

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

**133 (Final)**  
**July 14, 2014**

**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; Borough Manager Jensen, Assistant Secretary Ryan Jeroski; Attorney Charles Means

Excused: Mayor Fescemyer, Chief DiSanti, Solicitor Ott

Visitors: Mike Demsey, Donna DeTurck, William DeTurck, Joseph DiMario, Jeffrey Kline, Lawrence Miguez, Rose O'Connor, Shelly Shadle, Bertha Shearer, Summer Tissue, Richard Williams and Carolyn Yagle

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

Ms. Jensen asked that "301-303 Allegheny Avenue Occupancy Permit" be added under Executive Session and "Approval for 2014-2015 HDH Insurance Proposal" be added under Finance and Budget Committee. Mrs. Facaros offered a motion to add these items to the Agenda.

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

**PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP HEARING**

The Public Hearing for the Borough's proposed *Zoning Ordinance* and Zoning Map was convened at 7:04 PM.

[A complete transcript of the Hearing is attached hereto.]

Council re-convened the Regular Meeting at 7:53 PM.

**REGISTERED SPEAKERS**

There were no registered comments to start the meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Lawrence Miguez** – Mr. Miguez asked when the crosswalks at the intersections of Archie Street and Third Street and Archie Street and Allegheny Avenue would be repainted. Ms. Jensen said that the line painting crew was in the process of repainting traffic lines throughout the Borough.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Announcements** – President Ride remarked that Council Members had toured the OVFD and Kerr Museum. President Ride made note of the strong financial position and future capital plans of the Kerr Museum. Mrs. Friday felt that the Kerr Museum was a testament to volunteerism in Oakmont.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Attorney Means, in place of Solicitor Ott, reviewed the written Solicitor's Report he submitted to Council.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Zoning of Borough Property** – Ms. Jensen read a memo, dated July 9, 2014, from William and Donna DeTurck requesting that Council consider re-zoning the former Benjamin Moore Paint property (Lot & Block #362-G-360), now owned by the Borough of Oakmont, from Industrial to R-3 Residential. Mr. and Mrs. DeTurck felt that this re-zoning would provide a buffer for residential uses in the Morris Estates area. Mr. Briney remarked that re-zoning of the property may not provide the Borough flexibility in using the property at a later date. Mr. Briney recommended a deed covenant that would provide a permanent conservation element for the property. Mr. Favo noted that the existing deed for the property did not allow for residential development.

**BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT**

**Pool Sewage Credit** – Ms. Jensen said that the Borough currently provided a one-time sewage rebate for residents filling their pools, and proposed that Council consider providing continuous rebates to residents filling their pools. Ms. Jensen noted that over seven years, the Borough had provided roughly \$3,800.00 in sewage fee credits. Ms. Jensen remarked that pool liners and portable pools did not exist prior to the adoption of the one-time rebate policy. There was discussion among Council regarding this issue. Ms. Colianni asked if Ms. Jensen could research how other municipalities handle sewage rebates for pools, which Ms. Jensen said she would provide next month.

**Emergency Generator** – Ms. Jensen reported that she had met with the Borough’s electrical engineering consultant and Mr. Briney to figure ways to cut costs on the replacement of the municipal building emergency generator. Ms. Jensen stated that she was going to try to cost out the purchase of an emergency generator through the COSTARS Purchasing Program, and then having a contractor install the generator. Ms. Jensen concluded that she would compare cost to the low-bid received from the previous bidding on the project.

**Garden Club Donation** – Ms. Jensen reported that the Garden Club of Oakmont wanted to donate \$4,000.00 from their successful Garden Tour to the Borough. Mr. Favo noted that the trees recently planted in the 600 block of Allegheny River Boulevard appeared dead. Mrs. Friday noted on-going discussions to widen the tree wells in front of 666 Allegheny River Boulevard as another potential use for the Garden Club funds.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

**June Police Report** – In the absence of Mayor Fescemyer and Chief DiSanti, President Ride asked Council Members to review the June 2014 Police Report.

