

Oakmont Borough Council
Minutes of the Regular Meeting

292 (Final)
September 6, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of Oakmont Borough Council was called to order at 7:01 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; Ms. Diersen, Esquire, standing in for Solicitor Ott; and Borough Manager Jensen

Excused: Mayor Fescemyer

Visitors: David Carroll, Jane Miller, Rose O'Connor, Craig Olson, Ray Rogers, Shelly Shadle, Lyle Sumek, and William Wengerd

APPOINTMENT – OFFICER TURPIN

Mr. Coulter offered a motion to approve the conditional appointment of Stephen R. Turpin to the position of full-time patrol officer with the Borough of Oakmont.

Mr. Whalen seconded the motion.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

REGISTERED COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no registered comments from the Public that evening.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Lyle Sumek – Mr. Sumek lives at the Oakmont Docks and attended the meeting to express his concern and the concern of other condominium owners regarding Unit 6 at the Oakmont Docks. The owner of Unit 6 is advertising her condo on the Internet as a “Home Away, Air B&B and Ongoing Party Home.” As many as 17 people have been staying in the unit at one time, reported Mr. Sumek. Other residents are concerned for their personal safety, their property, trash being left around, etc. They feel it is a growing problem. The Homeowners Association have hired an attorney to address this situation. The Docks’ Charter is for single family residences. Unit 6 is not registered as a business and probably does not have the proper insurance or pay taxes, said Mr. Sumek. The owner of the unit lives in California.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 1, 2016 Minutes – Mrs. Friday offered a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 1, 2016, as written.

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Mr. Whalen seconded the motion.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Manager Jensen read a letter, dated July 17, 2016, from Steve and Pat Barker, regarding a \$50 donation designated solely for the Police Department. Council asked Manager Jensen to put this on the September 12, 2016 Work Session Agenda for discussion.

Also, the Manager read an Email, dated August 30, 2016, from School Guard Rose O'Connor requesting umbrellas for protection from the sun and rain for the School Guards at the Pennsylvania Avenue intersection. This will be discussed by Council at the September 12, 2016 Work Session.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Briney reported that Council held an Executive Meeting on August 31, 2016 to discuss personnel issues.

He then asked that all Capital Budget considerations be sent to him by Friday, September 9, 2016. He distributed a new list of the 2017 Budget Considerations to all Council Members.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Diersen had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

August Police Report – President Briney reported that the Oakmont Borough Council would receive the August Police Report next week.

August Volunteer Fire Department Report – Oakmont Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dave Carroll said their August Report would be ready next week, and noted that August 2016 had been a busy month for the Fire Department.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

OnAir – Manager Jensen talked to OnAir's Michael Lovett regarding installing a new communication tower on park property. She informed him that Oakmont's Zoning Ordinance prohibited cell towers in Borough parks. OnAir already owns the existing cell tower at the bottom of Ann Street.

Rain Events – Manager Jensen reported the heavy rain and storms on August 18, 2016 and August 28, 2016 caused flooding all over the Borough, particularly in peoples' basements and the Library. Referring to the numerous calls from Commons residents, she said that the water problems at the Commons were a complex issue, and that the Borough was working with the Commons Home Owners Association to alleviate problems there.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

August Warrants – Mr. Whalen offered a motion to approve the Warrant List for August 2016, dated August 31, 2016, including expenditures totaling **\$328,669.55** for all funds, as follows:

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Amount</i>
General Fund	\$101,303.59
Boulevard Project Fund	\$8,054.45
Kerr Museum Fund	\$3,956.82
Library Fund	\$30,240.41
Liquid Fuels Fund	-0-
Sewer Fund	\$150,549.95
Capital Fund (Parks)	\$720.00
Capital Fund (Roads)	\$33,844.33
Capital Reserve Fund	-0-

Mrs. Friday seconded the motion.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

Resolution No. R30-2016 – Mr. Whalen offered Resolution No. R30-2016 and moved for its adoption, a Resolution appointing Pennsylvania Municipal Service Company as the Borough of Oakmont Tax Collector.

Mrs. Friday seconded the motion.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

President Briney declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 33, Page 43, as **Resolution No. R30-2016**.

