

Oakmont Borough Council
Minutes of the Regular Meeting

67 (Final)
June 19, 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: Kaaren Amodeo, Nancy Atkinson, Leo Bidula, Maureen Bidula, J Chilton, Donna DeTurck, Larry Forbes, Eileen Colianni, Ralph Gilbert, Ed Grystar, Fran Guastafarro, Nancy Harvey, John Hayes, James Joyce, Bonnie Lapio, Justin Lokay, Barb Marx, Rich Marx, Joe McAndrew, Ralph McIntyre, Tom Meising, Jane Miller, Melony Mostel, Rose O'Connor, Lindsay Osterhout, Jeremy Powers, Leah Powers, Kelly Rohrer, Bertha Shearer, John Shields, Tanya Strausbaugh, Holly Weaver, Peter Weeks, Mark Weisberg, William Wengerd, Kerri Whitehead, William Worsham, and Pamela York

BID AWARDS

Plum Creek Bar Gravel Removal - Manager Jensen read the review of the project bids prepared by Bankson Engineers, Dave Ivanek for the Plum Creek Bar Gravel Removal Project. C. Crump, Inc. was the lowest responsible bidder at \$76,300.

WWTP Mechanical Bar Screen Installation - Manager Jensen read the review of the project bids prepared by James Bowser of Chester Engineers for the Mechanical Bar Screen Installation. JP Environmental, LLC. was the lowest responsible bidder at \$92,500.

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

Amber Yon, P.E., Senate Engineering – Ms. Yon presented information about the MS4 Storm Water Management Program to those present. She also addressed questions and concerns from the public about storm water pollution and treatment.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Resolution No. R23-2017 – Mrs. Friday offered Resolution No. R23-2017, and moved for its adoption, a resolution appointing Niki Vallas Senchak as a member of the Oakmont Boulevard Project Board of the Borough of Oakmont, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to fill the vacancy on the Board created by the resignation of Christopher Stolish.

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

President Briney declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 33, Page 72, as **Resolution No. R23-2017**.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Bertha Shearer – Ms. Shearer said she was not contacted by anyone about the proposed Kayak Park Ad Hoc Meeting.

Sal Colella – Mr. Colella discussed possible ways to slow traffic on Cedar Way. He understood that there would be a traffic study completed by the Borough, but he wanted a more immediate solution. President Briney referred this subject to Chief Ford to review.

Justin Lokay – Mr. Lokay asked a follow-up question from the MS4 presentation. He explained to Council that Oakmont not mandating proof of sanitary and sewer water separation presented issues for him when he purchased a home in Oakmont. He also commented on the proposed Kayak Park, specifically the ADA compliance design. He said his mother was not in a wheelchair, but had difficulty walking and is a kayaker, so the ADA accessibility design would be a beneficial implementation.

Kelly Rohrer – Ms. Rohrer asked Council if there were any thoughts about ways to curb criminal mischief happening in the Edgewater area. She suggested a curfew for Minors.

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Chief Ford mentioned arrests had already been made pertaining to vandalism and criminal mischief. The Chief asked the audience to call the police immediately about anything suspicious.

President Briney noted that a curfew had been discussed before, and would be added to the next Work Session Agenda for another discussion.

Tanya Strausbaugh – Ms. Strausbaugh commented on what she felt was overreaction to the recent criminal mischief events at Edgewater. She saw this as nothing out of the ordinary, and predicted it would stop soon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 15, 2017 Minutes – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 15, 2017, as written.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Jensen reported that a total of 37 letters were received expressing support for the proposed Kayak Park. They had all been distributed to Oakmont Borough Council, but would not be read that evening.

Next, Ms. Jensen read an email, dated June 15, 2017, from the Borough Engineer regarding the Allegheny River Boulevard (ARB) polymer application between Porte Street and Hulton Road. The estimated cost to apply the polymer for brick stabilization would be \$6,000.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Oakmont Borough Council Guidelines -President Briney instructed Council to direct any comments to him about the proposed Oakmont Borough Council Guidelines before the next Work Session on July 3, 2017.

Seismic Survey Options – President Briney explained to Council that there was an ordinance provided by the Borough Solicitor with a recommendation for the adoption. The ordinance addresses seismic survey regulations.

In response to queries from the public, President Briney said he understood that time was a factor in Council's decision but that the issue was a very complex one that deserved Oakmont Borough Council's utmost attention. He said that Council

were reviewing their options. Council would hold a Special Meeting very soon on the topic.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Turnbull had nothing to report that evening.

