

Oakmont Borough Council
Minutes of the Regular Meeting

86 (final)
August 21, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of Oakmont Borough Council was called to order at 7:01PM 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: Sal Colella, Carrie Del Rosso, Donna DeTurck, Les Leasure, Joe McAndrew, Jane Miller, Rose O'Connor, Nancy Ride, Gene Rossi, Laurie Saxon, Tanya Strausbaugh, Natalie Talpas and Wanda Young.

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

There were no registered speakers that evening.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Citizens to Protect Oakmont – Ms. Natalie Talpas explained to Council that she and others had formed a volunteer group of residents to help educate other residents about oil and gas drilling rights.

Attempted Abduction – Ms. Carrie DelRosso inquired about updates to an ongoing criminal investigation at Riverside Park concerning an attempted child abduction. Chief Ford remarked that it was still under investigation and he would provide information as it was able to be released. Mayor Fescemyer added that he had spoken to the Parks Department employees, asking them to be observant.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 3, 2017 Minutes – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 3, 2017, as written.

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

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Jensen read an email, dated August 7, 2017, from Scott Weston in requesting approval to hold a Light Saber Night at Riverside Park after dark. Council had no objections and approved the request.

Next, Ms. Jensen read a letter, received August 17, 2017, from Civil Service Chair, Les Leasure, updating Council on the progress on the Civil Service Eligibility List.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Comprehensive Plan - President Briney reported on beginning a Historic Building Survey of Oakmont. The previous one was completed in 1981. The new update would help to refresh the Comprehensive Plan. President Briney explained that his goal would be to identify historic districts in town with the potential for grant funding.

Civil Service Commission Eligibility List - President Briney reemphasized that if one person is hired from the Certified List of Three, and another position is available, a new Certified List of Three will be issued to include the next highest scorer on the Eligibility List.

2018 Budget – President Briney reminded Council that the budgeting process would begin soon, and that the Borough Manager had already requested capital expenditure requests from all departments and boards.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Officer Geppert's Heart and Lung Benefit Status – Solicitor Turnbull asked Council if there were any questions about the motion on the Agenda pertaining to discontinuing Officer Geppert's Heart and Lung benefits. No one had any questions.

Oil and Gas Ordinance – Solicitor Turnbull said she would have a draft Gas and Oil Ordinance in advance of the September Work Session to begin the process of adoption.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fescemyer commended Chief Ford for his supervision over the Police Department while the Mayor was absent during his wife's illness. He also mentioned his appreciation of Officer Turpin for his saving of a life, which he said would be officially recognized at a later Council Meeting.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Additional Street Paving Recommendations – As a result of a lower than expected paving bid award, Manager Jensen, in conjunction with the Borough Engineer, recommended two additional sections for paving this year: 1) Pennsylvania Avenue from Second Street to the River at an estimated cost of \$28,000; and, 2) Twelfth Street from Maryland Avenue to the dead end at an estimated cost of \$17,000. Mr. Favo said he also wanted to add Seventh Street from the 800 block near Hulton Road to the dead end at an estimated cost of \$45,000.

Manager Jensen felt there were other streets that needed paving more than this portion of Seventh Street.

President Briney said Mr. Favo was free to add this to his motion about these additions to the 2017 Paving Program.

Civil Service Commission Update – Manager Jensen advised Council that Council interviews would begin shortly for the Full-Time Patrol Officer position. She asked for available dates and times to schedule these interviews. Council decided upon Wednesday, August 30, 2017 starting at 6:00 PM, with 45 minutes for each interview.

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Plum Creek Gravel Bank Project – Manager Jensen announced that the Plum Creek Gravel Bank Project would begin this week.

Curbs – Manager Jensen said the Street Department had marked curbs on Tenth Street in need of repair, and determine the total linear feet to repair.

MS4 and Stormwater Repairs – Manager Jensen alerted Council to MS4-related projects being completed within Oakmont. Specifically, she mentioned that the catch basins along Hulton and the Wade Lane lan had been cleaned. In addition, the drains in one of the Street Department’s garages must be rerouted from a storm to a sanitary line.

Zoning Amendments – Manager Jensen said the proposed *Zoning Amendments* would be discussed at the next Work Session and a Public Meeting was tentatively set for September 18, 2017, depending on the discussion.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Finance & Technology

July Warrants – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Warrant List for July 2017, dated July 31, 2017, including expenditures totaling **\$317,840.74** for all funds:

Fund	Amount
General Fund	\$116,015.80
Boulevard Project Fund	\$26,264.25
Kerr Museum Fund	\$1,978.36
Library Fund	\$38,566.45
Liquid Fuels Fund	-0-
Sewer Fund	\$117,048.63
Capital Fund (Parks)	\$3,752.50
Capital Fund (Roads)	\$14,214.75
Capital Reserve Fund	-0-

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

Mr. Whalen wanted to report on a Plum Borough Council Meeting he recently attended. He said that an injection gas well was planned in Plum Borough that

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could affect the Plum Creek Watershed, including Plum Creek. He was concerned about the possible pollution issues.

