**MINUTES**

**FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MAY 18, 2020**

PRESENT: Walter A. Scott, III, Mayor; Andrew C. Bennett, President; Thomas Karet, Harrison S. Lauer, Frederick C. Leech, Betsy Monroe, Mandy Steele, Jay S. Troutman, Councilmembers; A. Bruce Bowden, Esq., Solicitor; Gary J. Koehler, Borough Manager; David Laux, Police Chief; Jeanine A. Mancuso, Treasurer; David L. Kovac, EIT; Shawn M. Peterson, Borough Secretary.

ALSO

PRESENT: Joe McLaughlin, Beth Snitz, Dana Kellerman, Dick Edgecomb, Betsy Mullaugh, Fair Districts, PA; Wesley W. Posvar, Planning Commission; 18 Fox Chapel residents

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Borough Council meeting was held via Zoom Video Conference Call.

Mr. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:52 pm.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Lauer informed Council that Steven Victor of Victor-Wetzel Associates conducted a very well-organized presentation to the Planning Commission and residents on the conditional-use application 20-3 for a Density Development for parcels 251 and 305 Old Mill Road.

Mr. Lauer informed Council that questions arose as to whether the Density Development complied with the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Victor was asked to amend the application to address the points made by the Planning Commission when dealing with the compliance issue. Also, if Mr. Victor wanted to correspond separately with the residents about the reconfiguring of the 3.5-acre open space, the Planning Commission asked that he do so before the next meeting. The next Planning Commission meeting will be on June 15, 2020, at 5 pm. A Public Hearing is scheduled for the June 15, 2020, Council meeting at 6 pm.

Mr. Lauer informed Council that the conditional use for solar panels was discussed by the Planning Commission. They are recommending to Council that Bruce Bowden draft an ordinance amending roof-mounted solar panels as a permitted use, subject to the approval of the Code Official. It would also incorporate the language by Mrs. Monroe regarding front-facing panels. Ground-mounted panels will remain a conditional-use.

A broader proposal was shared by Mandy Steele, Councilmember, from a group called the Western Pennsylvania Rooftop Solar Challenge partners, intended to be responsive to the US Department of Energy’s SunShot Initiative.

A motion was made by Mr. Lauer and seconded and passed by unanimous vote to ask the solicitor to draft an ordinance as recommended by the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Troutman and seconded that the minutes of April 20, 2020, meeting be approved.

VISITORS

Residents from the Fair Districts PA were in attendance to discuss and request that Council pass a Resolution that is in support of a Pennsylvania Citizens Commission for Legislative and Congressional Redistricting.

Following a presentation and discussion, a motion was made to adopt Resolution No. 642 by Mrs. Monroe as presented by Fair Districts PA, and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Steele. All were in favor of the motion with a Nay vote by Mr. Troutman.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The following applications were reviewed by the EAC at its May 11, 2020 meeting:

Application No. 20-1: Howard W. III & Mary Anne D. Hanna

1001 West Waldheim Road

Proposed Addition & Site Improvements

Application No. 20-2: Kraig Graham

600 Berkshire Drive

Proposed Demo and Rebuild of Existing House

Application No. 20-3: Jeffrey Romoff

215 Hillcrest Road

Addition to Existing House

Mr. Troutman informed Council that the EAC would like to recommend that all three applications be accepted for approval. All applications have some stipulations associated with them. Mr. Troutman made the motion to accept applications 20-1, 20-2, and 20-3 with their stipulations. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Troutman also informed Council of the EAC’s recommendation to appoint Mr. Donald H. Newman for the open seat on the Environmental Advisory Council. Mr. Troutman made a motion that the EAC recommendation is accepted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Steele and passed by unanimous vote.

POLICE

Chief Laux informed Council that he had completed his Wildlife Management Operations for the year. They were able to donate 2,860 pounds of meat to the Greater Pittsburgh Area Food Bank due to the removal of 83 deer.

FINANCIAL

Mrs. Mancuso presented a Projected Revenue and Expense spreadsheet related to reduced revenue because of COVID 19. She indicated that the Borough had reduced its road paving program to decrease expenses.

Cooper-Siegel Community Library submitted its monthly expenses to the Borough. Mr. Bennett reported that they had been awarded a CARES Act Payroll Protection Program loan that will help compensate the library’s expenses for eight weeks. These expenses would include payroll, including benefits, along with certain other non-payroll items, i.e. leases, mortgage interest, utilities, etc.  For forgiveness of the PPP loan, at least 75% must be spent on payroll including benefits.  Non-payroll expenses can be no greater than 25%. It was decided by Council that a committee consisting of Alex Scott, Harrison Lauer, Tom Karet, and Betsy Monroe will need to meet with Cooper-Siegel Community Library’s Executive Director, Jill McConnell, to discuss funding by the Borough during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Payment of Bills

It was moved by Mr. Karet that the payment of bills for April 2020 (General Fund Vouchers 25937-26016, $326,827.37, and Land Fund Arm Vouchers 1043-1045, $11,567.13) be approved. The motion passed with Mr. Leech abstaining from voting on the Leech Tishman invoices due to the appearance of a conflict of interest.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Code of Conduct

Solicitor Bruce Bowden made the requested revisions to the Code of Conduct. A motion was made by Mrs. Monroe to approve the Code of Conduct. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Hardie Property Fundraising Update

The Mayor, Alex Scott, reported that $932,000 had been donated to the Hardie property acquisition with another $22,000 in commitments. Mr. Bennett commended the Mayor for his efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 713

Mr. Lauer made a motion to enacted Ordinance No. 713, setting AVJSA rates and restating Borough, Harmar, and Alcosan sewage rates. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Road Paving

Mr. Troutman made a motion to award the Road Paving contract to Tresco Paving Corporation, at the base bid of $410,917.50, including Alternate Nos. 8 and 9, increasing the total to $1,220,092.50, subject to obtaining the required insurance certificates and bonds from Tresco Paving Corporation. The motion also included tabling the other alternates at this time. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Stockpile Removal

Mr. Karet made a motion to award the Stockpile Removal contract to A. Liberoni, Inc. at the base bid of $52,939, including Alternate No. 1 and 4, subject to obtaining the required insurance certificates and bonds from A. Liberoni, Inc. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

June 15, 2020, Council Meeting

Council decided to hold June 15, 2020, meeting via Zoom if Pennsylvania remains in the Yellow Phase of Reopening. If Pennsylvania is moved into the Green Phase of Reopening by June 15, 2020, the Council meeting will be held at the Borough Building.

At 9:01 pm, Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss a property matter. At 9:17 pm, the regular meeting reconvened.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.

SHAWN M. PETERSON

Borough Secretary