

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

**57 (Final)**  
**May 15, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of Oakmont Borough Council was called to order at 7:00PM 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; Solicitor Turnbull; and Borough Manager Jensen

Excused: Mayor Fescemyer

Visitors: Dave Carroll, John Griffin Conley, John Conrad, Carrie DelRosso, John Fitzgerald, Dave Ivanek, Justin Lokay, Elaine Luther, Joe McAndrew, Ralph McIntyre, Jane Miller, Deborah Ormay, Leah Powers, Nancy Ride, William Wengerd, Joseph Young, Wanda Young

**BID OPENINGS**

**Plum Creek Bar Gravel Removal** - Manager Jensen opened the bids received for the Plum Creek Bar Gravel Removal. The bids were as follows:

BIDDER	BID AMOUNT	BID BOND
C. Crump, Inc.	\$76,300	10%
Gregori Construction, Inc.	\$166,000	10%
Holbein Excavating, Inc.	\$164,089	10%

The bids were sent to Bankson Engineers' Dave Ivanek, for review. The Contract will be awarded at the June 19, 2017 Regular Meeting.

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**WWTP Mechanical Bar Screen Installation** – Manager Jensen opened the bids received for the Mechanical Bar Screen Installation. The bids were as follows:

BIDDER	BID AMOUNT	BID BOND
JP Environmental, LLC	\$92,200	10%
Kukurin Contracting, Inc.	\$135,531	10%
Lone Pine Construction, Inc.	\$127,415	10%
RJMC, Inc.	\$128,000	10%

The bids were sent to James Bowser, P.E. of Hatch Chester Engineers, and Joe Rakowski, WWTP Superintendent, for review.

The Contract will be awarded at the Regular Meeting of June 19, 2017.

**REGISTERED SPEAKERS**

There were none this evening.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Elaine Luther** – Ms. Luther requested that Council provide residents with an outlet to distribute important news, such as issues concerning crime.

**Deborah Ormay** – Ms. Ormay addressed Council concerning a Oakmont Carnegie Library patron who had been helped by the Library Director.

**John Fitzgerald** – Mr. Fitzgerald described to Council the poor condition of the curbs along the 500 block of Tenth Street. President Briney said he would have the Borough Street Crew would look into it.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**April 17, 2017 Minutes** – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2017, as written.

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

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Jensen read an email, dated May 8, 2017, from Chamber Director Summer Tissue regarding recycling American flags. She asked if Council would let them place a collection receptacle at the Municipal Building. Council permitted the request.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

**Sale of the Retired Fire Truck** -President Briney turned over the conversation to Dave Carroll, Oakmont Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD) Chief to talk about the trading in of the old fire truck. Mr. Carroll asked Council for approval to sell the fire truck within a range of \$10,000 to \$20,000. He said he has until October 2017 to sell the old fire truck before the new one would be delivered.

Mr. Favio asked Manager Jensen if there were any requirements for this sale. Ms. Jensen responded that since this was not a contract, it needed no bid. Ms. Jensen suggested using Municibid to Chief Carroll, which is designed to competitively sell municipal equipment online.

The Chief said that he would provide the specs and any interested parties' contact information to Manager Jensen to send out.

Chief Carroll told Council that it would take approximately 48 hours to prepare the fire truck to sell. He wanted to set the minimum bid at \$10,000, to which Council agreed.

Solicitor Turnbull mentioned to Council that there may be a legal component to the sale of Borough property and that she would research any requirements.

Mr. Favio offered a motion for the Borough of Oakmont to offer the used fire truck for sale through Municibid.

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

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

**County CDBG and HOME Programs** – Solicitor Turnbull discussed a communication from Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) about maintaining involvement with the CDBG and HOME programs. The ACED has implemented a new way to enroll in these programs. The Borough will discuss

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that at the June Work Session, and must put up a resolution for adoption at the next Regular Meeting June 19, 2017.

Mr. Benusa confirmed with Solicitor Turnbull that the CDBG was administered through the COG. Mr. Benusa wanted confirmation from Manager Jensen that the AVNCOG are in favor of enrollment as well.