Environment

Mr. Benusa said he had a few things to report. He reported that Folino Construction has installed a 48" drain pipe on the former Parente property. Mr. Benusa said that the elevation of the pipe was 18" higher than it should be, so that storm water had no place to go. He felt that this issue should be discussed with Mr. Folino. He also said the pipes have not been cleaned out.

Mr. Benusa also felt there was a drainage issue from the 12th Street conduit, and that the water needed to be slowed down.

He inquired about fallen trees he had noticed in Plum Creek, and was informed by the Manager that they have already been removed.

Mr. Benusa also blamed Dark Hollow Woods trail work for the damage to a bridge there.

President Briney informed Mr. Benusa that his proposal to begin bonding some Borough roads would be referred to the Solicitor for more information.

Regarding Mr. Benusa's request at the August 8, 2016 Borough Work Session to have PennDOT correct the erosion problem just off Hulton Bridge, Mr. Benusa reported to Council that PennDOT has already corrected the problem.

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Mr. Benusa again asked for an update from the Recreation Board on the Kayak Park. Manager Jensen informed him that EPD had asked for a more detailed survey of the property. Mr. Benusa thought that if EPD did their thing, and the Recreation Committee did theirs, everything would move faster on implementing the Kayak Park. Mr. Favo said he planned to attend the next Recreation Board Meeting on September 15, 2016.

Mr. Benusa also inquired about the core samples done along Dark Hollow Road and the Borough's leaf pile property. President Briney explained that we needed to know what was there before taking any steps with regard to Plum Creek and paving the road.

Mr. Benusa said he wanted to explore the revolving fund idea, mentioned in a McCandless Township Agenda, in connection with funding the new fire engine for the Oakmont Volunteer Fire Department.

Public Safety

Specifications, Oakmont Volunteer Fire Department New Fire Engine – Mr. Coulter offered a motion to ratify the preparation of specifications for a new Fire Engine by the Oakmont Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Benusa seconded the motion.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

Designation of Qualified Physicians- Mr. Coulter offered a motion to ratify the designation of Ravindra Vajjhala, M.D., or any other MedExpress qualified physician, to conduct the physical examinations, and David Bajada, Ph.D., Psychologist, to conduct the psychological evaluations for two full-time police officer candidates.

Mr. Favo seconded the motion.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

Donation- Mr. Coulter offered a motion to approve a donation designated for the Police Department from Steve and Pat Barker.

Mrs. Facaros seconded the motion.

Mr. Favo said the Borough should send the check back, since he felt taking the donation was a conflict of interest. The Borough Policy regarding donations states that the request should go to the Borough Manager, and that a notice concerning the donation should be published 24 hours before the public meeting at which the Borough Council intended to deliberate and vote on accepting the donation. Council agreed to table the motion and discuss at next Work Session.

Mr. Coulter withdrew motion; Mrs. Facaros withdrew her second.

Education/Recreation

Mrs. Facaros had nothing to report.

Public Works

Resolution No. R31-2016 – Mr. Whalen offered Resolution No. R31-2016 and moved for its adoption, a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application for CDBG Funds for Handicapped Ramps.

Mrs. Friday seconded the motion.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

President Briney declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 33, Page 44, as **Resolution No. R31-2016**.

Pennsylvania Avenue, Water Lines - Mr. Favo reported on a meeting with Oakmont Water Authority regarding installing new water lines on California Avenue. Oakmont Water Authority will perform work during the Winter/Spring of 2016 and 2017. The road will be installed to Borough specs and the Borough and Water Company will share in the costs.

Administration/Culture

Civil Service Committee, Hiring Part-Time Officers – Mrs. Friday reported on meeting with Civil Service Chairman Les Leasure regarding part-time officers being hired through the Civil Service process. Part-timers would be covered by Civil Service, and put the Borough in a better position for hiring part-time officers. The Borough would have a higher level of screening for part-time officers, as well as more consistency and reliability, because the Civil Service process is vigorous. Part-time officers hired under Civil Service would not be members of the Union, she said.

Technology

Mr. Whalen had nothing to report.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

There were no miscellaneous items that evening.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public that evening.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. Benusa seconded the motion.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cooper Jensen
Borough Manager

Transcribed by:
Sharon L. Springer