MAYOR'S REPORT

In the Mayor's absence, Mr. Whalen asked Chief Ford about the criminal mischief happening in Edgewater and whether these crimes should be published in with the Oakmont Police Department's monthly report. Chief Ford said those incidents had already been included under Non-Traffic citations in the May Report.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Final Comments on Zoning Amendments – Manager Jensen asked Council for any final comments about the recommended Zoning Amendments.

Mr. Favo requested a measurable unit under the Disabling Glare section of the Lighting and Glare Amendment.

President Briney noted that under the Wireless Cell Tower Ordinance, under Permit Requirements, the collocation analysis radius could be either ¼ mile or ½ mile in distance of a proposed Wireless Communication Facility. He wanted Council to make a decision as to which distance it should be.

Manager Jensen reminded Council that there would be more recommended Zoning amendments coming from the Planning Commission. She suggested that the public hearing wait until all amendments were agreed upon. Council agreed to this.

Mr. Benusa wanted to ensure that any new state-legislated definition of Wireless Cell Towers be included in the Amendment on Wireless Cell Towers.

Crystal Drive Outfall Survey – Manager Jensen told Council that the Engineer's survey of the outfall was currently underway.

PennDOT Paving and Allegheny Valley Railroad Repairs – Manager Jensen said that the new start date for the Hulton Paving was now August 2017. She also announced that the Allegheny Valley Railroad would be repairing the railroad

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crossing at the intersection of Hulton Road and Allegheny Avenue in conjunction with the PennDOT paving on Hulton Road.

Civil Service Examination – Ms. Jensen informed Council that the Eligibility List had been received that day and was now posted at the Borough Office and the Police Department.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Finance & Technology

May Warrants – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Warrant List for May 2017, dated May 31, 2017, including expenditures totaling **\$1,056,875.40** for all funds:

Fund	Amount
General Fund	\$134,066.60
Boulevard Project Fund	\$3,011.84
Kerr Museum Fund	\$265,805.08
Library Fund	\$37,384.99
Liquid Fuels Fund	-0-
Sewer Fund	\$612,888.38
Capital Fund (Parks)	\$1,410.16
Capital Fund (Roads)	\$2,308.52
Capital Reserve Fund	-0-

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

Resolution No. R24-2017 – Mr. Whalen offered Resolution No. R24-2017, and moved for its adoption, a resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Oakmont, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing participation in the Allegheny County CDBG and HOME programs for three years - 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Mrs. Friday seconded the motion.

Mr. Benusa asked if there were any restrictions on adopting this Resolution, Solicitor Turnbull responded that there were none. The motion passed 7 to 0.

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President Briney declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 33, Page 73, as **Resolution No. R24-2017**.

Environment

Mr. Benusa had nothing to report that evening.

Public Safety

Strausbaugh to Volunteer Fire Department Eligibility List – Mr. Coulter offered a motion to approve the addition of Steven Strausbaugh to the Oakmont Volunteer Fire Department Eligibility List.

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

Education/Recreation

Donation by Riverview Athletic Association – Mrs. Facaros offered a motion to ratify the action of Council to accept the donation of \$1,388.00 from the Riverview Athletic Association for the purchase and installation of two batting cages.

Mr. Coulter seconded the motion.

Mr. Favo clarified that the batting cages were to be installed at Creekside Park.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

Kayak Park – Mrs. Facaros offered a motion to approve the Preliminary Design for the proposed Kayak Park.

Mr. Benusa seconded the motion.

President Briney said the Preliminary Design this was essentially a “concept design” and the initial step in defining the scope of the final design. Also included in this Development Sequence was the final budget, project goals and benefits to the community. The current drawing that was presented to Council was the Preliminary Design.

Mrs. Facaros asked if the Preliminary Design could be modified, President Briney said there could be refinements.

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Mr. Whalen asked about the difference between the two drawings, one with stairs and one without stairs. Mrs. Friday said she believed the stairs were a part of the Phase Two plans.

President Briney indicated there be a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of the Riverfront detailing future spending and listing the conditions by Council as a final step.

Mrs. Facaros then offered a motion to rescind her motion to approve the Preliminary Design.

