

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA  
COUNCIL COMBINED WORKSHOP  
AND  
REGULAR VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

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**I. OPENING PROCEDURES**

- A. Call to Order by President Smith at 7:01 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance led by President Smith.
- C. Roll Call

Council Members Present: Robert John Smith, President of Council; Charles A. Vogel, Vice-President of Council; George H. Stewart, Second Ward; Scott Frankowski, Third Ward; Allison Berger\*, Fourth Ward; Cassandra Eccles, Fifth Ward; John R. Denny, Jr., At-Large

Also Present: Ted Curran, Township Treasurer; Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA, Township Manager; Daniel Garfinkel, Township Solicitor; Charles W. Steinert, Jr., P.E., Township Engineer; Scott K. Slagel, Police Superintendent; Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

(\*) denotes late arrival.

Manager Jakubec read the meeting procedures.

**II. MOMENT OF SILENCE TO COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO DIED DURING THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 TERRORISTIC ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

President Smith requested a moment of silence to commemorate those who lost their lives during the terrorist attack on the United States on September 11, 2001.

**III. CITIZEN COMMENTS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Tom Powers, Powers Run Road, provided an update concerning the Community Park, recalling a meeting with Miguel Sague and Shamus Petrucelli. He noted Mr. Petrucelli would be putting his thoughts together for discussion at the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Council Regular Virtual Meeting – July 14, 2020
- B. Council Town Hall Virtual Meeting – July 28, 2020
- C. Council Virtual Workshop – August 4, 2020
- D. Council Virtual Public Hearing – August 11, 2020

Motion by Mr. Denny, Jr. to approve the minutes was seconded by Vice President Vogel.

Mr. Stewart noted corrections to the July 14, 2020 minutes.

On voice vote the motion to approve the minutes as corrected carried unanimously.

V. FINANCE

A. Vouchers – August 2020

Motion by Mr. Stewart to pay the Vouchers as presented was seconded by Vice President Vogel and carried unanimously. The Vouchers total \$803,643.20.

B. Receipts and Expenditures Records – July 2020

Motion by Mr. Stewart to accept the Receipts and Expenditures Records was seconded by Vice President Vogel and carried unanimously.

C. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Curran indicated finances are challenging this year. The Township is fortunate to not have any flooding events this summer. Though revenue is down, projects have also been cut back.

Manager Jakubec informed Council that the Township received the full \$125,000 grant and applications have been submitted to FEMA and PEMA. She indicated she would call the tax collector for a read on the end of the year projections.

Vice President Vogel recalled talking with a constituent about tax payments and the 2% discount. Manager Jakubec stated payment due dates were extended to the end of the year at face value. Vice President Vogel noted most people pay the taxes at discount and asked if there was a percentage of people that pay at the discounted rate. Manager Jakubec indicated she would provide the information to Council. Vice President Vogel also inquired about the percentage that does not meet face value and are subject to penalty. The Manager indicated most are from split parcels due to the Route 28 construction.

Treasurer Curran noted people with mortgages usually have an escrow for taxes and make sure they are paid.

Mr. Denny, Jr. questioned what FEMA would cover with respect to the pandemic. The Manager stated category B expenditures, which is \$125,000 for Police salaries, \$11,000 for personal protective equipment, disinfectant cleaners, etc. Mr. Denny, Jr. asked if the Township would need or qualify for a Tax Anticipation Loan to the end of the year. Manager Jakubec recalled a conversation with Treasurer Curran and agreed to continue monitoring the cash balance.

\*Ms. Berger joined the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

## VI. REPORTS

### A. Other Organizations and Agencies Reports

Mr. Stewart stated the RIDC Alliance has had a hard time meeting or making progress on building the base of businesses.

### B. Monthly Departmental Reports

Mr. Stewart presented questions regarding information provided in the Financial Report, which Manager Jakubec explained.

Mr. Stewart inquired about the status of the Kerr School grading. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated he had not heard anything on the final grading plan from the school district.

Mr. Stewart inquired about the status of the sink hole on Kittanning Pike. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. indicated he had not heard from Penn D.O.T. Manager Jakubec noted reaching out to Senator Williams and State Representative Mizgorski. She stated the water came up higher and they were to get a meeting together about the blocked pipe and sink hole.

### C. Manager's Report

No comments.

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Ordinances - Second Reading and Adoption

- (1) Ratifying a One Year Extension of the Public Service Department Employees Labor Agreement B-36-2020

The Manager stated the proposed ordinance ratifies the extension of the Public Service Employee Labor Agreement for the year 2021. The union has already approved the contract. The only change to the agreement is employees will receive the same wage increase as received for 2020.

Motion by Mr. Stewart to adopt ordinance Bill No. B-36-2020 was seconded by Ms. Berger and carried unanimously.

- (2) Amending the Township Parks Rules and Regulations and Repealing Ordinance No. 1351 in its Entirety B-37-2020

Manager Jakubec recalled as a result of changing the name of the Township's premier park to O'Hara Township Community Park, the Park Rules and Regulations have been amended to reflect the name change.

Motion by Mr. Stewart to adopt ordinance Bill No. B-37-2020 was seconded by Mr. Denny, Jr.

Mr. Stewart questioned if private lessons were held in the park. Manager Jakubec explained for-profit activities, such as tennis, fitness or baseball instructions would need to go through the Township's Recreation Partner, Lauri Ann West Community Center.

