

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of Oakmont Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Briney 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 Benusa, Coulter, Facaros, Favo, Friday, Whalen, and President Briney; Mayor Fescemyer; Solicitor Turnbull; and Borough Manager Jensen

Excused: None

Visitors: Joanne Brownlee, Mike DiVittorio, Gladys Ferrante, Betsey Ford, Jack Ford, Leah Ford, Craig Hartmann, Laura Lamouree, Jeffrey McCarlay, Jim Trangle, Laura Sliben, Anita Raible, Stephanie Raible, Tom Raible, William Wengerd, Joe Young, M.D., Wanda Young, Ph.D., William Dennis Zerega, Don Ziegler

APPOINTMENT - POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL J. FORD

Mr. Coulter offered a motion to ratify the appointment of Michael J. Ford to the position of Chief of Police of the Borough of Oakmont, contingent upon the finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding and the taking of a Non-Competitive Examination through the Civil Service Commission.

Mrs. Friday seconded the motion.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

Chief Ford was sworn in by Mayor Fescemyer and received a name plate for his work desk from the Borough. Chief Ford thanked his wife, Betsey, for her support and the Borough for the opportunity to serve as Chief.

REGISTERED COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Treasurer's 4th Quarter Report – Treasurer Favo presented his 4th Quarter Report. The Treasurer remarked that Earned Income, property and real estate transfer taxes were Oakmont's greatest source of revenue.

Friends of the Riverfront, Kayak Park Update – Jeff McCauley, Director of Stewardship for Friends of the Riverfront, presented to Council an overview of plans to install a kayak launch site at 1045 Allegheny Avenue.

Mr. Whalen asked which design matched the estimated budget of \$103,000. Mr. McCauley said that amount corresponded with the short term plan. The long term plan included a pavilion and more landscaping, which would be an additional \$80,000-\$90,000.

Mr. Favo inquired into the removal of the stone wall – the “riprap wall,” holding up the riverbank. Mr. McCauley believed that around 20 feet of wall would need to be

removed and that the planning consultants, Environmental Planning & Design (EPD), did not think that erosion would be a problem. Messrs. Favo, Benusa, and Briney asked for more detailed engineering and environmental plans and drawings from EPD before any design decisions could be finalized on the Kayak Park.

Messrs. Favo and Benusa wanted to see another option where the riverfront wall was not disturbed. Mr. Whalen asked about fencing between the proposed park and the Brenntag property. Mr. McCauley said that no fence was included in the design budget. President Briney said he was not aware of any fencing requirements but that Brenntag may see it as a security issue. Mayor Fescemyer wanted assurances that Brenntag was aware of the Kayak Park plans. Mr. McCauley said he had not approached Brenntag yet.

Mr. Coulter felt encouraged that the park plan was a good idea, but that Council still needed more details.

President Briney requested that Mr. McCauley bring this information before Council at the next Work Session. Mr. Benusa requested that surrounding residents be notified of this public meeting, as well. President Briney also requested some discussion on the sustainable features of this park, for the Work Session.

Manager Jensen reminded Council and Mr. McCauley that the next Work Session would be February 6, 2017.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Joanne Brownlee, as a member of the Library Board, spoke to Council about the plans to lay claim to funds from the Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA) to cover our Library's service to Verona residents. She estimated the funds to be around \$3,000-\$4,000. Ms. Brownlee advised Council about the Printer On program, allowing patrons to download a document via email to the Library for printing. She believed this program was to start around February.

Ms. Brownlee also reported on the "Pop-Up Library" in Verona, saying it was going very well and that it was funded through May 2017. She added that Riverview School District (RSD) would be paying to man the Pop-Up for the next two years.

Ms. Brownlee also addressed the Library's 2017 goals including the HVAC system repairs, installation of storm water drains, and installation of more security measures. Ms. Brownlee announced that the annual Taste of Two Towns fundraiser would be held on May 21 this year.

She also expressed concern that the amount of funding received from the Regional Asset District (RAD) was in part dependent upon a minimum of 12% of the Library's budget going towards books. She pointed out that the Library had been unable to do this over the last two years, and they feared that RAD funding for Oakmont might be reduced because of this. She said we had been averaging 8% - 9% for books over the last couple of years.

Mr. Whalen asked about keeping the Library open longer. Ms. Brownlee said it would be discussed and evaluated at the June Board meeting. Ms. Jensen said she had discussed this possibility with the Board chair, Deb Ormay. Mr. Coulter asked for an estimate on payroll costs with increased hours by next Council meeting.

James Joyce addressed Council and volunteered his services as an engineer on the Kayak Park design. President Briney asked Recreation Board Chair, Tom Bland, who was present, to work with Mr. Joyce. Messrs. Coulter and Favo thanked Mr. Joyce for his participation.

Craig Hartmann, who lives on Maple Way, wanted to inform Council that there was a dangerous structure on his street that he wanted demolished. President Briney said that Council would follow up on the issue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 5, 2016 Minutes – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 5, 2016.
Mr. Coulter seconded the motion.

Mr. Benusa wanted the sentence on Page 14 removed about the Solicitor asking him for an email. There was no opposition from Council.

The motion, as amended, passed 7 to 0.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

There were no remarks.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Turnbull had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Chief Ford commented that the two new full-time officers recently hired were doing well. He also stated that the Oakmont Police Department's NARCAN Program was up and running, and that all Oakmont officers were now carrying the medication.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

The Borough Manager had nothing to report.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Finance & Technology

December Warrants – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Warrant List for December 2016, dated December 31, 2016, including expenditures totaling **\$363,342.36** for all funds:

Fund	Amount
General Fund	\$111,553.80
Boulevard Project Fund	\$4,820.87
Kerr Museum Fund	\$2,266.89
Library Fund	\$55,024.90
Liquid Fuels Fund	-0-
Sewer Fund	\$138,143.24
Capital Fund (Parks)	\$18,704.73
Capital Fund (Roads)	\$32,827.93
Capital Reserve Fund	-0-

Mr. Coulter seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Anonymous Cash Donation - Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve a specified cash donation of \$30.00 to the Borough by an anonymous donor.

