on Ann Street, had recently informed the Borough that they would be reducing their rental payments to the Borough. Ms. Jensen and Solicitor Ott are working to resolve this situation.

**Cable Franchise Grant** – Ms. Jensen said she had received a letter from Comcast regarding the \$15,000.00 EG Grant that the Borough received under the Cable Franchise Agreement. Comcast has informed the Borough that it plans to pass the cost of this grant onto the Comcast subscribers in Oakmont, as per the Cable Franchise Agreement. Ms. Jensen stated she would like to give the remaining EG Grant money back to Comcast to negate this fee increase.

**Real Estate Tax Abatement** – Ms. Jensen reported that a resident of Edgewater had submitted a request seeking release from delinquent penalties and fees related to real estate taxes. Ms. Jensen stated that the property in question had an incorrect mailing address on the Allegheny County Assessment website, which led to them not receiving their tax bills from the Borough or Riverview School District. Solicitor Ott noted that the Deed to the property included the wrong address. President Ride stated that she hated to see property owner's penalized, but that past practice of the Borough was that responsibility to pay real estate tax always fell to the property owner.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**November Police Report** – Chief DiSanti reviewed portions of the November 2015 Police Report for those present, and noted that Police Department had received 360 calls for service and issued 160 Borough parking tickets. Chief DiSanti reported on patrols during Hometown Christmas, and the Police Department's new Facebook page. Chief DiSanti thanked President Ride and Ms. Colianni for their work on Council.

**November OVFD Report** – Fire Chief Carroll reported that the OVFD had 11 emergency calls in November 2015, and had received 183 calls from January through November. Chief Carroll reviewed the various fundraising avenues available to the OVFD: the Borough, residents through mailings and FEMA/PEMA grants. Chief Carroll discussed the needs of the OVFD in terms of vehicle maintenance and replacement, as well as grants the OVFD had received in recent years.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance and Budget Committee**

**October Warrants** – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Warrant List for November 2015, dated November 25, 2015, including expenditures totaling \$664,983.98 for all funds.

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Amount</i>
General Fund	\$1118,786.29
Boulevard Project Fund	\$583.30
Kerr Museum Fund	\$11,281.81
Library Fund	\$117,840.69
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$-0-
Sewer Fund	\$168,936.22
Capital Fund (Parks)	\$4,740.00
Capital Fund (Roads)	\$241,986.76
Capital Reserve Fund	\$828.91

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

**Resolution No. R39-2015, Setting Participant Contribution to the Police Pension Plan for 2016** – Mr. Whalen offered Resolution No. R39-2015 and moved for its adoption, a

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resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakmont, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, setting the Participant Contribution to the Police Pension Plan for 2016.

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

President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 33, Page 10, as **Resolution No. R39-2015**.

**Resolution No. R40-2015, Fixing Time and Place** – Mr. Whalen offered Resolution No. R40-2015, and moved for its adoption, a resolution fixing the time and place for a complete settlement of all taxes collected by the Tax Collector of the Borough of Oakmont for the Year 2015 shall be made.

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

President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 33, Page 11, as **Resolution No. R40-2015**.

**Engineering & Public Works Committee**

**Resolution No. R40-2015, Supplemental Winter Maintenance Agreement** – Mr. Favo offered Resolution No. R40-2015, and moved for its adoption, a Resolution authorizing and directing the proper Borough officials to sign the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Supplemental Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement for the Winter Seasons of 2015 through 2020..

Ms. Jensen explained that this supplemental agreement covered the plowing and salting of the new Hulton Bridge.

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

President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 33, Page 12, as **Resolution No. R40-2015**.

**Planning and Land Use Committee**

**River's Edge Modification** – Mr. Briney offered a motion to accept the recommendation of Oakmont Planning Commission to grant a modification to Brooks & Blair Waterfront Properties LP, to allow interior fireplaces to extend up to two (2) feet into the side yard setback for all lots in the River's Edge Plan.

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

**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**

**School Guard Resignation** – Ms. Colianni offered a motion to accept the resignation of School Crossing Guard Keara Campbell, effective immediately.

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

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Bertha Shearer** – Ms. Shearer expressed concern at the funding levels of the Police Department, and thanked President Ride and Ms. Colianni for their service to the community.

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**Mike Federici** – Mr. Federici discussed his recent experience with the use of the Police Department's Facebook page to help track down the owner of stray dog he encountered. Mr. Federici thanked President Ride and Ms. Colianni for their service to the community.

**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. Whalen offered a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Briney seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Cooper Jensen  
Borough Manager

Transcribed by:  
Ryan Jeroski