Oakmont Borough Council **(FINAL)**
Minutes of the Regular Meeting **April 15, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING

Council President Ride called the Regular Meeting of Oakmont Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 767 Fifth Street, Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Arnold, Leonardi, Ormay, Vice-President Pagnotta, Paris, Wilson, and Borough Council President Ride and Junior Council member Rocco Brown Borough Manager Fodi, Assistant Borough Manager Anderson, Borough Solicitor Leyland, and Oakmont Police Chief Ford
Excused:
Visitors: 9 visitors present

OATH OF OFFICE

- Mayor Facaros administered the oath of office to Brandon Adams for serving on the Oakmont Boulevard Project.

REGISTERED SPEAKER

- **Randy Galm, Borough Treasurer, 2025 First Quarter Report**

  Mr. Galm delivered the 2025 First Quarter Report, highlights included:

  - Profit and Loss Statement
  - 2024 and 2025 Budget Comparison Table
  - General Fund Revenue: Most property tax income doesn't come in until May
  - Keystone Grant for Kerr Museum
  - Sewer Fund Revenues
  - Capital Parks: Need to finish projects so grant reimbursements can be applied for
  - Liquid Fuels: Came in as expected
  - Capital Roads 2025 Projects: Transfer to account will happen in May
  - Capital Reserve
  - American Rescue Plan: Will be completed by the end of 2025
  - Bond Update

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Richard Luciana, Memorial Day Committee, gave OBC a history on the tradition for the Borough to donate to the parade and ceremony every year and a break down of the cost increases for each element of the ceremony and parade and asked the Council to support his request for the additional funds towards the costs incurred to have the event.

- Kera Campbell, 507 Virginia Avenue, raised concerns about the tree removal on Virginia Avenue. She said that the stump was not removed properly and poses a danger to children and elderly walking nearby.

Mr. Fodi stated he will look into the issue.

- John Keefe read a statement to OBC about the proposed PennDOT Turnback agreement which would turn ownership and maintenance of Adeline Brown Way between Maryland Avenue and Advance Way to Oakmont Borough.

CORRESPONDENCES

Mr. Fodi reviewed the following correspondences with OBC:

- Letter from the Chamber of Commerce seeking interest in sharing the expense on a "Welcome to Oakmont" banner for the U.S. Open

- Email correspondence to Council regarding the ownership of restaurants in the Borough

COUNCIL MINUTES

- February 4, 2025, Work Session, the minutes are approved with the correction from Ms. Ormay.
  Ms. Ormay submitted changes to the minutes, including a name correction on line 46: Bodnar
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- March 18, 2025, Regular Meeting, the minutes are approved as written.

- April 1, 2025, Work Session, the minutes are approved as written.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (BOROUGH MANAGER)

Ms. Anderson led the discussion on the following items:

A. Appointed Boards:

Oakmont Boulevard Project:

- Nothing to Report

Kerr Museum:

- Nothing to Report

Oakmont Carnegie Library:

- Nothing to Report

Dark Hollow Woods Committee:

- Nothing to Report

Recreation Board:

- Nothing to Report

Shade Tree Commission:

- Nothing to Report

Civil Service Commission:

- Motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Ms. Paris, to appoint Thomas Briney to the Oakmont Borough Civil Service Commission for a term ending December 31, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

- Motion by Ms. Ormay, seconded by Ms. Leonardi, to appoint Michael Pietragallo to the Oakmont Borough Civil Service Commission for a

term ending December 21, 2029. Motion carried unanimously.

- Mayor Facaros administered the oath of office to Thomas Briney and Michael Pietragallo.

B. Administration:

- Motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Arnold, to authorize the Civil Service Commission to advertise to create a new Eligibility List for the Oakmont Borough Police Department. Motion carried unanimously.

- Motion by Ms. Leonardi, seconded by Ms. Paris, to approve Resolution No. 4 of 2025, entering into the Highway Transfer (Turnback) Agreement for Adeline Brown Way.

  Mr. Leyland explained the history of the discussions with PennDOT on the process of turning over ownership and maintenance of Adeline Brown Way to Oakmont. When the Turnback Agreement is signed by PennDOT, the ownership of the public Right-of-Way is simply handed to Oakmont. This action does not increase or decrease any existing impacts to property owners along Adeline Brown Way.

  Chief Ford had to ask Mr. Keefe to abide by the rules of decorum.

  Motion carried 5 to 1; with John Arnold voting no and Isaiah Wilson abstaining.

- Motion by Ms. Ormay, seconded by Mr. Arnold, to appoint Richard Ogrodowski to fill a vacant position on the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Oakmont Board of Governors for a term ending December 31, 2029.

  President Ride read the recommendation letter from Henry Buechli, President of the Municipal Authority Board of Governors.

  Motion carried unanimously.

- Motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to authorize a contribution in the amount of $800 to the Oakmont-Verona Memorial Day Committee to assist in deferring the costs to provide its annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. Discussion included the history of the contribution by the Borough to the Parade Committee. This specific discussion and action was due to an unbudgeted increase request for 2024 which was anticipated for 2025 budget but then a second increase—two increase in two years—and it wasn't expected.

