



**FOX CHAPEL**  
BOROUGH

**MINUTES**

**FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AUGUST 21, 2023**

PRESENT: Andrew C. Bennett, Council President; Frederick C. Leech, Thomas Karet, Elizabeth Monroe (arrived at the meeting at 6:14 PM), Sarah Hanna, Bradley D. Harrison, Councilmembers; Walter A. Scott, III, Mayor; A. Bruce Bowden, Solicitor; Gary J. Koehler, Borough Manager; Michael J. Stevens, Chief of Police; Larry Kurpakus, Public Works Director; Jeanine A. Mancuso, Treasurer; Shawn M. Peterson, Borough Secretary

ALSO

PRESENT: Austin Henry, EAC Chairperson; Jill McConnell, Executive Director of Cooper-Siegel Community Library; Steve Lackey, Community Library Association (CLA) Board of Trustees President; Nadine Ostrowski, Cooper-Siegel Community Library Development Manager; Michael Pohl, Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department; William Tippins, resident; David Trueba, resident; and one other attendee

VIA ZOOM: Three attendees

ABSENT: Harrison S. Lauer, Councilmember

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

**MINUTES**

Mr. Karet moved that the July 17, 2023, meeting minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed by a unanimous vote.

**RESIDENT COMMENTS**

NONE

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Austin Henry, Chairperson for the EAC, summarized Environmental Disturbance Application 23-17, 21 Fairview Manor, new single-family dwelling.

Mr. Leech moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application 23-17, as submitted, with the waiver from the geotechnical report being granted as requested and contingent upon replanting 1:1 hardwoods with a recommended emphasis on Oak tree replacements. The motion is also contingent upon the items outlined in the LSSE letter dated August 10, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Henry summarized Tree Removal Application TR 23-93, 109 Hillcrest Road, removal of four diseased trees on the property.

Mr. Leech moved to approve Tree Removal Application TR 23-93, as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed unanimously. It was noted that the homeowners, Andrew Laman and Paula Jernigan, have planted 114 trees on their property in the past twelve months.

Mr. Henry summarized Environmental Disturbance Application 23-11, 103 Catalpa Ridge Road, regrading and drainage work to redirect stormwater.

Ms. Hanna moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application 23-11 as submitted, contingent upon the viability of a new grate or trash rack for the inlet structures. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed by a unanimous vote.

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Mr. Henry summarized Environmental Disturbance Application 22-01, 109 Hickory Hill Road, replanting plan.

Mr. Karet moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application 22-01 replanting plan that includes 23 trees as submitted, contingent upon the lot being brought into compliance with the Gateway Engineering Stormwater Report and its classification as a meadow by having continuous cover vegetation across the lot in accordance with the E&S plan submitted by the applicant requiring permanent vegetation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

Mr. Henry stated Martone Engineering submitted a letter to the Borough asking for an extension to the approval date of May 16, 2022, for Environmental Disturbance Application 22-03, 141 Old Mill Road (555 Woodbridge Lane), new single-family dwelling, with minor changes from the original plan.

Mr. Karet moved to approve an extension for Environmental Disturbance Application 22-03, with the minor changes from the original plan contingent upon the final review from Borough Engineer, LSSE. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed by a unanimous vote.

### **LIBRARY REPORT**

Jill McConnell, Executive Director of the Cooper-Siegel Community Library, gave an update on the library's activities. She stated that in 2022, 60% of Fox Chapel residents have a library card, and 1800 residents attended programs at the Cooper-Siegel Community Library and the Sharpsburg Community Library.

*Betsy Monroe arrived at 6:14 PM and was present for the remainder of the meeting and subsequent voting.*

### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Stevens stated that Officers Michael Catanzaro and Amanda Fedunok have completed their Field Training. Sergeant Craig Sorg is working with Officer Zachary Luffy on his Field Training and is expected to complete this soon.

### **FIRE REPORT**

Mayor Scott and Borough Manager Koehler met with Chief Dee Humes of the Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department to review Station No. 1 remodel updates. The remainder of the bond funds will fund this project. The remodel will give the VFD more office space, a common area, and a workout area for the VFD and Police Department. Architect Stephen Paxton will begin working on the design for this area.

They also discussed preliminary repairs that are needed for Station No. 2. Mr. Koehler stated that the Borough and VFD will begin investigating CFA Funding and Local Gambling Funds grants for the repairs needed at Station No. 2 as this station serves multiple municipalities (O'Hara, Indiana, and Shaler Townships).

### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Mr. Kurpakus stated that Hillcrest Road had not been placed on the paving schedule with Shields yet as they must complete work in O'Hara Township before school resumes. Once the roads in O'Hara Township are completed, Shields will return to the Borough to complete Hillcrest Road.

Mr. Kurpakus also said that grading for the Sycamore Run streambank restoration has been completed and reseeded. PWD will begin planting 2300 seedlings and bushes along the streambank with the assistance of the Park Commission and volunteers. Seedlings will come from Tree Pittsburgh, the Ten Million Trees for PA Project, and Apollo Wetland Supply. The plantings will take place in September and October.

### **TREASURER REPORT**

Ms. Mancuso explained that the \$63,000 Refund for Prior Expenses was due to the \$34,000 insurance company settlement reimbursement for the settlement with Katz and \$28,000 from Property and Liability dividends.

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### Ratification of Payments – July 2023

Ms. Monroe moved that the payment of bills for July 2023 (General Fund Vouchers 3969 - 4053, \$739,644.42) be ratified. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed unanimously.

### **CONTRACT AWARDS**

#### 2024 Ford F550 Super Duty 4x4 Regular Cab and Chassis

Mr. Karet moved to award the 2024 Ford 550 Super Duty 4x4 Regular Cab and Chassis contract to Laurel Auto Group, Inc. via Co-Stars Contract No. 025-E22-486 for \$56,820. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed by a unanimous vote.

#### 2024 Ford F550 Up-Fit Package

Ms. Monroe moved to award the 2024 Ford F550 Up-Fit Package to Stephenson Equipment, Inc. via CoStars Contract No. 025-E22-486 for \$44,200. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

#### 2024 Ford F250 Super Duty 4x4 SRW (Super Cab Pick-Up)

Mr. Leech moved to award the 2024 Ford F250 Super Duty (Super Cab Pick-Up) to Laurel Auto Group, Inc. via CoStars Contract No. 025-E22-486 for \$49,605. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed unanimously.

Mr. Kurpakus stated that the F250 was budgeted for 2023 but was unavailable due to limited inventory, and the F550 was on schedule to be replaced in 2024 but needs to be ordered now for a 2024 delivery.

### **SALE OF EQUIPMENT**

Mr. Karet moved to award the sale of the 2000 Mack RD688P to the high-bidder, Joseph Galbraith, via Municibid Online Government Auction for \$13,100. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Sirio-Marquart Lot Line Revision

Mr. Karet moved that the Sirio-Marquart Lot Line Revision be re-approved due to the expiration of the 90-day requirement to submit a lot line change to the Recorder of Deeds. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed by a unanimous vote.

#### Junior Council Person Program (JCP) Appointments

Mr. Harrison moved to appoint Avery Litwin and Ethon Kolek, Juniors at Shady Side Academy, to the Junior Council Person Program for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 school years. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed unanimously. Miss Litwin and Mr. Kolek will take their JCP Pledge at the September 18, 2023, Council meeting.

#### Resolution No. 686 – Allegheny County – Urban County Qualification FY 2024, 2025, and 2026 Option to be Included in the CDBG and HOME Programs

Mr. Bennett moved to adopt Resolution No. 686, where the Borough hereby chooses to opt-in with the Allegheny County CDBG Program and HOME Program for the 2024, 2025, and 2026 program years. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

#### Allegheny County Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement

Mr. Karet moved to approve the five-year Allegheny County Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement between the Borough and PennDOT for winter maintenance work for the designated state route, Powers Run Road (Fox Chapel/O'Hara line to Fox Chapel Road). The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed unanimously.

#### Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Green Light Go Program

Mr. Bennett moved to authorize Gary Koehler, Borough Manager, to act as the signing authority for the PennDOT Green Light Go grant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

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Mayor Scott stated he would be meeting with members of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy along with Mr. Koehler, Mr. Kurpakus, and Wesley Posvar, Park Commission Chairperson, to discuss how the Conservancy would like to assist the Borough with the landscaping plan for McCahill Park and the maintenance of the rain gardens and detention areas. Mr. Koehler will share information from the meeting with Council.

At 6:52 PM, Borough Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. At 7:43 PM, the meeting was reconvened.

Mr. Leech moved that Council is willing to make the requested payment to retired Canine Officer Rob Katich regarding the dog, provided Mr. Katich signs an agreement and release that is in a form satisfactory to Labor Attorney Mike Palombo. The motion was seconded by Mr. Karet and passed unanimously.

With no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON  
Borough Secretary