

**Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting December 14, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Business Meeting of Oakmont Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Federici in the 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 Facaros, Favo, Kennedy, Ride, Taliaferro, Williams and President Federici; Solicitor Shoop; Mayor Fescemyer; Chief DiSanti; Borough Manager Jamison and Assistant Borough Secretary Jensen

Visitors: Gail Altenburger, Kaaren Amodeo, Jack H. Artman, Walt Brotherton, Adeline Brown, Dorothy Calfe, Victor Calfe, Anne Dapra, Joyce Dapra, Donna DeTurck, Nathan English, Fred J. Federici, Nancy J. Federici, Pat Forest, Nick Futules, Janet Geeze, Sue Goodwin, Paul Jenkins, Cindy Jeroski, Jason Jeroski, Rick Jeroski, Amy Kennedy, Martin Kennedy [get names of rest of Kennedy family present from Cindy] Les Leasure, Arlene Loeffler, Tim Milberger, Bill Peoples, Laurie Saxon, Ron Scott, Bertha Shearer, Bobbi Sullivan, Kitty Vagley, Lois Vitti and Dolores Zalar

**REGISTERED COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Al Kennedy Retirement Proclamation** – Allegheny County Council Member Nick Futules read a Proclamation honoring Borough Council Member Allan R. Kennedy for his 27 years of service to the Borough of Oakmont, both as a Council member and as a member and chair of the Oakmont Recreation Board.

Mr. Kennedy was also presented with a rocking chair, inscribed with his name and years of service, from the Borough in recognition of his many years of service. The Mayor and all members of Council then commented individually on Mr. Kennedy's service to the community.

President Federici called for a 15-minute adjournment for cake and coffee.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Departing Council Members** – When the meeting reconvened, Arlene Loeffler said that she appreciated Mr. Kennedy's 27 years of service to the Borough, but that she also wanted to thank those members of the current Council who would be leaving – President Michael Federici, Sophia Facaros, Dru Taliaferro and Rich Williams – for their service to the Borough of Oakmont.

Donna DeTurck also thanked outgoing Council members for their service to the community.

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Bertha Shearer said it was a pleasure being born in Oakmont and that she would miss the faces of those leaving Council.

Fire Chief Bill Peoples noted that his brother, former Mayor Dale E. Peoples, always enjoyed being with Al Kennedy.

Former Oakmont Borough Manager Adeline Brown, saying that she had probably known Al Kennedy longer than anyone, told a story about her and Al in high school. She added that he personified integrity and compassion, and said she was honored to know him.

**BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT**

**2010 Preliminary Budget** – Mr. Jamison said that he had been working on the 2010 Borough Budget for about six weeks, and that there had been some revisions to the proposed Budget made just that weekend.

Mr. Jamison reviewed, in detail, highlights of the Budget and those changes that were requested that weekend.

**Sewer Fund Debt Repayment** – Mr. Kennedy offered a motion to transfer \$13,670.00 from the Sewer Fund to the General Fund in the 2009 Budget for the purpose of partial repayment of debt.

Mr. Favo seconded the motion.

Vice President Ride and Mr. Taliaferro both expressed opposition to this action, as unnecessary.

On a called vote, the votes were as follows:

Ms. Facaros	No	Ms. Ride	No
Mr. Favo	Yes	Mr. Taliaferro	No
President Federici	No	Mr. Williams	No
Mr. Kennedy	Yes		

The motion was defeated 5 to 2.

**Code Enforcement** – Mr. Jamison also reported that he was exploring the possibility of sharing a Code Enforcement Officer with other area communities through the Allegheny Valley North Council of Governments (AVN-COG).

**2010 Preliminary Budget Availability** – Mr. Taliaferro moved that the 2010 Preliminary Budget be made available to the public.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

Mr. Favo asked if the Budget on display would include the changes reviewed that evening. President Federici said they would.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

**Monthly Police Report** - At Mayor Fescemyer’s request, Police Chief DiSanti reviewed portions of his November 2009 Police Report for those present.

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Chief DiSanti commended part-time police officer Justin M. Mease and presented Police Department Secretary Gail Altenburger with a Certificate of Appreciation for her work. Ms. Altenburger said she felt it was a privilege to work with the men “on the thin blue line,” and expressed her best wishes to exiting Council members.

**Chief Commended** – Mayor Fescemyer said he was blessed to have a man like Chief Dave DiSanti and the rest of his men under him. “They make me look good,” he said. He added that, if Chief DiSanti cannot handle something, he knocks on the Mayor’s door and they handle it. The Mayor pledged to do an even better job to keep the town safe in the future.

Mr. Williams also thanked the Chief and “the thin blue line” for their dedication, as well as all first responders.

**Monthly OVFD Report** - At Council Member Taliaferro’s request, Fire Chief Bill Peoples reported on the Fire Department’s activities for November. He thanked the Police Department and the Street Department for their work with the Fire Department in 2009.

**OVFD Generator** – Chief Peoples said the Fire Hall needed an outside generator installed in order to comply with current building codes. Mr. Jamison said money to do this was in the 2010 Budget.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Taliaferro offered a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Business Meeting of November 9, 2009, as written.

Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion.

Vice President Ride, referring to the portion covering the Treasurer’s Report in these minutes, said she thought the percentages noted had been confused. Manager Jamison said he would check the figures and that Ms. Jensen make any necessary corrections.

