MINUTES

**FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 21, 2020**

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Wesley W. Posvar, Park Commission Chair; Steven Victor, Victor-Wetzel Associates; Stephen Paxton, Architect; 28 attendees.

ABSENT: David M. Laux, Police Chief

Mr. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Lauer and seconded by Ms. Steele that the minutes of the August 17, 2020, meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The EAC reviewed the following applications at its September 14, 2020 meeting:

Application No. 20-5 Anthony Pompeo

Anthony Pompeo Lot 1 – Parcel ID #287-S-090

Proposed New Single-Family Dwelling Construction

The EAC recommends to Council the approval of Application No. 20-5 as submitted, contingent upon replacing the four hardwoods, keeping tree No. 105, and looking into saving tree No. 32. If tree No. 32 cannot be saved, then the replacement of that tree would be added to the other hardwood replacements.

Tree Removal Request

No. TR-20-138 James and Mimi Loeffler

106 Shadow Ridge Drive

Proposed Removal of 83 Trees over 6” DHB

The EAC recommends to Council the approval of Tree Request No. TR-20-138 as submitted with the supplement, and with the Replacement Plan submitted as a 1:1 ratio.

It was moved by Mr. Bennett that Application No. 20-5 and Tree Removal Request No. TR-20-138 be approved subject to any conditions imposed by the EAC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed by a unanimous vote.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Steven Victor from Victor-Wetzel Associates was present to discuss both the Hammock Beach Partners Subdivision Plan and the Sherry Malone Plan of Lots #2 Subdivision Plan.

After a summary by Mr. Lauer, the Planning Commission Chair, it was recommended to Council by the Planning Commission to grant Preliminary and Final Approval for the Hammock Beach Partners Subdivision Plan, subject to the addition on the Plan that states, “Construction can begin on a lot only when an Environmental Disturbance Application has been filed and approved.” This was also subject to compliance with any recommendations from the Allegheny County Economic Development Department, Planning

Division. Approval is further conditioned on a covenant on the recorded plan that the lots in the plan cannot be further subdivided.

Following comments by Mr. Victor, and discussion and questions by Council members, it was moved by Mr. Lauer that The Hammock Beach Partners Subdivision Plan be approved subject to any conditions imposed by the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed by a unanimous vote.

After a summary by Mr. Lauer, the Planning Commission Chair, it was recommended to Council by the Planning Commission to grant Preliminary and Final Approval for the Sherry Maonle Plan of Lots #2 Subdivision Plan, subject to compliance with any recommendations from the Allegheny County Economic Development Department, Planning Division, and the additional condition that the three re-subdivided lots cannot be further subdivided..

Following a brief discussion and comments by Mr. Victor, it was moved by Mr. Lauer that the Sherry Malone Plan of Lots #2 Subdivision Plan be approved subject to any conditions imposed by the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed by a unanimous vote.

PARK COMMISSION

Mr. Posvar discussed with Borough Council the three motions from the Park Commission meeting held September 14, 2020. The first motion is for a limited attendance opening of Annie’s Field of Dreams on Sunday, October 4, 2020, from 3 PM – 6 PM. This event will be invite-only and will feature two food trucks. The public opening will be the following day, Monday, October 5, 2020, and will be announced on the Borough’s website and sent out via NIXLE.

The second motion is for the opening ceremony of Hardie Valley Park on Saturday, October 17, 2020, at 11 AM. This ceremony will be a dedication to the Hardie Family and generous donors who made the park possible. Parking and number of attendees is still an issue that will be worked out between Mayor Scott, Mr. Posvar, and Chief of Police, David Laux. Ms. Steele asked that she be included in this as well.

The third motion is to seek authorization from Council for the Park Commission to explore the idea of creating a 501(c)(3).

It was moved by Mr. Bennett to approve the dates for the two park openings and grant authorization to the Park Commission to explore the idea of creating a 501(c)(3). The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed by a unanimous vote.

TREASURER REPORT

Ms. Mancuso stated that the RFP for Banking Services done by the North Hills COG had three bank replies. PNC did not respond to the RFP. Dollar Bank and S&T Bank are the two stronger banks that work with municipalities. Ms. Mancuso also stated that Real Estate Tax is coming in at budget, and current EIT is up by $2,000. Mr. Leech suggested when doing the 2021 Budget, take into account that EIT has more volatility than Property Tax. Therefore, we may need to depend more on Real Estate Tax in the future. Ms. Mancuso would like to hold the Budget Meeting at the end of October to review the budget with the Finance Committee.

Payment of Bills

It was moved by Mr. Lauer that the payment of bills for August 2020 (General Fund Vouchers 26324 - 26414, $429,316.82; ARM Vouchers 1055 - 1062, $13,658.20) be ratified for payment. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion with Mr. Leech abstaining from voting on the Leech Tishman invoices due to the appearance of a conflict of interest.

MMOs

It was moved by Mr. Lauer that the 2021 MMOs for the Police Pension Plan ($0), the Non-Uniformed Defined-Benefit Plan ($127,306), and Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Plan ($14,669) be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed by a unanimous vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Road Paving-Alternate

Mr. Koehler reported that due to the CARES Grant of $125,000 and money from EIT, the Borough can add Alternate No. 5 – Dogwood Lane to the 2020 Paving Contract at a price of $79,900. It was moved by Mr. Leech to approve adding Alternate No. 5 – Dogwood Lane to the 2020 Paving Contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Fox Chapel Borough Building Security Study / ADA Compliance Modifications

Following discussion and questions by Borough Council to Architect Stephen Paxton, it was decided to reject all bids received for the Borough Building Security Study / ADA Compliance Modifications due to increased costs associated with COVID-19. A motion was made by Mr. Bennett to rebid the security study and ADA compliance modifications in January 2021 and, if satisfactory bids are received, to contract to begin work in February. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed by a unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 649

It was moved by Mr. Bennett to adopt Resolution No. 649 for Non-Uniformed Employee’s Plan relative to the establishment and maintenance of employee’s pension, annuity, insurance, and benefit fund(s), to amend certain provisions of the pension plan or program applicable to the employees of the Borough. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed by a unanimous vote.

Reappointments

It was moved by Ms. Steele that James Pashek be reappointed to the Park Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed by a unanimous vote.

It was moved by Mr. Karet that James M. Royston be reappointed to the Planning Commission. Mr. Lauer seconded this motion. All were in favor of the motion with a Nay vote by Ms. Steele.

Fox Chapel Authority Board of Directors Appointment

Resumes for ten applicants were previously submitted to Borough Council for review. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Bennett to appoint Donald Newman as the new member of the Fox Chapel Authority Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Ms. Steele and passed by a unanimous vote. Mr. Bennett thanked the other nine residents who applied for the position stating that he hopes they will consider applying for other positions within the Borough.

INFORMATIONAL

Grant Award

Notification was received from Representative Lori Mizgorski’s office that the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) Grant was awarded for the Public Works Garage in the amount of $100,000.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON Borough Secretary