MINUTES

**FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AUGUST 17, 2020**

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

**ABSENT:** Jeanine A. Mancuso, Treasurer

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Nannette Bennett, Wesley Posvar, Jeff Todd, James Royston, Planning Commission Members; Approximately 62 other attendees made up of residents and non-residents.

Mr. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Troutman and seconded by Mr. Karet, the minutes of the July 20, 2020 meeting were approved with the amendment to include the abstention of Mr. Leech from the invoices paid to LeechTichman for the Ratification of Payments. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**VISITORS/COMMENTS**

Residents of the Borough spoke on the request to rename Borough roads, trails, and waterways that use the word ‘squaw’. Council heard from residents on both sides of the issue. Mr. Bennett advised all in attendance that Council would be discussing the task force under New Business later in the evening.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

It was moved by Mr. Lauer that Council accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and grant preliminary and final approval to the Rath Pohl Plan of Lots, Lot Line Revision contingent upon updated drawings that indicate side setbacks that comply with the Borough Ordinance. Approval is also subject to compliance with any recommendations from the Allegheny County Economic Development Department, Planning Division. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troutman and passed by a unanimous vote.

**POLICE REPORT**

Chief Laux addressed a letter from resident Holly W. Sphar, Jr. dealing with concerns that repaving will encourage speeding on Fairview Road. Chief Laux recommended to Council that a traffic study by a traffic engineer should be done prior to the Borough taking any steps toward placing speed humps or other speed deterrents on the road. Without a traffic study, any damage done to vehicles because of speed deterrents on the road could be the responsibility of the Borough.

Mrs. Steele stated that the City of Pittsburgh just had a traffic study completed and installed speed deterrents in and around the city. It is presumed that the study was funded mainly by grant money, and she would be happy to investigate this for more details. Chief Laux will contact Scott Schubert, City of Pittsburgh’s Police Chief, to see how Pittsburgh funded their traffic study.

**ENGINEERING REPORT**

Mr. Koehler discussed having a conference call with Kevin Brett of Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering, and Dempsey Bruce, Superintendent of Public Works, on the paving schedule. Tresco Paving will be in the Borough in mid-September to begin paving roads. Paving should be completed sometime in mid-October.

**TREASURER REPORT**

Mr. Koehler reported that the Borough’s income tax revenue is down almost $114,000 along with RAD payments and Real Estate tax. He also stated that Mrs. Mancuso applied for a CARES Act Grant on behalf of the Borough, asking for the maximum amount, which is $125,000.

Payment of Bills

It was moved by Mr. Troutman that the payment of bills for July 2020 (General Fund Voucher Nos. 26216 - 26323 in the amount of $708,972.05) be approved. Mr. Karet seconded the motion with Mr. Leech abstaining from voting on the Leech Tishman invoices due to the appearance of a conflict of interest.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Joint Comprehensive Plan Committee

It was moved by Mr. Bennett that Council appoint the members of the Planning Commission as well as the five interested residents to the Joint Comprehensive Plan Committee, making it a committee of ten. Mr. Bennett also recommended in his motion that Mr. Leech chair the Fox Chapel side of the committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed by a unanimous vote.

Borough of Fox Chapel Task Force

It was moved by Mrs. Steele that Council vote to remove the slur from the community and the Task Force becomes a renaming committee. The renaming committee would then come up with three names to present to Council at the October 19, 2020 meeting. Council would then vote on a name. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Monroe. After discussion from all of Council, a vote was taken. Mrs. Steele and Mrs. Monroe were Aye votes, with Nay votes from Mr. Bennett, Mr. Troutman, Mr. Lauer, Mr. Leech, and Mr. Karet. The motion did not carry.

After further discussion on the objectives and of formation of the task force by the members of Council, it was moved by Mr. Bennett that Mr. Thomas N. Walker, resident of Fox Chapel, be asked to serve as the non-voting chair of the committee of fifteen with the first two members being Michael Pohl and either Michele Leonard or Melissa Compton, based on whether Ms. Leonard is willing to serve. Mr. Walker will randomly draw the remaining thirteen members out of the remaining candidates who have already expressed willingness to serve. One expectation of the Task Force would be to hear from residents of both Squaw Run Road and Squaw Run Road East for input throughout the process. Objectives for the Task Force would include reviewing the request to rename the Borough’s roads, trail, and waterway that utilize ‘squaw’. If changing the name is recommended, it is hoped that the task force will suggest potential new names that have historical significance. Another objective would be the logistics of handling the address changes for the residents along these two roads. The time frame would include having Mr. Walker pull the thirteen random names for the committee members by August 21, 2020, and having the committee begin their process of research during the last week of August. The committee will present their recommendations to Council no later than the November 16, 2020, Council meeting. Mr. Leech seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion with a Nay vote by Mrs. Steele.

Willow Farms Second Amendment to Development Agreement

It was moved by Mr. Troutman to approve the Second Amendment to the Development Agreement for Willow Farms as recommended by LSSE and the Borough Solicitor. Mr. Karet seconded the motion with Mr. Lauer abstaining from voting due to the appearance of a conflict of interest and the motion passed by affirmative vote of the other six Council members.

Fox Chapel Authority Vacancy

Due to the resignation of Roseanne Sanders from the Fox Chapel Authority, there is a vacancy. Mr. Bennett informed the public that the position would be advertised via the Borough website and NIXLE that any interested Borough resident should send their request along with their resume to the Borough Secretary, Shawn Peterson, by the end of day Friday, September 4, 2020. This position will be appointed by Council at the September 21, 2020, Council meeting, from the pool of candidates who apply.

Hanna Consolidation Plan

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 90-day requirement to submit a Lot-Line change to the Recorder of Deeds has expired. It was moved by Mr. Troutman to re-approve the Howard W. III & Mary Anne D. Hanna Consolidation Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed by a unanimous vote.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON

Borough Secretary