



MINUTES
FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AUGUST 15, 2022

PRESENT: Andrew C. Bennett, Council President; Harrison S. Lauer, Sarah Hanna, Mandy Steele, Elizabeth Monroe, Councilmembers; Walter A. Scott, III, Mayor; Gary J. Koehler, Borough Manager; A. Bruce Bowden, Solicitor; Michael Stevens, Police Chief; Jeanine A. Mancuso, Treasurer; Larry Kurpakus, Public Works Director; Shawn M. Peterson, Borough Secretary

ALSO

PRESENT: Wesley Posvar, Planning Commission Member; James Pashek, Jenni Easton, Pashek +MTR; Chad Lippert, Fox Chapel Police Department; John Kimmel, Sharpsburg Borough Police Department; Mary Weidner, Mike Pohl, residents

VIA ZOOM: Bradley D. Harrison, Councilmember; four attendees

ABSENT: Thomas Karet, Councilmember

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

MINUTES

Mr. Lauer moved that the July 18, 2022, meeting minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Steele and passed by a unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Scott read aloud a Proclamation in appreciation of James W. Pashek's devotion and service to the Borough of Fox Chapel, stating a desire for a permanent record of gratitude for Mr. Pashek's community service. A framed copy of the Proclamation was given to Mr. Pashek. After a standing ovation from all present, Mr. Bennett thanked Mr. Pashek for everything he has done for the Borough, stating, "it has been immeasurable."

JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. Pashek provided an update on the Joint Comprehensive Plan from Pashek +MTR following the Proclamation in his honor. He stated that fourteen percent of households have responded to the questionnaire sent to all residents of the Borough of Fox Chapel and the Township of O'Hara seeking public input for the long-range plan. There have been 1130 responses, with more coming in each day. The most common issues found on the questionnaire are community safety, stormwater, and the need for collaboration with the school district.

The most frequent comments for Question 15: "If you would like to add comments that would help us better understand successes, issues, or ways to better our community, please add them..." were regarding trails, bikes, and sidewalks, fiscal responsibility, recycling green, and native plants, stormwater, and better communication.

Mr. Pashek hopes to bring preliminary recommendations to Council by January or February 2023 and bring the Comprehensive Plan to a close by the beginning of the second quarter of 2023.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

None

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ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Following the discussion on Environmental Disturbance Application 22-03, Mr. Bennett moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application 22-03, construction of a new single-family residence at the Enclave, Lot 307-R, as submitted with the stipulations set forth by the EAC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed by a unanimous vote.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Lauer noted the Planning Commission recommends the amended ordinance be sent to the Allegheny County Planning Department for its comments and to advertise the ordinance with modifications made to the Solar Panel definition regarding the size of the panels.

Following a discussion, Ms. Steele recommended submitting the ordinance to the Allegheny County Planning Department and advertising the amended ordinance with modifications to the first definition exempting small panels. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bennett and passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Stevens congratulated Officer Chad Lippert, Officer John Kimmel of the Sharpsburg Police Department, and the other North Hills Special Response Team, Crisis Negotiation Team (NHSRT CNT) members for their first-place win at the regional Best of the Best Crisis Negotiators Competition hosted by the FBI. The NHSRT CNT competed against eight other teams from the region. The competition was approximately eight hours long, and the teams had to work through two crises.

Officer Lippert thanked Chief Stevens and Councilmembers for all of the support he has been given with the opportunity to be a part of the NHSRT CNT.

Borough Council congratulated Officers Lippert and Kimmel and thanked Officer Lippert for representing the Borough on the NHSRT.

Borough Council congratulated Chief Stevens on his first year as Chief at the Borough.

Emergency Management Coordinator Deputy

Chief Stevens stated the Borough received two applications from residents with impressive resumes for the Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) Deputy position. He recommended that Council appoint Michael Pohl and Randy Scott as Emergency Management Coordinator Deputies for the Borough of Fox Chapel.

Mr. Bennett moved to appoint Michael Pohl and Randy Scott as Emergency Management Coordinator Deputies for the Borough of Fox Chapel. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion.

Following a discussion on a term limit for the position, Mr. Bennett moved to modify his motion to include a six-year term. The modified motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed with a Nay vote from Ms. Steele. Ms. Steele expressed mixed thoughts she had about Mr. Pohl.

FIRE REPORT

The Mayor said that most calls in the Borough are false alarms, and the more challenging calls, such as accidents, occur outside the Borough in areas where the Borough participates in Mutual Aid.

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PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Kurpakus said the stepping stone bridge at Hardie Valley Park had been completed. He also stated the Public Works crews had completed the Stormwater/Underdrain work for 2022 ahead of schedule.

Youngblood Paving should be completed with paving in the Borough within the next two weeks. PWD crews will begin landscape restoration.

TREASURER REPORT

Ms. Mancuso stated the Borough received a check from the Department of Treasury for \$217,891.34 for a FEMA reimbursement for the July 2018 storm damage.

Mr. Bennett thanked the Borough staff for their efforts in obtaining the funds.

Ratification of Payments – July 2022

Ms. Steele moved that the payment of bills for July 2022 (General Fund Vouchers 2834 - 2919, \$876,845.48) be ratified. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed by a unanimous vote.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Dinkmar Standard 8' Leaf Chipper Box

Ms. Monroe moved to approve the purchase of a Dinkmar Standard 8' Leaf Chipper Box to U.S. Municipal via CoStars Contract No. 025-E22-441 for \$10,168.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Junior Council Person (JCP)

Mr. Harrison stated three individuals applied for the position of JCP. He and Ms. Hanna have talked with two of the three individuals and recommended to Council to appoint Bree Murphy, a Senior at Shady Side Academy, to the position of JCP.

Mr. Harrison and Ms. Hanna want to appoint another individual at the September 19, 2022, meeting to have one student from Shady Side Academy and another from Fox Chapel Area High School.

Ms. Hanna moved to appoint Miss Murphy to the position of Junior Council Person for a one-year term beginning on September 19, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed by a unanimous vote.

Miss Murphy will take her pledge at the September meeting, and the Fox Chapel Area High School student will take their pledge at the October 17, 2022, meeting.

At 7:24 PM, Borough Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. At 7:51 PM, the meeting was reconvened.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON
Borough Secretary