Environment

Crystal Drive Storm Sewer – Noting that a survey of the Crystal Drive outfall area has been completed, Mr. Benusa suggested that the next step in alleviating storm water issues within the Commons should be discussed among WWTP Superintendent Joe Rakowski, the Borough Engineer, himself and a representative from the Commons to discuss next steps.

Hulton Bridge Run Off – Mr. Benusa asked if there could be a resolution about the Hulton Bridge maintenance agreement conflicts. He believed that PennDOT was not properly rectifying the run-off from the Bridge to the Borough property below, causing possible erosion problems. President Briney agreed that there should be some way to alleviate the run-off. Mr. Benusa thanked Mrs. Friday for her help in talking with the Riverview School about this issue, since the outfall was on School District property.

Public Safety

Full-Time Officer Hires - Mr. Coulter offered a motion to approve the hiring of two (2) Civil Service Candidates to the position of Full-Time Patrol Officer from the Certified List of Three provided by the Civil Service Commission.

Mrs. Friday seconded the motion.

Mr. Favo said he was concerned about the “global effect” of hiring two when one of the positions is not formally open yet due to Officer Geppert’s status. Ms. Jensen noted that two physicians have said Officer Geppert was unable to perform as a full-time police officer. Solicitor Turnbull suggested that the motion be regarded as a discretionary motion to which future action may be required. Mr. Coulter agreed that this is just a step to move the process forward.

The motion passed 5 to 1 with Council Member Whalen voting “No.” Council Member Favo abstained, because he said the motion was unclear.

The motion passed 4-2.

McIntyre Request for Through Traffic Restrictions – Regarding a request by resident Ralph McIntyre to restrict Ninth Street or Washington Avenue to “Through Traffic Only,” Council agreed to table discussion for the time being.

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Hiring of Part-Time Patrol Officers – Mr. Coulter offered a motion to ratify the hiring by the Borough Manager of the following to the position of Part-Time Patrol Officers: Zachary Fedunok, Jeremy Howell, and Janes Yurek between February 1, 2017 and the present.

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

Education/Recreation

Mrs. Facaros had nothing to report that evening.

Public Works

Street Department Truck Purchase – Due to Mr. Favo's previous request, Manager Jensen explained to Council that the monies for the new \$30,000 truck purchase would come from the anticipated unspent funds in the budget for road salt budget (\$27,000) and for fuel (\$3,000).

Mr. Favo offered a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to purchase a new pick-up truck for the Street Department in 2017 at an estimated cost of \$30,000.

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

Additional Street Paving for 2017 – Mr. Favo offered a motion to add the following roads to the 2017 Paving Contract: Pennsylvania Avenue from Second Street to the Allegheny River; Twelfth Street from Maryland Avenue to the dead end, and Seventh Street from Hulton Road to the dead end, not to exceed \$90,000.

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

Mr. Favo inquired as to the poor repairs done on streets after utility companies open them for repairs. Ms. Jensen stated that she had already contacted Peoples Gas, but had not had a response from them as yet. Council asked the Borough Solicitor to send a letter to Peoples Gas about how poorly repairs were being done to Borough streets.

Mr. Favo asked Manager Jensen to have the Street Department get rid of the weeds growing through the road surface at Eighth Street and College Avenue.

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Administration/Culture

Heart & Lung Discontinuation – Mrs. Friday offered a motion to accept the recommendation of Heart & Lung Hearing Officer Wayne DeLuca that employee Erich H. Gepeprt's Heart & Lung Benefits be discontinued. .

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

Solicitor Turnbull stated that this action became effective immediately.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

There were no miscellaneous items that evening.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dailey Issues – Wanda Young asked Council for an official acknowledgement of the correspondence (i.e., booklet) she submitted to Council at the previous Work Session, dated August 7, 2017. President Briney said that her correspondence was duly noted and would be made part of the record of this Regular Meeting (see: Exhibit A attached).

Ms. Young inquired as to the status of code violations issued to her neighbor, Mr. Dailey. Solicitor Turnbull said the Borough was taking steps through permitting, and that Mr. Dailey had the right to appeal the denial of his grading permit.

Solicitor Turnbull said that, in spite of the grading already being done, Mr. Dailey's Grading Permit Application was rejected. He had the right to appeal this, however, and as a quasi-judicial body, Oakmont Borough Council would hear arguments from both sides pertaining to this issue.

Stormwater Run-off Issues –Gene Rossi asked for assurance that a meeting would be set up between himself, his attorney, Peter DeWil and the Borough about his flooding issues. Manager Jensen agreed to set up this meeting.

Mr. Rossi said that Oak Street, a private road owned by the Fairways, needed to be graded and repaved.

Resident Statement – Natalie Talpas addressed those present again on the park safety issue to say that she had seen an Officer patrolling Riverside Park last Saturday. She also asked Council when the Oil and Gas Ordinance Draft would be

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ready for discussion. Solicitor Turnbull said probably not until the October Work Session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cooper Jensen
Borough Manager

Transcribed by:
Carol Moore