

Oakmont Borough Council
Minutes of the Special Meeting

240 (Final)
December 28, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The Special 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, Chief DiSanti; Borough Manager Jensen, Assistant Secretary Jeroski;

Excused: Solicitor Ott

Visitors: William Benusa, David Brownlee, Joanne Brownlee, David Carroll, George Coulter, Jane Miller, Paul Pastierik, Diane Sullivan and Gail Whalen

AGENDA ADDITIONS

There were no additions to the agenda that evening.

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

There were no registered speakers that evening.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Pennsylvania/ARB Intersection – President Ride asked Ms. Jensen to update those in attendance on the situation at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Allegheny River Boulevard. Ms. Jensen reported that the concrete underneath the brick roadway had degraded to the point where it buckled after a car drove over it. Repairs to the intersection are underway, and expected to take another week. There was some discussion on using the excess cash balances from 2015 on the project, as well as future projects. President Ride recommended that Council Members wait until January 2016 to get the final budget numbers before making such decisions. Ms. Colianni asked if the repair work includes replacement of the bricks at the intersection. Ms. Jensen replied that the contractor was cleaning and reusing the existing bricks.

Ordinance No. O42-2015, 2016 Budget – President Ride gave a brief overview of the final draft of the 2016 Budget before Council that evening. President Ride noted that the Borough's millage would increase from 3.4 to 3.73 in 2016 in order to cover expenses.

President Ride opened the floor to a motion to adopt the Borough's 2016 Budget. Mr. Briney offered Ordinance No. O47-2014, and moved for its enactment, an ordinance levying and assessing taxes and making appropriations for the 2016 Budget.

Mr. Whalen noted that he had provided Council Members with two memos. The first memo was a request for \$10,000.00 to match a \$30,000.00 grant from the District Attorney's Office to provide traffic cameras with license plate readers on the new Hulton Bridge. Mr. Whalen felt this could be paid with an additional millage increase or cash balances from 2015. President Ride asked that this discussion should be held in January 2016, when Council Members would have a clear picture of the Borough's cash balances,

and that the District Attorney's reports on these traffic cameras be made available to Council Members.

In reviewing his second memo, Mr. Whalen stated that he was in favor of a tax increase, but against the tax increase presented that evening. Mr. Whalen felt that the budget process was flawed, and that more taxes beyond the increase proposed in the 2016 Budget were needed in order to meet operational expenses and needed capital items. Mr. Whalen concluded by stating that the Borough could not keep kicking capital plans down the road.

Ms. Colianni also expressed her opposition to the 2016 Budget and a millage increase. Ms. Colianni stated that she did not believe enough spending cuts had been examined in each department, and was disappointed that the Police Department had not received many of their capital funding requests.

Mr. Favo stated that he would be voting for 2016 Budget, even though he felt that a tax increase was not necessary. Mr. Favo felt that government dysfunction over a budget did not serve the residents of the Borough, and that there was enough of such dysfunction at the state level.

President Ride remarked that the millage increase was a way to set more money aside for long-range plans/projects, and that this was the major reason she would vote for the 2016 Budget.

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

President Ride declared the Ordinance enacted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 33, Page 13, as **Ordinance No. O42-2015**.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no Solicitor's Report that evening.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Jensen had nothing to report that evening.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fescemyer had nothing to report that evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Budget Committee

Act 511 Taxes – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to re-enact all Act 511 Taxes at existing rates for 2016.

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

Schedule of Salaries – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Schedule of Salaries and Hourly Rates for 2016.

Mr. Whalen asked about cuts to the part-time staff at the Oakmont Carnegie Library. Ms. Jensen replied that the impact of the cuts would be that hours of operation at the library would be cut from 53 hours per week in 2015 to 45 hours per week in 2016. President Ride noted that no personnel would be cut at the library. Mr. Whalen asked about a change in an Operator's salary at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ms. Jensen replied that this Operator has just received his certification, and his salary increased as a result.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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Diane Sullivan – Ms. Sullivan remarked that services at the Oakmont Carnegie Library had expanded in recent years, and that volunteers are working extra hours at the library for extra programming. Ms. Jensen stated that one of her goals in 2016 was to have frequent meetings with Oakmont Carnegie Library Board and Borough Council to discuss finances. President Ride remarked that the General Fund was giving the Library Fund \$275,000.00 in 2016.

Jane Miller – Ms. Miller expressed her support for the Police Department Facebook page, as it recently helped notify residents of robberies at Subway and Rite Aid.

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

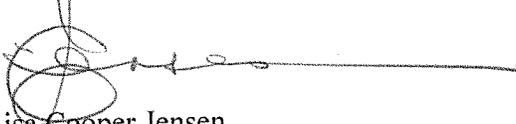
There were no Miscellaneous Items that evening.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Cooper Jensen
Borough Manager

Transcribed by:
Ryan Jeroski