  A roll call vote took place:
- Mr. Wilson: Aye
- Ms. Paris: Aye
- Ms. Leonardi: Aye
- Mr. Arnold: Aye
- VP Pagnotta: Aye
- President Ride: Aye

  Motion carried unanimously.

- Oakmont Get Connected Informational Flyer
  Vice President Pagnotta presented the informational flyer that will be in the Oakmont Community Newsletter explaining how to utilize the community calendar and subscribe to updates from the Borough.

- Junior Council Member Update
  Mr. Brown delivered a report explaining upcoming events in the Borough that high schoolers are expected to volunteer at, including the Taste of Two Towns and tree planting events. He also mentioned having a community day for volunteering.

C. Community Planning:

- Motion by Ms. Paris, seconded by Ms. Ormay, to approve sharing the cost of the "Welcome to Oakmont" banner with the Chamber of Commerce. (The banner will be hung at the train station at the intersection of Maryland Avenue and ARB during the 2025 USGA U.S. Open)

  Vice-President Pagnotta suggested changes to the banner, such as including handles with the social media logos.

  Motion carried unanimously.

- DRAFT minutes from the Planning Commission's March 27, 2025, Meeting for Review
  Mr. Fodi briefed OBC on the minutes from the OPC meeting, including the proposed ordinances for beekeeping and chicken keeping.

  Vice-President Pagnotta stated she believes the number of chickens allowed should not be capped at six due to the lot sizes available and the need to keep a flock going to get eggs.

- Motion by Ms. Leonardi, seconded by Mr. Arnold, to approve Resolution #5 of 2025, authorizing the Borough to submit an application to the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant Program for proposed storm water run off repairs in Dark Hollow Woods. Motion carried unanimously.

- Pickle Ball Court in Riverside Park
  Mr. Fodi explained the surface coating on the Pickle Ball court has begun chipping. The court is under warranty and the contractor has been contacted to make the repairs.

  The baseball field and dek hockey court need to have repairs made as well.

  President Ride stated they have met with Dr. English and the President of the School Board, Wendy Wilton about adding lighting to the fields. It is agreed that the lighting will be a school expense. The school is looking into fundraising opportunities.

D. Finance:

- Motion by Ms. Leonardi, seconded by Ms. Pagnotta, to approve the Warrant List for March 2025, in the amount of $352,256.53. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Public Safety:

- Mayor's Report:

  - Monthly Police Report
    Chief Ford directed OBC to the report in their packets. The police department in receipt of the grant funds for the click it or ticket/aggressive driving program for the summer. He also briefed OBC on the training that officers have been attending, the process of hiring new officers, as well as updated them on meetings for the U.S. Open and notification of residents for the event.

  - Parkview EMS Monthly Report
    - 129 dispatches, of which 49 were to Presbyterian Senior Care Oakmont on Hulton Road.
    - 10 calls assisted the fire department

- Minutes from February meeting PennDOT: Mr. Fodi provided Council with the minutes from the meeting with PennDOT officials at the intersection of 3rd Street and Hulton Road. The topics contained in the minutes included corridor enhancements beyond the anticipated construction to create turning restrictions off of 3rd Street. The minutes reflect Oakmont has the freedom to relocate pedestrian signage during the project to better address the allowed crossing on the eastern side of the intersection.

F. Public Works

- Motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Ms. Ormay, to approve Payment #2 (FINAL) in the amount of $7,500.00, to Ron Gillette, Inc. of Natrona Heights for the demolition of 631 Valley Street. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2025 Road Program Bid Opening: April 29, 2025
  Mr. Fodi stated recommendations will be ready for the May Work Session.

- Punch list for Oakmont Commons Stormwater Improvements Project

- WWTP Improvements Project Bid Opening: April 30, 2025, online via PennBid

- ARB Brick Repair and Ongoing Maintenance Planning Meeting: To Be Scheduled
  President Ride stated discussion needs to take place for how to approach the brick work design on ARB.

G. Request for Agenda Items from Council

President Ride stated any suggestions for topics can be submitted to Mr. Fodi.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- John Keefe, stated that he's not sure PennDOT is sure that Adeline Brown Way is theirs. He also accused OBC trying to "stick it" to him and said OBC is a disgrace with "low brainpower." Mr. Keefe also alleged that council blindly votes on matters on purpose that impact him.

  President Ride requested Mr. Keefe bring the animosity down. Mr. Keefe did not heed the request and said that "there is a lot of animosity."

President Ride explained the amount of time that Council has exhausted on the Foundation's Parking Lot Project as well as the Turnback proposal from PennDOT.

Mr. Keefe continued to accuse OBC not doing their due diligence and targeting him because he feels OBC doesn't like him. He also stated he is due half the land of Adeline Brown Way and he is "coming for half of it."

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Paris, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss several litigation matters involving the Borough's approval Local Remedy Brewing, LRB's Occupancy Permit and Borough Personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bianca Labrador