Mr. Stewart asked if firearms in the park could be restricted without conflicting with local and state laws. The Manager stated the Township could not restrict firearms in the park.

Mr. Stewart inquired about solicitation, and raffles in parks. The Manager explained it is not permitted and it would likely be someone looking for business.

On roll call the voice carried unanimously.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Resolutions

- (1) Naming Cooper Siegel Library as a Township Recreation Partner B-40-2020

The Manager recalled representatives of the Library have suggested hosting story time in O'Hara Township Community Park near Melissa Kratsa's pergola in the Fall. They have agreed to abide by all of the Township's COVID-19 rules, including social distancing.

Motion by Mr. Frankowski to approve resolution Bill No. B-40-2020 was seconded by Ms. Berger and carried unanimously.

- (2) Awarding Contracts Through the North Hills Council of Governments for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation B-41-2020

Manager Jakubec stated the North Hills Council of Governments received bids for its annual sanitary sewer repairs contracts on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Staff is requesting authorization to execute the necessary contracts on an as needed basis for sanitary sewer repairs in order to comply with the consent order. The estimated cost for repairs has been between \$200,000 and \$300,000 in past years.

Motion by Mr. Denny, Jr. to approve resolution Bill No. B-41-2020 was seconded by Vice President Vogel.

The Manager noted the contracts were structured differently in order to allow for quick turnaround. If the lowest bidder cannot start a project, the Township can award the bid to the next lowest bidder.

On voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

## B. Motions

### (1) Appointment to the Fox Chapel Authority Board

Manager Jakubec noted staff had reached out to Mr. Rob Richman and Mr. Christopher Pegher to inquire about interest in serving on the Fox Chapel Authority Board. Council was provided their letters of interest and resumes with the August meeting agenda for review.

Motion by Mr. Stewart to appoint Christian Pegher to serve on the Fox Chapel Authority Board to fill the unexpired term of Michael Miele was seconded by Mr. Denny, Jr. and carried unanimously. Mr. Pegher's term will expire December 31, 2022.

## IX. DISCUSSION

### (1) Trick-or-Treat Night in the Township

Manager Jakubec stated staff will soon begin receiving phone calls inquiring about if and/or when Trick-Or-Treating will be scheduled in the Township. She recalled in the past Trick-or-Treating has been celebrated on Halloween between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. She explained a "Boo To You" Program could be created to provide guidelines to trick-or-treaters and those participating in giving treats in accordance with COVID-19 recommendations. The Manager also noted trick-or-treating could be cut back to one hour.

Ms. Berger and her daughter supported having Trick-or-Treating.

Manager Jakubec indicated she would prepare the guidelines for Council to review during the Special Workshop scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup>.

### (2) Movies in the Park

The Manager noted staff has received inquiries about the Township hosting Movies in the Park. Since the County has loosened restrictions on outdoor gatherings, staff would like to discuss Council's thoughts on hosting movies this Fall. Typically, the movies draw between 40 to 60 people. She suggested Halloween-themed movies for children and teens.

Ms. Eccles suggested policing social distance at the movies. Manager Jakubec noted additional staff could also monitor social distancing. Mr. Denny, Jr. stated if it can be done safely with staff there to ensure masks are worn and social distancing, it should be considered. Ms. Berger agreed. President Smith expressed confidence in the residents.

Manager Jakubec indicated one movie would be shown in September and two movies in October and if everyone follows the rules, it will be a good thing.

Mr. Denny, Jr. recalled the movies have always been at O'Hara Community Park and questioned if it would make sense to have one movie here, one at Meadow Park and one at the community center. Manager Jakubec explained it depends on the electrical supply, and would investigate.

## X. CONCERNS OF COUNCIL

Ms. Berger asked if the zoom bomber was identified. The Manager stated the Police are working with the Attorney General and zoom was notified.

Ms. Berger inquired about work being done at the former Max & Erma's Restaurant. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated it is being converted into a bakery. He also noted screening of an outdoor freezer was not provided in the plans.

Mr. Frankowski inquired about a picnic table on its side. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated it is a dispute between two property owners.

Mr. Frankowski asked if anyone had complained about backups on Saxonburg Boulevard, near the Indiana Township border. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained the backup was caused by an error installing a sewer line, which has been corrected.

Mr. Denny, Jr. inquired about the storm water issue on Cabin Lane. Manager Jakubec indicated the Solicitor has recommended discussing in Executive Session.

Mr. Stewart inquired about the Request for Proposals from banking institutions. The Manager stated the deadline to submit proposals was extended to Friday. The North Hills COG had received two proposals for review.

Mr. Stewart stated he looked at the retention pond at Dorseyville Road and Kittanning Pike. He recalled difficulty in finding places along Kittanning Pike for detention ponds and inquired about using something on private property. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated he was looking at two possible locations; one in Greenwood Cemetery, and possibly two in Mr. Stewart's neighborhood on Township property.

Mr. Stewart commented that Crofton Park is looking better. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted some trees need to be replaced.

## XI. CONCERNS OF STAFF

Manager Jakubec requested Council to remain after the meeting for an Executive Session to discuss labor and legal matters.

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice President Vogel to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Ms. Eccles and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m. and Council proceeded into Executive Session.

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Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

Attachment: Attendance Sheet