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

Instead, Mrs. Facaros offered a motion to approve the Preliminary Design to the Kayak Park with the following conditions:

- Prepare final budget, including the revenues
- Satisfy the development sequences requirements
- Establish meaningful involvement of surrounding neighbors
- Confirm a Phase I design
- Review parking designations

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

Mrs. Facaros suggested the Recreation Board present once again at the next Work Session. Messrs. Benusa, Whalen and Favo will join with the Recreation Board for a Kayak Park working group and meet shortly.

Public Works

Plum Creek Rehabilitation - Mr. Favo offered a motion to award the contract for the Plum Creek Bank Rehabilitation and Gravel Bar Removal, Contract No. 17-1, to the lowest bidder, C. Crump, Inc. in the amount of \$76,300.

Mr. Benusa seconded the motion.

Mr. Benusa asked about contacting Dave Ivanek of Bankson Engineers to find out about the status of the Department of Environmental Protection Emergency Permit to stabilize the creek bank.

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President Briney said Rebecca Zeyzus of the Allegheny Watershed Alliance, may be contributing trees to this project and help stabilize the bank, as well.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

WWTP Bar Screen Replacement – Mr. Favo offered a motion to award the contract for the Grit Building Bar Screen Replacement at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Contract No. 2016-02, to the lowest bidder, JP Environmental, in the amount of \$92,200.

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

Transfer of Funds – Mr. Favo offered a motion to authorize \$150,000 to be taken out of Capital Fund (Roads) Storm Sewer Program (Line Item #446.364) and moved to the Capital Fund (Roads) Roadway Repair Program (Line Item #438.750) for additional paving work.

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

Specifications for Trench Drain – Mr. Favo offered a motion to authorize Senate Engineers, Inc. to draw up specifications for the Washington Avenue trench drain, catch basins, and brick restoration work.

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

Ms. Jensen said she was trying to get more details on the grant requirements for this project from AVN-COG's Tom Benecki.

Advertisement for Paving Program – Mr. Favo offered a motion to authorize the Borough Engineer to advertise for bids for the 2017 Paving Program.

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

Sidewalk Installations – Mr. Favo suggested this discussion be moved to the July 3rd Work Session.

Curb Repairs – Council Member Favo also wanted to get three proposals by linear foot, for sectional curb repairs on the southern portion of Tenth Street heading north, repairing only sections, as needed, Costs to be applied to Line Item #438.470 in Capital Fund (Roads).

Mr. Favo offered a motion to get unit pricing on curb repair for Tenth Street.

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

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With regards to sidewalks, President Briney asked Council to spend some time observing the conditions of the sidewalks or lack of sidewalks around town.

Administration/Culture

Job Descriptions – Mrs. Friday offered a motion to approve the newly-prepared Job Descriptions for the Borough of Oakmont employment positions.

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

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

There were no miscellaneous items that evening.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Donna DeTurck – Mrs. DeTurck said the neighbors near the proposed Kayak Park site were not notified about its development. Ms. Jensen responded that contact had been made by her.

Melony Mostel – Ms. Mostel said she was contacted by the Borough Manager but only a day and a half before the Ad Hoc Committee was to meet. She also said that Ms. Jensen had asked her to let other neighbors know, but that these other neighbors were away. She said that Friends of the Riverfront (FOR) did not reach out to the neighbors as promised, either.

Joe McAndrew – Mr. McAndrew inquired about the development sequence and FOR funding for the Kayak Park, President Briney explained the process to him.

Mr. McAndrew wanted to know if the paving list had been finalized. Mr. Favo said a final list had been created.

Ralph Gilbert – Mr. Gilbert wanted to voice his public safety concerns over the possibility of Huntley & Huntley's doing seismic testing in Oakmont.

Nancy Atkinson – Ms. Atkinson informed Council that she was against the seismic surveying and possibility of future drilling.

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Ralph McIntyre – Mr. McIntyre told Council he also believes that seismic testing would lead to underground drilling and fracking in Oakmont.

Holly Weaver – Ms. Weaver shared with Council that she believed Huntley & Huntley have already called private property owners within the area, and a target property for drilling was identified in Plum.

James Joyce – Mr. Joyce said he was encouraged by the concept of the Kayak Park and recommended getting another opinion on the ADA compliant ramp design.

Sal Colella – Mr. Colella said that Huntley & Huntley may not be the only company targeting Oakmont for drilling.

Nancy Harvey – Ms. Harvey asked Council about the next step with the seismic survey. President Briney repeated that Council would be reviewing its options with the Borough Solicitor over this complicated issue.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cooper Jensen
Borough Manager

Transcribed by:
Carol Moore