

MINUTES
FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 20, 2021

PRESENT: Walter A. Scott, III, Mayor; Jay S. Troutman, Frederick C. Leech, Betsy Monroe, Mandy Steele, Councilmembers; Gary J. Koehler, Manager; A. Bruce Bowden, Esq., Solicitor; Michael Stevens, Police Chief; Larry Kurpakus, Public Works Director; Jeanine Mancuso, Treasurer; Shawn Marie Peterson, Borough Secretary

VIA ZOOM: Andrew C. Bennett, President; Thomas Karet, Harrison S. Lauer, Councilmembers; approximately four other attendees

ALSO

PRESENT: Wesley Posvar, Chairperson for the Park Commission; Bradley Harrison, Sarah Hanna, newly elected Councilmembers; Jason Hurwitz, Fox Chapel Golf Club; Fire Chief Dee Humes, Brian Zimmerman, Michael Pohl, Volunteer Fire Department members; and four other attendees

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

MINUTES

Mr. Troutman moved that the minutes of the November 15, 2021, meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed with Mr. Troutman abstaining due to his absence at the November meeting.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

Mayor, Alex Scott introduced Fire Chief Dee Humes and Volunteer Fire Department members Brian Zimmerman and Michael Pohl to Council and took a moment to recognize the Fire Department's dedication and hard work. Mayor Scott called them the unsung heroes of the Borough of Fox Chapel. All of Council gave the Volunteer Fire Department a big thank you and a round of applause.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Troutman discussed the matters from the EAC meeting held on December 13, 2021. The EAC has recommended the appointment of Nanette Bennett, Thomas Murphy, and Walter A. Scott, with Mayor Scott's reappointment being temporary to allow the EAC time to meet with and interview the interested applicants to make an informed recommendation for appointment to the Borough Council.

The EAC also recommends approval of Environmental Disturbance Application 21-13 for the Fox Chapel Golf Club, with the recommended removal of twenty-one trees, excluding nos. five, eight, eleven or twelve, fifteen, and twenty-six as listed, with the Golf Club's consideration for stream remediation.

Mr. Jason Hurwitz of the Fox Chapel Golf Club was in attendance to answer questions from Borough Council. After discussion, Mr. Troutman moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application 21-13, as submitted with the stipulations set forth by the EAC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed with a Nay vote from Ms. Steele.

PARK COMMISSION

Ms. Steele stated that due to the inclement weather on Saturday, December 18, 2021, the Fox Chapel Park Conservancy's Winter Solstice Lantern Walk was postponed until Saturday, January 8, 2021, at Salamander Park from 5 PM to 7 PM.

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Mr. Posvar was in attendance to discuss the matters from the Park Commission meeting held on Monday, December 13, 2021.

Mr. Troutman moved to approve the naming of the Borough parklands from Old Mill Road extending northward to Beechwood Farms property as Hidden Falls Park. The motion was seconded by Ms. Steele and passed by a unanimous vote.

CONTRACT AWARD

Mr. Troutman moved to award the contract for a hydraulic truck lift for the new Public Works Facility to Mohawk Lifts LLC at the cost of \$39,735.47 via CoStars Contract No. 4400024053. The motion was seconded by Ms. Steele and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Troutman moved to award the contract for two 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD vehicles for the Police Department to Tristar Chevrolet, Inc. at the cost of \$46,366.99 each (\$92,733.98 total) via CoStars Contract No. 026-132. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed by a unanimous vote.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Stevens stated there were two vehicle break-ins at Riding Meadow Park in November. Leaving purses, backpacks, and other personal belongings in plain sight within a vehicle is not recommended, even if the car is locked.

Chief Stevens gave an update on the school bus stop safety issue that was presented at the November meeting. Since the November 15th meeting, the Fox Chapel Area School District and ABC Transit have made some safety changes regarding the bus stops at Hillcrest and Rockwood Drives. The bus stops are now curbside, so the school children no longer have to cross Fox Chapel Road to get to the bus stop. The School District and ABC Transit have also agreed to purchase license readers that will attach to the side of the school buses.

