

April 10, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of Oakmont Borough Council was called to order at 7:38 PM by President Benusa.

ROLL CALL

Present: Messrs. Bland, Favo, Federici, Kennedy, Taliaferro and President Benusa, members of Council; Mayor Fescemyer; Solicitor Shoop; and, Roger A. Dunlap, Jr., Borough Manager and Ex-Officio Borough Secretary

Absent: Mr. Myers

Visitors: Edward Abaray, Frank Almendinger, Robin Almendinger, Annamae Beardsall, Tamsin Benson, Joanne Dickenson, Rob Donatucci, Tom Fall, Dwight Ferguson, Diane Hamilton, Don Hanlon, Elaina Hanlon, Donna Heathcote, Bruce Jasiewicz, Pam Jasiewicz, Harry Kaye, Nancy Kaye, Jim Lampl, Les Leasure, Tom Mettuch, Greg Monito, Jr., Liz Morelli, Barb Mullen, J. Bryant Mullen, Michelle Mullen, Nicki Mullen, Cassie Novacovic, William Novacovic, Christine Patty, Mitchell Patty, Karen Smith, Jim Trangle, Holly Usher, Jackie Zangrille and Karen Zangrille

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All those who were present and able stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Harry Kaye, 1309 Summit Drive, inquired about the Borough's liability in the event the Zoning Hearing Board should decide to allow a variance to Anthony Folino, next to Mr. Kaye's property, and someone should get hurt. Solicitor Shoop explained that the Zoning Hearing Board was independent of the Borough, that the Borough has no liability in this case, and that Mr. Folino should have to prove "undue hardship" in order to obtain his Variance.

J. Bryant Mullen, 907 Woodland Avenue, asked if Council intended to take any action that night on the Capretto/Massarò gas wells proposal. Solicitor Shoop said Borough Council had to April 26, 2006 to make a decision, and that this particular gas well issue would not be discussed that night.

Mr. Shoop added that this gas well proposal would, however, be considered in light of the proposal to amend the *Zoning Ordinance* with regard to gas wells, which was to be presented later that night.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fescemyer reviewed Acting Chief Brankley's Police Report for March. He reported on the progress made with regard to the Borough's move to the County's 9-1-1 Dispatch System. No date has been set for the switch.

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There will be changes in DUI checkpoints. Area police forces will now use both roving and fixed checkpoints. An on-site meeting was held on March 15 concerning the new traffic lights to be installed on Hulton Road.

Mayor Fescemyer told residents to look for information on the “Adopt-A-School” program in local newspapers.

A meeting was held on March 27 with Riverview High School officials to discuss holding night football games at Riverside Park. The Borough requested that the school get a written recommendation from the Recreation Board and hold a Public Meeting with area residents.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Solicitor Shoop reported that a change in the interpretation of the state law with regard to prevailing wage on construction projects would more than double road maintenance costs for the Borough. He encouraged residents to write their legislators, the Secretary of Labor and the Governor against this law. Mayor Fescemyer noted that the Governor had currently suspended action for two weeks on putting this into effect, but also encouraged residents to express their opposition as soon as possible.

Solicitor Shoop then announced the birth of the Borough Manager’s new daughter on April 8th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Personnel & Legal

Mr. Favo moved to approve Warrant List #03-02-2006, dated March 13, 2006, for payments drawn from various Borough funds.

Mr. Taliaferro seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Favo then moved to approve Warrant List #04-01-2006, dated April 7, 2006, for payments drawn from various Borough funds.

Mr. Federici seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public Safety

Mr. Taliaferro announced that the Borough would be increasing the cost of street sweeping tickets from \$4 to \$5, and all other parking violation fines will go from \$6 to \$7.

Planning, Zoning & Community Development

Mr. Bland offered Resolution No. R16-2006, a resolution establishing an Impact Fee Advisory Committee.

Mr. Federici seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Mr. Bland, referencing Mr. Shoop's previous comments on gas wells in the Borough, stated that Council was of the opinion that certain aspects of gas wells had not been adequately addressed in the Borough's *Zoning Ordinance*. An amendment to the *Zoning Ordinance* is needed to more clearly define and regulate gas wells within the Borough. Council intends to limit gas well installations to Commercial and Industrial Districts, and to parkland within the Borough.

Culture & Recreation

Mr. Dunlap reported that he has been in touch with the state's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) regarding grant opportunities to create a Master Open Space and Site Plan, which will include the former Edgewater property. In the end, the Borough could have a comprehensive parks & Open Spaces Site Master Plan.

A brief discussion ensued concerning the old guard house on the former Edgewater property. Mayor Fescemyer said it was the third oldest building in Oakmont, that the parcel's developers were interested in keeping it and that someone may want to speak directly to the developer about this. Mr. Dunlap said the developer's intentions for this structure will be apparent once the application process begins.

With regard to the Master Plan, Council member Kennedy said he felt it was too early to determine the parameters. He said he was not willing to share resources with other communities until the details had been "fleshed out" more. Mr. Dunlap said this Master Plan would deal with Oakmont exclusively.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Benusa asked if anyone else present still wished to address Council. Jim Lampl, 1308 Summit Drive, said he was concerned that the proposed amendment to the *Zoning Ordinance* did not exclude gas wells in other zoning districts of Oakmont.

He said he also wanted Council to think about cleaning up the Borough for the 2007 U.S. Open at the Oakmont Country Club. He felt the Borough should "put its best foot forward."

J. Bryant Mullen, 907 Woodland Avenue, asked Council to be cognizant of the fact that property and tax values were sure to decrease with the addition of a gas well to the Capretto/Massaro properties, both in a strictly residential area.

Once again, Council members congratulated Borough Manager Dunlap on the birth of his new baby.

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 unanimously.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Roger A. Dunlap, Jr., Borough Manager
and Ex-Officio Borough Secretary

Transcribed by: L. C. Jensen