



FOX CHAPEL
BOROUGH

MINUTES
FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MAY 15, 2023

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Logan Dressman, Bree Murphy, Junior Council Members; Kevin Brett, Borough Engineer; Austin Henry, EAC Chairperson; Michael Pohl, Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department; 5 other attendees

VIA ZOOM: Thomas Karet, Councilmember; Wesley Posvar, Park Commission Chairperson; John Boyer, Joe Day, Mary Kadar, Nathan M.

ABSENT: Frederick C. Leech, Councilmember

Mr. Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:59 PM.

MINUTES

Ms. Hanna moved that the April 17, 2023, meeting minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed, with Ms. Monroe abstaining due to being absent from the April meeting.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

None

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Austin Henry, Chairperson for the EAC, summarized Environmental Disturbance Application 23-08.

Ms. Hanna moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application 23-08, 2 Edgemoor Lane, tennis court and pond, as submitted, contingent upon the items outlined in the LSSE letter dated May 2, 2023, and includes planting native Dogwood trees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed by a unanimous vote.

POLICE

Police New Hires

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the hiring of Michael Catanzaro, Jr., and Amanda Fedunok, as Chief Stevens and the Civil Service Commission recommended, contingent upon them completing the psychological and physical tests. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Kurpakus stated the streambank repair and removal of gabion baskets had been completed in Salamander Park. Resident Melinda Guinn and other volunteers planted 250 seedlings along the streambank in Salamander Park. The Public Works Department has begun streambank restoration work along Sycamore Run. The work will be done in sections between Hunt Road and Scott Park.

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Ms. Monroe said that between the Arbor Day Planting event, and other volunteer plantings, approximately 950 seedlings had been planted from Rockwood Drive to Salamander Park, Riding Meadow Park, and along Stoney Camp Run.

TREASURER REPORT

Ms. Mancuso stated that \$922,000 in grants had been promised to the Borough for work in McCahill Park (\$240,000) and Hardie Valley Park (\$454,000), solar panels for the new Public Works Facility (\$51,000), Public Works Facility (\$100,000) and recycling program (\$77,000).

Ms. Mancuso noted two new line items on the Balance Sheet due to a new accounting standard regarding how the Borough reports leases. Lease Receivables and Deferred Inflows Leases are now added to the financial report as the Borough is in a lease agreement with the Cooper-Siegel Community Library for site rental. The current lease is for 99 years, so to make the process easier, the Borough is rewriting the lease for a ten-year period that can be renewed.

Ratification of Payments – April 2023

Ms. Monroe moved that the payment of bills for April 2023 (General Fund Vouchers 3710 - 3781, \$727,617.69) be ratified. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed unanimously.

CONTRACT AWARDS

SHACOG Purchasing Alliance

SHACOG received bids for spring and summer commodities. Council was informed that the contracts are recommended to be awarded to the low bidder in most cases. The primary exceptions are where the low bidder cannot manufacture to our specifications, material quality, and availability or where the added travel time to the low bidder's site would more than offset any cost savings.

Mr. Lauer moved that Borough staff be authorized to enter into contractual agreements for commodities the Borough requires with the vendors who can provide them. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed by a unanimous vote. It is understood that the Borough is not compelled to purchase its requirements for these commodities from these vendors so long as alternative purchases meet legal requirements.

Public Works Operations Building Contracts:

Contract No. 23-PW1- General

Mr. Lauer moved to award the General Contract based on the bids submitted (Add Alternate No. 2, Deduct Alt. No. 1) to FMS Construction with the base bid amount of \$503,935. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed unanimously.

Contract No. 23-PW2- HVAC

Ms. Monroe moved to award the HVAC Contract to D&G Mechanical, Inc., with a base bid of \$44,100. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed unanimously.

Contract No. 23-PW3- Plumbing

Mr. Karet moved to award the Plumbing Contract to McRandal Company, Inc., with a base bid of \$96,200. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

Mr. Koehler stated there would be a request for a proposal and possible change order regarding the bid amount as the Borough needs to add a shower to the women's locker room in the Police Department.

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Contract No. 23- PW4- Electrical

Ms. Monroe moved to award the Electrical Contract to McCurley Houston Electric, Inc., with a base bid of \$38,148. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fire Siren Task Force Update

Mr. Harrison provided an update to Council regarding the Fire Siren Task Force. He stated the main areas the task force is investigating are cell signal strength in the Borough, reducing the cycles of the sirens, looking into new siren technology to have lower decibels and reduced cycles, distributing sirens throughout the Borough, and recruiting volunteers for the VFD. He stated that the task force should have formal recommendations for Council's consideration in the next few months.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 724

Mr. Harrison moved to enact Ordinance No. 724, an ordinance amending Section 338.12A, Through Highways Established, and Section 338.13A, Stop Intersections Established, of the Code of the Borough. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed unanimously. Advanced warning and other notification signs were requested to be installed along with the brush clearing.

Ordinance No. 725

Mr. Lauer moved to enact Ordinance No. 725, establishing sewer rates for Allegheny Valley Joint Sewer Authority (AVJSA) and restating Borough, Harmar, and Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) sewage rates. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

At 6:39 PM, Borough Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss three legal matters. At 7:22 PM, the meeting was reconvened.

With no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON
Borough Secretary