**June OVFD Report** – The June 2014 OVFD Report was reviewed at the July Work Session.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**June 9, 2014 Minutes** – Ms. Colianni asked that the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of June 9, 2014 be amended to reflect the rationale behind the “Nay” votes regarding designated off-leash area for dogs in Dark Hollow Woods Park. President Ride noted that the June 9, 2014 Minutes would need to be passed at the August Regular Meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance and Budget Committee**

**Warrants** – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Warrant List for June 2014, dated June 30, 2014, and showing the following expenditures:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Fund	\$837,900.96
Boulevard Project Fund	\$9,164.45

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

**135 (Final)**  
**July 14, 2014**

Kerr Museum Fund	\$2,990.02
Library Fund	\$30,673.42
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$232.19
Sewer Fund	\$88,801.21
Capital Fund (Parks)	\$1,656.69
Capital Fund (Roads)	\$ -0-
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ -0-

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

**Pension Investment Strategy** – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to accept the recommendation of Manning & Napier Advisors, Inc. to move the Borough of Oakmont Police Pension Plan and General Employees Plan into a “Growth with Reduced Volatility Investment Strategy,” permitting 20% to 60% investment in equities. There was extensive discussion among Council on the rate of return of the new investment strategy, the inherent risk in the strategy, and the impact on the Minimum Municipal Obligation to the pension funds. Ms. Colianni expressed her confidence in the recommendation of Manning & Napier. President Ride remarked that she thought the recommended strategy was only slightly more aggressive than the Borough’s current pension investment strategy. Mr. Favio expressed concern over an aggressive investment strategy, fearing the impact of the strategy during an economic downturn, coupled with reduced Real Estate Tax and Earned Income Tax collections, could lead to a substantially higher MMO.

Mrs. Facaros seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 1, with Mr. Favio voting “Nay”. In explaining his vote, Mr. Favio said that the history of the past few years had shown public pension plans got into trouble by investing more aggressively.

**Investment in Equities** – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to limit equity investment of the Borough of Oakmont Police and General Employees Pension Plans to 45%. There was further discussion among Council about the percentage on which to cap equity investment, and the rationale behind a 45% cap.

Ms. Colianni seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 1, with Mr. Favio voting “Nay”.

**Treasurer’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report** – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to add the Treasurer’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2014 Report to the Minutes of the July 14, 2014 Regular Meeting of Borough Council.

Ms. Colianni seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0. A copy of the report follows these Minutes.

**HDH Insurance Proposal** – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to accept the insurance proposal of the HDH Group to the Borough of Oakmont, effective August 1, 2014. Mr. Whalen asked how comprehensive the insurance plan was. Ms. Jensen replied that it covered everything except health insurance. Ms. Colianni asked if the insurance proposal had been bid-out through COSTARS. Ms. Jensen replied that it had not. President Ride noted that the Borough had priced out insurance plans several years ago, and that HDH was by far the best deal for the Borough. Ms. Jensen noted that only HDH offered a pooled fund that produced dividends for the Borough based upon insurance and worker’s compensation claims.

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

**Public Safety Committee**

Ms. Colianni had nothing to report that evening.

**Planning and Land Use Committee**

**Brooks & Blair Revised Subdivision Plan** – Mr. Briney offered a motion to accept the recommendation of the Oakmont Planning Commission to approve the Revised Subdivision Plan of Brooks & Blair Waterfront Properties, L.P. for the River Edge Plan.

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

**136 (Final)**  
**July 14, 2014**

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

**Engineering and Public Works Committee**

Mr. Favo had nothing to report that evening.

**Personnel, Boulevard Project and Shade Tree Committee**

Mrs. Friday had nothing to report that evening.

**Culture, Library, & Recreation Committee**

**Library Endowment Fund** – Mrs. Facaros offered a motion to accept the recommendation of the Oakmont Carnegie Library Board to invest the funds held in the Wells Fargo Endowment Fund into a “Moderate Growth Source Fund” with Wells Fargo.

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

**Newsletter** – Mrs. Facaros asked for any articles for the Oakmont Community Foundation newsletter to be submitted by July 15.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Bertha Shearer** – Ms. Shearer asked if the proposed *Zoning Ordinance* was available to Borough residents. Ms. Jensen replied that it was available at the Borough Offices. Ms. Shearer remarked on the high weeds on the patch of land between Allegheny Avenue and Allegheny River Boulevard, north of Hulton Road, and showed Council Members a tall weed she had pulled from that property. Ms. Jensen noted that the Borough had a contract with a landscaping company to cut the grass on that property. Ms. Shearer asked why the property south of Hulton Road was cut more often. Ms. Jensen noted that this area was part of the Oakmont Boulevard Project, and that the landscaping company was doing far more than cutting grass in that area. There was brief discussion among Council about the maintenance of this portion of property near Ms. Shearer’s home.

**Richard Williams** – Mr. Williams asked that Council ensure the grass in this area gets cut.

**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**

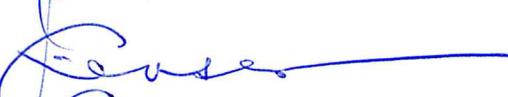
There were no Miscellaneous Items that evening.

**ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Cooper Jensen  
Borough Manager

Transcribed by:  
Ryan Jeroski