Mr. Whalen stated that what the Borough does individually would not affect others within the AVNCOG. Ms. Jensen stated she would discuss with the Director, Tom Benecki.

President Briney asked Ms. Jensen to report back to Council at the June 5<sup>th</sup> Work Session.

**Act 172 Tax Incentive for New Fire Fighters** – Solicitor Turnbull distributed to Council, a draft ordinance and press release relating to Act 172.

Manager Jensen gave the public an overview of Act 172, which permits tax abatements for volunteer fire fighters.

Solicitor Turnbull said the State Fire Commission is developing the criteria for participation and there needed to be cooperation between the municipality and the Volunteer operations. She said the Allegheny North Tax Collection Committee was working on developing Earned Income Tax credit forms to accommodate the abatement.

Mr. Benusa asked if this was just for municipalities' taxes or did it include school taxes, as well. Solicitor Turnbull believed that only municipalities were involved. Mr. Favo suggested the use of a flat number for the credit since some volunteers are homeowners and others are not.

Chief Carroll noted that it would be more work to administer this, but that recruitment might also increase. The OVFD currently has 19 members out of the chartered 25 members. Chief Carroll appreciated that Council was researching this tax break.

This will be discussed further at the next Work Session.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

In the Mayor's absence, Mr. Whalen asked Chief Ford about the number of heroin overdoses this year. Chief Ford said there has been one fatal and 2 reversed overdoses so far.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Huntley & Huntley Public Meeting** – Manager Jensen announced that there will be a public meeting on May 30, 2017 at the Borough Chambers at 7PM to explain their proposed plan to perform seismic exploration in Oakmont. Mr. Coulter asked if this notice was on the website, Ms. Jensen said yes.

**Creekside Park Parking Lot** – Manager Jensen told Council that the Oakmont Recreation Board wanted to install bollards along the border of Creekside Park to alleviate confusion with parking. Dave Ivanek from Bankson Engineers said he would provide a map of the Park to Council, in which 81 parking spaces are delineated.

It was suggested that Riverview Athletic Association (RAA) or Twin Boros members direct people into the parking lot so that more cars could fit into the lot.

Chief Ford said there were no places to install “No Parking” signs.

Ms. Jensen said she would speak with the Recreation Board about parking options.

**Proposed Zoning Amendments** – Manager Jensen asked Council to review the five zoning amendments recommended for approval by the Planning Commission to discuss at the June 5 Work Session. She requested that Council review the amendments that were included in their May 12 packets.

She said that there were still four more amendments being reviewed by the Planning Commission, and that she would prefer to hold the a Public Meeting for all nine at once, if agreeable to Council.

**Gas Station Remediation** – Ms. Jensen informed Council that Synergy Environmental, Inc. was to begin gas tank remediation work on the vacant Exxon gas station on Allegheny Avenue. She also stated that the Borough had cited the owners for high grass and the poor condition of the property, in general. She requested that Synergy provide information on their remediation plans for Council.

**Proposed Flag Collection Site** – Ms. Jensen continued the earlier discussion from correspondence about placement of the flag receptacle at the Municipal Building. Ms. Jensen said it would look like a red mailbox. Mr. Benusa suggested it be placed near the Library or War Memorial. Mr. Whalen wanted it to be aesthetically pleasing, too. Council concluded that they did not object to having a flag box at the Municipal Building.

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Mr. Benusa wanted to know the timeline for placement and who would be responsible for maintenance.

Ms. Jensen will update the Chamber of Commerce on Council's response.

**Plum Creek Grant, Phase II** - Ms. Jensen explained the resolution on the Agenda tonight was authorizing a Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) grant application. Mr. Dave Ivanek was overseeing this grant that included the Pump Track and the extension of the Plum Creek Trail.

**Oakmont Bakery** – Ms. Jensen reported on the review of the Allegheny County Planning Department regarding the plans for the new Oakmont Bakery. The comments highlighted some serious issues that will need to be rectified before progressing. Engineer Ivanek reported that they were redesigning the entire configuration and will need to go again before the Planning Commission.

**COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS**

**Finance & Technology**

**March Warrants** – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Warrant List for April 2017, dated April 30, 2017, including expenditures totaling **\$373,382.67** for all funds:

Fund	Amount
General Fund	\$129,436.22
Boulevard Project Fund	\$11,057.13
Kerr Museum Fund	\$1,991.98
Library Fund	\$23,318.11
Liquid Fuels Fund	-0-
Sewer Fund	\$102,743.85
Capital Fund (Parks)	\$698.29
Capital Fund (Roads)	\$222.00
Capital Reserve Fund	\$103,915.09

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

**Environment**

**Storm Water Issues** - Mr. Benusa reported to Council on the erosive conditions near the School and the Hulton Bridge. Mr. Benusa said he does not agree that the PennDOT Bridge Maintenance Contract turns over responsibility for erosion control to the Borough.

Ms. Jensen said she would check the PennDOT Bridge Maintenance Agreement.

**Crystal Drive Outfall Proposal** – Mr. Benusa offered a motion to accept the Borough Engineer’s estimate to do a survey and prepare a drawing showing the existing conditions and property lines for the Crystal Drive storm water discharge at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.

Mr. Favo seconded the motion. Mr. Favo asked from where in the budget the payment would come from. President Briney said to take the funds from General Fund Line Item #446.310, Professional Services.

The motion passed 7 -0.

**Plum Creek Fencing** – Mr. Benusa wanted to know the status of the temporary fence along a section of the Creekside Park trail that is very close to the bank of Plum Creek. Dave Ivanek said he had looked into the erosion issue along the Creek and felt it would qualify for an Emergency DEP Permit to restore. Mr. Ivanek believed he could get three estimates at around \$18,000 to \$20,000 to complete the job.

Ms. Jensen said she would talk to the Recreation Board about erecting a temporary fence for now.

**Plum Creek Restoration Project Committee** - Mr. Benusa said he was concerned about the lack of a long-term plan for the Plum Creek Restoration Project. He requested an estimate from Bankson Engineers on the cost to prepare a grant application for the next phase of restoration that would include the Penn Hills bank of Plum Creek.

President Briney said this would need to go through a formal process and agreement on scope by the Committee first.

**Public Safety**

Mr. Coulter said he would have an update on the upcoming police union contract negotiations at the June 5 Work Session.

**Education/Recreation**

**Resolution No. R22-2017** – Mrs. Facaros offered Resolution No. R22-2017, and moved for its adoption, a resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority Greenways, Trails, and Recreational Program for the Phase II Plum Creek Trail System and Pump Track Project.

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

President Briney declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 33, Page 71, as **Resolution No. R22-2017**.

**Public Works**

**Tenth Street Curbs** - Mr. Favo agreed with the earlier statements from Mr. Fitzgerald that the curbs along Tenth Street were in poor shape. Mr. Favo proposed repairing the curbs in September if there were any leftover monies.

**Administration/Culture**

**Civil Service Rules & Regulations** - Mrs. Friday discussed that the proposed Civil Service rules and regulations amendments had already been reviewed by the Borough Solicitor and the Civil Service Commission and their Solicitor. There have been six changes to the Rules & Regulations: the residency requirement, education level and previous experience required, the test score cut-off percentage, the top number of candidates going on to the Oral Exam, who appoints the oral examiners, and a language edit to Section 3.20.



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**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

There were no miscellaneous items that evening.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Ralph McIntyre** – Regarding the Public Meeting with Huntley & Huntley on seismic surveying in Oakmont, Mr. McIntyre said he was not in favor of any more drilling activity in Oakmont. He said he took pride in Oakmont's recreation and parks and did not want to see that ruined.

President Briney said that Huntley & Huntley was attempting to map about 200 miles total throughout the area and the Public Meeting on May 30 was to answer any questions from the public.

**Leah Powers** – Ms. Powers addressed Council about the parking problems occurring at Creekside Park during games on Saturday mornings. She suggested the use of a police officer during this time until a more permanent solution can be found.

Chief Ford suggested that temporary barrels and ropes could be hung between the parking lot and road to assist visitors with parking spaces, instead.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Briney reminded Council to have any comments about the proposed zoning amendments to the Borough Manager by May 26, 2017.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa Cooper Jensen  
Borough Manager

Transcribed by:  
Carol Moore