

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 2019

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A. Call to Order by President Smith at 7:03 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; Cassandra Eccles, Fifth Ward

Absent: Allison Berger, Fourth Ward; John R. Denny, Jr., At-Large

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

Manager Jakubec noted Mr. Denny, Jr. was unable to attend the meeting due to a business commitment and Ms. Berger was tending to a personal matter.

II. UPDATE ON THE LAURI ANN WEST COMMUNITY CENTER

- A. Presentation of Community Center Association Financials

Mr. Mark Rothert, Council Representative to the Community Center Association Board, and Mr. Keith Fenton, Executive Director of the Community Center were in attendance to update Council about membership status and finances.

Mr. Rothert stated the Board consists of 12 members, of which seven are O'Hara Township residents, and may serve up to two, three-year terms. He noted the purposes of the various committees and funds. Mr. Rothert stated financials are communicated to the Township monthly, and the audit is complete and would be forwarded to the Township in the next week. Mr. Rothert stated the Community Center continues to operate at a surplus, noting membership continues to increase. However, there is a lack of storage space, and spinning classes are being conducted in the community room. The community center serves the entire school district, yet is funded only by O'Hara Township.

Mr. Fenton stated there is a lot of demand for fitness and the community room, and they are experiencing some constraints. He noted membership has increased about 25% since the fall. They have an additional 100 unit memberships from a year ago. There are now over 5,000 community members, and 735 family fitness members. The Silver Sneakers program is growing as well since some of the YMCA's have closed. Mr. Fenton noted the after school program, "Arts and Enrichment" now has about 85 families. They have had to put people on a wait list so not to exceed the safety ratio or have too many participants for the instructors.

Mr. Fenton stated the partnership with O'Hara Township has been outstanding and thanked Council for their support. They met with Manager Jakubec to discuss how to explore the possibility of expanding the facility. The Manager suggested contacting the architect, RSSC. After talking with RSSC, there are options that are financially feasible and may solve some of the capacity issues. The estimate for preparing schematics to explore expansion ideas is \$15,000 and expansion may or may not be pursued. However, the plans will be good for three or four years.

Mr. Rothert stated any expansion would not be something the Township would have to spend money on. It would be totally self-funded by CCA. He recalled Bruce Pollock of RSSC had a lot of good information about specifics. Mr. Fenton added that they do not want to close the facility during expansion construction.

Mr. Stewart recommended having community meetings. He stated the Township has many good architects that live in the community and are always interested in pitching-in if given the opportunity. If CCA were to reach out to the whole community about what they are planning, they may get new members. Mr. Fenton stated they want to engage people as much as possible.

Mr. Frankowski commended Mr. Fenton, Mr. Rothert and members of the board and employees for getting things off the ground, and wished them continued success.

Treasurer Curran inquired about any consideration of price increases. Mr. Rothert stated the cost to be a member is very competitive with other gyms; but they have to generate revenue. He believed it is more about how to balance membership.

Mr. Fenton explained the three broad categories of what the Community Center does: membership, specialty programs, and personal training. Personal training is a choice and they look at the market and demand. He is sensitive to the after school program because it includes some families that are strained. As for membership, they try to think about what seniors pay versus family fitness. The last membership increase occurred January 2018. They pledged at that time there would be no increases for two years. At the end of 2019 they will reevaluate. Mr. Fenton stated he negotiated the contract with Senior Sneakers last fall, and though it is not financially beneficial, it is the right thing to do because it is beneficial to the community.

President Smith stated the Community Center gives O'Hara Township something to be proud of and extended appreciation for their efforts.

Ms. Eccles inquired about the projected membership. Manager Jakubec believed the membership has exceeded projections. Mr. Fenton recalled the financials, noting at the end of three years it was projected at \$1,200,000 and they are at \$1,900,000 and membership was projected at 2,500 members and they have 5,000 members. Ms. Eccles commented that she leaves for work very early in the morning and traffic is backed up on Powers Run Road with people turning into the Community Center.

Mr. Fenton addressed Mr. Stewart's comment, concurring as membership has increased so many talented members have done pro bono work, like interior decorators, safety people, and a statistician to review data.

President Smith acknowledged a resident in the audience and invited him to present his comments.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Citizens

Mr. Greg Dietz, Ravenscrest Road, inquired about the status of the storm sewers on Ravenscrest Road. President Smith asked if he had talked with the Township Engineer, which Mr. Dietz confirmed. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated he looked at the sewer and consulted with Public Service Superintendent Loren Kephart. When time permits they will further inspect the situation. Currently the Public Service crews are working on catch basins in preparation for road paving.

Mr. Dietz stated Mr. Grimes on Kerrwood is tapping into the storm pipe. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. was aware that people have drains in their yard in an attempt to get rid of wet spots and connect it to the storm drain. Mr. Stewart noted people at 603 Glengary put in French drain system and did not connect it to the storm sewer. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated they cannot discharge the water onto the road.

III APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Council Workshop – April 2, 2019
- B. Council Regular Meeting – April 9, 2019
- C. Council Workshop Following Regular Meeting – April 9, 2019

Motion by Mr. Stewart to approve the subject minutes as presented was seconded by Vice President Vogel and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. FINANCE

- A. Vouchers – April 2019

Motion by Mr. Frankowski to approve the subject vouchers as presented was seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously. The vouchers total \$1,102,603.58.

