Oakmont Borough Council
Minutes of the Special Meeting

November 18, 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; Mayor Fescemyer; Borough Manager Jensen, Assistant Secretary Jeroski;

Excused: Mayor Fescemyer, Solicitor Ott

Visitors: George Coulter, Mark Gleeson, Elaine Luthor, Sue Martin, Samuel Seem and Jeff Young

AGENDA ADDITIONS

President Ride said she would entertain a motion to add a very brief discussion in Executive Session on the Borough's acceptance of Creekside Park from Kacin Companies, to the agenda.

Mr. Favo offered a motion to add acceptance of Creekside Park to the agenda under Executive Session.

Mr. Briney seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 1. In explaining her Nay vote, Ms. Colianni said she felt the matter should be discussed in public.

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

There were no registered speakers that evening.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Budget Committee

Resolution No. R40-2014, Bond Self-Reporting – Mr. Whalen offered Resolution No. R40-2014, and moved for its adoption, a resolution authorizing the Borough to participate in the Municipal Continuing Disclosure Cooperation Initiative and to file relevant reports with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

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

President Ride declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 32, Page 56, as **Resolution No. R40-2014**.

2015 Budget – Mr. Whalen noted the purpose of the meeting was to get a handle on the Draft 2015 Budget for the Borough. There was discussion among Council Members as to how to approach balancing the 2015 Budget, prioritization of expenditures and separating capital expenditures from operating expenditures in the budget.

Ms. Colianni asked Ms. Jensen to review the projected 2015 revenues in the General Fund. Ms. Jensen noted that Real Estate Tax was based upon numbers from the Allegheny County Property Assessment. Ms. Jensen reviewed the figures for the Borough's Act 511 Taxes, Real Estate Transfer Tax, fines and forfeitures, state aid, rental incomes, funds from the Regional Asset District, fees for building permits, shade tree reimbursements, and miscellaneous revenue. Council Members discussed the impact of the Edgewater redevelopment on Real Estate Tax and Earned Income Tax. Ms. Jensen remarked that Council would need to adopt a new Schedule of Fees in 2015, and that she felt some fees were low and be raised to generate additional income.

Mr. Whalen remarked that he believed the revenue estimate looked good, though it could be raised marginally, and asked about the $113,000.00 due from the Sewer Fund to the General Fund. President Ride gave the history of the loan, and noted that its payback to the General Fund had been flexible over the years.

Ms. Colianni asked Ms. Jensen to suggest expenditures that could be cut from the Draft 2015 General Fund Budget. Ms. Jensen reviewed expenditures marked in the 2015 General Fund that could be deferred, including: new telephones for the Administration, paving of the Borough parking lot and repair of sidewalks around the Borough Building, replacement of the flagpole at the Borough Building, expansion of the Police Department, a carport for the municipal parking lot, replacement of two police vehicles, repairs to the Street Department, and replacement of equipment at the Street Department and Parks Department. There was a brief discussion among Council and Ms. Jensen about salaries for non-union employees and subsequent raises.

Council reviewed General Fund transfers to other funds. Mr. Favo recommended cutting $200,000.00 from the allotment to the Capital Fund (Roads). President Ride asked that the $70,000.00 transfer to the Capital Reserve, for a traffic signal near Edgewater and future purchase of a new fire truck, be eliminated at that time.

Ms. Jensen next reviewed the Boulevard Project Fund's draft budget, and noted the $74,000.00 in planned expenditures for the Hulton Road Corridor Project. Council discussed the merit of across-the-board cuts to departments and fund allocations. Mr. Whalen and Mrs. Friday felt that across-the-board cuts should be avoided in favor of a reallocation of resources.

Ms. Jensen reported that the Kerr Museum was in good financial position, with nearly $265,000.00 in their fund balance.

During her review of the Library Fund, Ms. Jensen noted that the Library augments their allocation from the General Fund with their own fundraising efforts. Ms. Jensen added that the draft budget included an allocation of $250,000.00 from the General Fund to the Library Fund, a $25,000.00 increase from 2014. Mr. Whalen noted that the Library Fund draft budget still showed a $61,000.00 deficit. George Coulter and Mrs. Facaros discussed the Library Board and staff's efforts to get Verona's Regional Asset District allocation redistributed to the Oakmont Carnegie Library. Mr. Coulter and Ms. Jensen remarked on the Library's efforts to increase their donations.

Council next examined the Sewer Fund's draft budget. Mr. Favo noted that he felt the Sewer Fund budget was very well run, and had projected deficits in previous years that worked out to surpluses at the end of those years. Mr. Favo added that Garbage Fees would need to be increased, due to the cost of the new five-year contract the Borough just entered into with Republic Services. There was discussion of the use of sewer tap-in fees for capital or operational expenditures. President Ride asked that Ms. Jensen confirm revenues from Sewage Fees were covering costs.

Ms. Jensen reviewed the draft Capital Fund (Parks) budget, and noted that the fund was in good shape after a year of saving revenue. Ms. Jensen added that installation of electrical switchgear, fencing at Dark Hollow Woods Park, and a new gate at Riverside Park were some of the big ticket capital items.

The Capital Fund (Roads) was next examined by Council. There was discussion on the budgeted drainage improvements and paving for Cedar Way and prioritization of the paving and brick work on Allegheny River Boulevard given the $200,000.00 decrease from the General Fund allotment.

Ms. Jensen remarked that there was nothing major to report on the draft Capital Reserve budget.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Elaine Luthor – Ms. Luthor offered suggestions to Council on how to approach budgeting and prioritization. Ms. Luthor felt that salary increases for residents would push Earned Income Tax revenue higher than the budgeted amount.

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 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cooper Jensen
Borough Manager

Transcribed by:
Ryan Jeroski