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

President Briney thanked the anonymous donor on behalf of Council.

Environment

There was nothing to report.

Public Safety

Civil Service Examination Process – Mr. Coulter offered a motion to ratify the initiation of the Civil Service Examination process for the position of Patrol Officer with the Oakmont Borough Police department.

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

T. J. Anderson to Oakmont Volunteer Fire Department Eligibility List – Mr. Coulter offered a motion to authorize the addition of Tyler J. Anderson to the Oakmont Volunteer Fire Department Eligibility List.

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

President Briney appreciated the willingness of Mr. Anderson to serve as a Volunteer Firefighter.

Education/Recreation

Oakmont Recreation Board – Mrs. Facaros offered a motion to accept the resignation of Doug Myers from the Oakmont Recreation Board.

Mr. Whalen seconded the motion, which passed 6 to 1, with Mr. Favo opposing the motion.

President Briney asked Oakmont Recreation Board Chair Tom Bland, who was present, to thank Mr. Myers for his years of service.

Oakmont Recreation Board Annual Fundraising – Mrs. Facaros offered a motion to authorize the Oakmont Recreation Board to begin an annual fundraising mailing campaign to fund parks improvements, at an estimated \$1,200 in mailing costs.

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

Plum Creek Trail Project – Mrs. Facaros gave an overview of the Plum Creek Trail project, and suggested that Mr. Tom Bland could answer any questions that Council had. There were no questions.

Plum Creek Trail Grant - Mrs. Facaros offered a motion to authorize Bankson Engineering to file a CFA grant application for the Plum Creek Trail Project, not to exceed \$3,000 in fees.

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

Public Works

Oakmont Borough Engineer – Mr. Favo offered a motion to reappoint Senate Engineering Company as the Oakmont Borough Engineer for 2017, per the Rate Schedule, dated January 1, 2017.

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

Mr. Favo asked the Borough Manager to distribute copies of the 2017 budget to Council. Ms. Jensen agreed.

Mr. Favo said he no longer wished to use the Capital Reserve Emergency Fund, even partially, to pay for the new fire engine. He felt that there would be sufficient funds to pay for the new fire engine without using the Emergency Funds.

Mr. Whalen wanted to know if Council should endeavor to change the 2017 Budget to reflect this change. Manager Jensen said this could easily be done internally within the Fund, so reopening the Budget was not necessary.

Mr. Favo offered a motion not to draw off \$191,000 of the Capital Reserve Funds Emergency Reserve to pay for the new fire engine, so that the Emergency Reserves remained at \$300,000.

Mr. Whalen seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.
As well, Mr. Favo said he thought \$250,000 was too much money in the Capital (Roads) Fund for storm water repairs. He proposed that this amount be revisited in June, and if possible, that \$50,000 of it be moved to paving, instead.

Mr. Favo said he would be happy to meet with the Oakmont Volunteer Fire Department to discuss the Fire Department setting up a reserve fund for the next fire truck purchase. President Briney said he would talk to Fire Chief Dave Carroll about this first.

Administration/Culture

Oakmont Borough Council Solicitor – Mrs. Friday offered a motion to reappoint Goehring Rutter & Boehm as the Oakmont Borough Solicitor for 2017, at a rate of \$175.00 per hour for experienced lawyers and \$150.00 per hour for associates.

Mr. Benusa seconded the motion. Mr. Whalen asked if this motion implies the inclusion of the retainer fees for meetings and wanted it amended to include the retainer amount consistent with the proposal.

Mrs. Friday retracted her motion.

Mrs. Friday offered a motion to reappoint Goehring Rutter & Boehm as Oakmont Borough Solicitor, as per the submitted proposal, dated December 26, 2016.

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

Job Descriptions – Mrs. Friday said presenting the completed job descriptions to Council would be deferred pending consideration of comments from the Borough Solicitor. Mr. Whalen said he also had comments and was told to send them to the Borough Manager. He also brought up the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent's status as a consultant. Manager Jensen said this topic was on the Executive Session for tonight and would be discussed further then as a personnel matter.

Park Annual Report – Mrs. Friday noted the Park Superintendent had reported concerns about maintenance issues at the Park, and she wanted to know how to address those concerns. Manager Jensen stated that some of the repair issues were already budgeted for 2017. Ms. Jensen will review Mr. Springer's year-end report.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

There were none.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Wanda Young asked about Peter Dailey's code violations and if Council had received a remediation plan for removing water from her property. Solicitor Turnbull addressed Mrs. Young to say that negotiations were close to being resolved and that Attorney Diersen would be advising Council on the negotiation status when Council meets next.

Manager Jensen said that Code Enforcement Agency (CEA) had issued multiple citations and that the Borough Engineer had already issued his recommendations for addressing the water run-off problem and that February 6 was the deadline for the remediation plan. Mrs. Young wanted Council to provide a due date for the remediation; Solicitor Turnbull stated that Council may not be able to do that.

Dr. Young said he was bothered that no one was looking at the full picture on this in terms of its precedence-setting nature and in preventing this land issue from happening again in Oakmont, and in terms of its effect on the whole community.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct that evening, Mr. Coulter offered a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cooper Jensen
Borough Manager

Transcribed by:
Carol Moore