Chief Stevens discussed the success of the Police Department's toy drive and Sweats for Vets donations. One-hundred and fourteen toys were donated to Stuff-a-Store and Presents from Police, and twenty-four sweatshirts were donated to veterans. All donations were made by residents and Borough employees. He also stated that the Coffee with a Cop event on Friday, December 10th was a success, and the department received great feedback from those who attended.

Lastly, Chief Stevens discussed the response time of the Volunteer Fire Department for the house fire on December 6th. Chief Stevens said that he was thoroughly impressed with the efficiency of the Fire Department in responding and containing the fire so quickly.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Kurpakus took a moment to thank Dempsey Bruce for being very helpful and patient while he has learned the job and all that goes with it. The Public Works crews will complete Leaf Collection before the Holidays. Utility trenching for the new Public Works Facility is ongoing.

FINANCE REPORT

Ms. Mancuso stated that EIT is significantly greater than 2020 and \$14,000 more than pre-COVID 2019.

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Payment of Bills

Mr. Troutman moved that the payment of bills for November 2021 (General Fund Vouchers 2055-2152, \$607,094.68) 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the 2022 Budget. This budget was recommended by the Finance Committee, reviewed by Council, and advertised for available viewing by the public. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the Organizational Meeting date of Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 6 PM. The regular Council meeting will occur on the same evening, after the Organizational Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Troutman moved to appoint Mr. Stephen Whittingham to the Park Commission with a term expiration of December 31, 2027. The motion was seconded by Ms. Steele and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Troutman moved to appoint Ms. Nannette Bennett to the Environmental Advisory Council with a term expiration of December 31, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed with Mr. Bennett abstaining from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

Mr. Troutman moved to appoint Mr. Thomas Murphy to the Environmental Advisory Council with a term expiration of December 31, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Troutman moved to appoint Walter A. (Alex) Scott to the Environmental Advisory Council with a term expiration to be announced. This will allow the EAC time to meet with and interview the interested applicants to make an informed recommendation for an appointment to the Borough Council. The motion was seconded by Ms. Steele and passed by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Monroe moved to enact Ordinance No. 718, which establishes the sewer rates for Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) and restates Borough, Harmar, and AVJSA sewage rates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troutman and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Lauer moved to adopt Resolution No. 662, fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for general revenue purposes at a sum of 2.95 mills on each dollar of market valuation for 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed by a unanimous vote. Mr. Bennett took a moment to thank Jeanine Mancuso and the Borough staff for putting the budget together so well, which helps impact the Real Estate Tax Rate.

Mr. Troutman moved to adopt Resolution No. 663, which amends the Non-Uniform Employee Pension Plan, changing the Employer contributions to seven percent (7.0%) of each participant's compensation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Leech moved to adopt Resolution No. 664, which amends the Police Pension Plan to include a "trigger mechanism" to determine the contribution level of pension plan participants. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Karet moved to accept the resignation of Councilmember Jay S. Troutman, effective the meeting's adjournment. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed by a unanimous vote. Mr.

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Bennett stated that there are no words to express his gratitude and thanks to Mr. Troutman. Mr. Troutman will remain on the Borough's Park Commission and EAC.

Mr. Bennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 665 to appoint Thomas A. Karet to the balance of Jay S. Troutman's term (first Monday in January 2024). The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed with Mr. Karet abstaining from the vote due to the conflict of interest.

Mr. Bennett took a moment to recognize Mr. Frederick C. Leech and Mr. Jay S. Troutman as this was their last Council meeting as members of Council. Mr. Bennett stated, "It is always best to leave something better than how you found it, and both Mr. Leech and Mr. Troutman have done just that."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:57 PM, Borough Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. At 7:25 PM, the meeting was reconvened.

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

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON
Borough Secretary