MINUTES

**FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 18, 2021**

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Mike Stevens, Sergeant, Fox Chapel Police; nine residents

ABSENT: Jay S. Troutman, Councilmember

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Karet and seconded by Mr. Leech that the minutes of the December 21, 2020, meeting be approved as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

VISITORS/COMMENTS

There were no visitors/comments at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mayor Scott updated Council on the meeting held on January 11, 2021. Two new home build applications were tabled until more information is provided to the Borough Engineer. The Pittsburgh Field Club is requesting to remove one classic tree. This application was tabled until the Borough arborist has a chance to look at it and make a recommendation. The Fox Chapel Golf Club asked to remove their application from January 2021 agenda until they have more information to provide to the EAC. Council asked Mr. Koehler to write a letter to the Fox Chapel Golf Club to see if they would like to extend their deadline another thirty (30) days.

POLICE/ FIRE

Chief Laux informed Council that his last day on the force will be August 2, 2021. The Civil Service Board will continue with the hiring process for two new officers due to Officer Ziegler and Chief Laux's retirement. Also, Mike Stevens, who has been with the Fox Chapel Police Department for thirty-three (33) years, will be promoted to Chief, and one or two officers from the department will be promoted to sergeant.

Mayor Scott updated Council that the Fire Department has fewer calls in 2020 due to COVID-19. They also have some young new members that join the department.

ENGINEER

Mr. Koehler informed Council that he met with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, and O'Hara Township Manager, Julie Jakubec, to discuss the USACE draft report. The engineers are reviewing the report before a final version is distributed to the public.

FINANCIAL

Payment of Bills

Mr. Leech moved the payment of bills for December 2020 (General Fund Vouchers 26699 – 26822 - $491,897.34 and Land Fund ARM Voucher 1069 - 1071 - $5,664.62) be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed with Mr. Leech abstaining from voting on the Leech Tishman invoices due to the appearance of a conflict of interest.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion on a Process for the Affected Residents of Squaw Run Road/Squaw Run Road East

Mr. Bennett started the discussion on the process for the affected residents of Squaw Run Road/Squaw Run Road East:

1. **Naming Issues:** Letters were sent out at the beginning of January to the remaining households located on seven private lanes, asking for their suggested new names. The deadline for these names to be submitted is February 1, 2021, to allow the Borough time to contact Allegheny County Address Management.

2. **Public Road Name Suggestions:** The Borough has received many name suggestions from individuals to change the two public roads. The three most popular names thus far are: 1.) Seneca Run 2.) Fox Run 3.) Chapel Run

Ms. Steele stated that she contacted the President of the Seneca Nation. Again, she noted that the National Congress of American Indians' guidance suggests using a nature name when renaming something that once used an Indian slur.

Mayor Scott suggested that the word Fox may be similar to the situation for Trillium, where it is a widely used word in names of roads in the Borough.

3. **Library Help Desk:** Mr. Bennett asked Borough staff to compile a packet outlining the process of changing an address and send it to the affected residents. The information will include how the Borough will help the resident change their address and what the residents will have to do to change their address. The letter will also include information on the Library Help Desk contact and how the help desk will assist residents. The letter will be sent out to residents within the next week. A second letter will be sent out in March after Council has voted on the name changes and there is approval from the Allegheny County Address Management Administrator. The second letter will alert the residents to their new address and potential new number for their address.

4. **Financial Reimbursement for the affected residents**: After discussion on potential reimbursement for the affected residents, it was moved by Ms. Monroe to approve the token compensation of $250 per household to the affected residents of the road name change, with an additional $250 financial hardship compensation based on a request from the resident and demonstration of any financial hardship. Mr. Leech seconded the motion. Ms. Monroe amended the motion to state that if a resident does not want to accept the token compensation, the money can be donated to the Fox Chapel Parks Fund or the Volunteer Fire Department Fire Truck Fund by the resident. Mr. Leech seconded the amended motion. During discussion. Mrs. Steele objected to the sum of money that will be sent to the residents. Mr. Leech stated that the amount given is not an arbitrary number; it is a capped number. Mr. Bennett, Mr. Lauer, Mr. Leech, and Ms. Monroe all voted in favor of the amended motion. Ms. Steele was a Nay vote, and Mr. Karet abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.

NEW BUSINESS

Rubbish Bins

Mr. Koehler stated that it was brought to the Borough's attention by Public Works that the rubbish bins receive 5-6 mattresses and box springs per week. When these items are compacted along

with the other items placed in the compactor, they spring back and cause the other things to spray out of the compactor, causing a mess for the PWD to clean up. Vogel will pick up mattresses and box springs at the residence's curb for a nominal fee between $15 and $50, depending on size.

Mr. Bennett moved that the Borough will now prohibit mattresses and box springs to be added to the rubbish bins located behind the Borough Building. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed by a unanimous vote.

Reappointment

Mr. Bennett moved to reappoint Harrison S. Lauer to the Fox Chapel Sanitary Authority, with terms expiring December 31, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed by a unanimous vote.

INFORMATIONAL

Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy Winter Lantern Installation

Ms. Steele reported that the Lantern Installation event was a huge success. About one hundred people wandered around the light display at a safe distance from one another, and several hundred cars drove past. Ms. Steele stated how proud she was that the donations were mainly $25-$50 donations from community members, school district members, and residents of surrounding communities. Over $20,000 was raised for the Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy.

The Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy has already begun planning its next three events for spring, summer, and fall.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON

Borough Secretary