The motion passed, 7 to 0, with the proposed changes as noted.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Financial and Legal Committee**

**Warrants** – Ms. Ride moved to approve the Warrant List for November 2009, dated December 14, 2009, including the following expenditures:

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Amount</i>
General Fund	\$194,909.57
Sewer Fund	\$124,727.86
Sewer Deposit Fund	\$639.72
Capital Projects Fund (Parks)	\$9,099.77
Capital Projects Fund (Roads)	\$4,406.00
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ -0-
Library Fund	\$28,094.40

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Liquid Fuels Fund	\$9,838.43
Boulevard Project Fund	\$6,558.75
Kerr Memorial Museum Fund	\$4,907.46
Operating Reserve Fund	\$ -0-

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

**Public Safety Committee**

**Ordinance No. O29-2009, RVIT** – Mr. Taliaferro offered Ordinance No. O29-2009, and moved for its adoption, an ordinance to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of the District Attorney and the Pennsylvania State Police, to implement Municipal Regional Vehicle Inspection Team (RVIT) activities, and enforce provisions of *The Pennsylvania Vehicle Code*.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

Mr. Taliaferro read the ordinance in its entirety.

Mayor Fescemyer explained this would authorize a Task Force to be able to pull over trucks, weigh them, and cite them for any irregularities within the community. Chief DiSanti said salaries for this work are paid through the District Attorney’s Office so that it will cost the Borough nothing.

On a called vote, the votes were as follows:

Ms. Facaros	Yes	Ms. Ride	Yes
Mr. Favo	Yes	Mr. Taliaferro	Yes
President Federici	Yes	Mr. Williams	Yes
Mr. Kennedy	Yes		

The motion passed 7 to 0.

President Federici declared the Ordinance enacted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 30, Page 77, as **Ordinance No. O29-2009**.

**Planning and Economic Development Committee**

**Ordinance No. O23-2009, First Amendment to the “Weed Ordinance”** – Mr. Favo offered Ordinance No. O23-2009, and moved for its adoption, an ordinance amending Chapter 73 of the *Code of the Borough of Oakmont*, “Brush, Grass and Weeds,” to add height limitations, and to revise procedures and penalties for violations of the brush, grass and weed regulations.

Mr. Taliaferro seconded the motion.

Mr. Favo then read the ordinance in its entirety.

On a called vote, the votes were as follows:

Ms. Facaros	Yes	Ms. Ride	Yes
Mr. Favo	Yes	Mr. Taliaferro	Yes
President Federici	Yes	Mr. Williams	Yes
Mr. Kennedy	Yes		

The motion passed 7 to 0.

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President Federici declared the Ordinance enacted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 30, Page 71, as **Ordinance No. O23-2009**.

**Engineering & Public Works Committee**

**2009 Paving Project, Payment #2 and Final** – Ms. Facaros offered a motion to approve Application for Payment #2 and Final of the 2009 Paving Agreement in the amount of \$4,156.60.

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

Ms. Facaros thanked Council for allowing her to serve. She said she would be glad to help in any way in the future.

**Recreation, Cultural and Community Assets Committee**

**Retirement** – Mr. Kennedy gave a brief history of his time as chairman of the Recreation Board, noting that he had inherited the role of Parks Director upon the deaths of Len Flowers and Jack Milberger. He said he was usually at the Park 3-5 days a week, in addition to functioning as Council liaison to the Kerr Museum and Library Boards.

He said he would miss sitting on Council and that he had learned a lot over the years.

**Recreation Board** – Mr. Kennedy said the Preliminary Master Plan for Riverside Park would be presented by EPD, Inc. at the December 15 Recreation Board meeting.

**Board Vacancy** - He recommended Regina Vitti-Lyons to fill the vacancy on the Recreation Board created by his resignation. President Federici said Ms. Vitti-Lyons would be formally appointed at the December 28 Special Meeting of Council.

President Federici added that it was “our privilege to have you with us for over 600 Council Meetings.”

**Human Resources, IT & Communications Committee**

**Chamber of Commerce Newsletter** – Mr. Williams thanked Council for their willingness to work with the Chamber on the community newsletter. The 11<sup>th</sup> issue had been completed. He thanked Chief DiSanti for his newsletter articles and Pat Forest for her reporting on Borough affairs.

**Experience on Council/COG** – Mr. Williams said he would be happy to pass along information to the next Councilperson appointed to the AVN-COG. He thanked Council for allowing him to “finally see government first-hand.” He thanked President Federici, in particular, for “all the hats he wore.” He predicted that newly appointed Borough Manager Jamison would bring stability to Borough operations.

President Federici thanked both Mr. Williams and Ms. Facaros for their willingness to step in as Council members when Cheryl Provenza Zentgraf and Paula Calabrese, Ph.D. resigned from Council earlier in the year.

**UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS** – President Federici referred those present to the list of public meetings itemized in the Agenda, noting that dates were correct as of publication of the Agenda.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Solicitor on Council** – Solicitor Shoop said that people did not realize how much work was involved in being a Council member. He said he felt those exiting now had always had the best interests of the community at heart. He thanked the Council for allowing him to serve as Borough Solicitor, and thanked President Federici, in particular.

**President Federici** – President Federici thanked everyone for their support, saying that this term of office had “never been boring.” He added that the job had “occasionally been satisfying,” and wished the best to incoming Council members. Finally, President Federici said he made no apologies and had no regrets for his actions and decisions under the challenging circumstances during his tenure.

**Council Member Taliaferro** – Mr. Taliaferro thanked those who had supported him, and in particular, Mayor Fescemyer. He also said he considered Chief DiSanti to be his friend. He said he would quote Pascal and urged the new Council members to “continue towards the light,” and to remember that “the needs of the many outweigh the few.” He concluded by saying that he hoped the future Council would get Oakmont where it needed to be, and thanked Mayor Fescemyer once again.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**Executive Session** – President Federici announced there would be a brief Executive Session after this meeting to discuss personnel matters, and wished everyone a happy holiday.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct that evening, Mr. Kennedy offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Taliaferro seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

L. C. Jensen  
Assistant Borough Secretary