- B. Receipts and Expenditures Records – March 2019

Motion by Vice President Vogel to accept the receipts and expenditures records as presented was seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously.

- C. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Curran stated finances look good and are on target. He noted some expenses are inflationary, and recalled massive expenses as a result of the 2018 storms.

V. REPORTS

- A. Other Organizations and Agencies Reports

Treasurer Curran stated the North Hills Council of Government (“NHCOG”) is scheduled to meet tomorrow. The NHCOG continues to address trash and recycling issues, antennae and stormwater management.

B. Monthly Departmental Reports

President Smith questioned the purpose of the DCED report, which Manager Jakubec explained.

Mr. Stewart questioned the status of RedZone. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained RedZone is not done, noting an issue with the software.

Mr. Stewart recalled contacting the Engineer concerning lots of trucks along Country Club Lane and if the Doctor was receiving preferential treatment, the Doctor received all of the millings. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. recalled that was a few years ago and Township policy is the Township will provide the millings and it is up to the residents to spread the millings. Manager Jakubec clarified there is no special treatment for anybody. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. added that is a construction easement for the duration of the sanitary sewer job. The force main is not complete and the contractor is storing equipment there.

Treasurer Curran and Manager Jakubec discussed GASB 34 and how asset depreciation is tied to the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS").

Treasurer Curran noted the Township is spending a huge amount of money on the Saxonburg Sewer Project and the potential of the community next door tapping in and questioned if costs go over budget would they pay their share of the cost overage. Manager Jakubec explained KLH Engineers is working to determine the assessment. O'Hara Township can only assess their residents. The Township could have a buy-in for Indiana Township, which has been discussed. She hoped to have a presentation of the project costs in June or July. Then Council will have a discussion of payment options. The Manager stated once the system is fully functional there will be a rate study done to recalculate the tap-in fee.

President Smith noted there is a standard formula for the tap-in fee. Manager Jakubec explained the Township could create a special sewer district, in which case the current residents will pay the assessment and any new homes constructed over a period of years would also pay the assessment. President Smith stated someone developed that formula, like the State; you can't make up your own formula. The Manager noted the backup would be needed to defend the assessment.

Mr. Stewart informed Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. that a resident wanted to know why the Township did not connect years ago by gravity to Shaler. Manager Jakubec stated Etna Borough would not allow the Township to connect. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. recalled capacity issues. The Manager stated the new system is designed so if the Township could connect in the future, it could be done by gravity, if there is capacity and the pump station would be removed. She indicated the Township's relationship with Etna Borough has since improved.

Mr. Stewart asked Police Superintendent Slagel how the meeting went with Mr. Kozerian who is seeking to do some cooperative teaming. Police Superintendent Slagel stated Mr. Kozerian is the Safety and Security Coordination for the School District, and met with Emergency Management, Fire and EMS in an attempt to get to know everyone personally. Mr. Kozerian has made changes to the high school as far as technology and access to the building. A lot of work will be done over the summer, comparing equipment and responses. Manager Jakubec stated she just sent information to Mr. Kozerian concerning the Township's purchase of the active shooter kit.

Mr. Frankowski noted overtime is down due to the additional Police Officers. Police Superintendent Slagel indicated Officers are also receiving proper training. He stated having the additional Officer is

key in reducing the overtime while allowing for training. Manager Jakubec indicated she and Police Superintendent Slagel are really focused on training for all Officers, noting Officer Wolfson is in training for certification as a Drug Recognition Expert. Police Superintendent Slagel referenced recently released statistics from Penn D.O.T. that 50% of the DUI's in the State are drug related, which is why it is so important to be able to identify.

President Smith recalled many other Police Departments expressed concern during the Allegheny League of Municipalities Conference that they cannot afford to train their Officers.

Mr. Stewart also presented questions concerning car No. 5, credit card fraud and raccoons, which staff answered satisfactorily.

C. Manager's Report

No comments.

Treasurer Curran left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ordinance – Second Reading and Adoption

(1) Amending the Township Police Pension Plan

B-12-2019

Manager Jakubec stated as a result of the 2018 negotiated Police Bargaining Unit Agreement, the Township agreed to provide a service increment for the pension plan for every full year worked after 25 years of service, with the increment maxing out at 30 years of service. The Plan must be amended to include the change.

Motion by Ms. Eccles to adopt ordinance Bill No. B-12-2019 was seconded by Vice President Vogel and carried unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proclamation

(1) Recognizing Local Government

The Manager explained part of the requirements for the Township to be considered a “Banner Community” include promoting local government, teaching a class about local government, and adopting a resolution or proclamation recognizing local government. The Township's bi-annual collection of leaves and brush and “Movies in the Park” summer series are activities that promote local government.

Motion by Mr. Stewart to approve the proclamation was seconded by Mr. Frankowski.

President Smith commented in the past the proclamation has included the Township's various communication resources. Manager Jakubec stated the Township communicates via the website, Facebook, Twitter, Call Fire and Nixle.

On voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

B. Ordinances – Introduction for First Reading

- (1) Amending Ordinance No. 1272 Which Prohibits the Use of Tobacco in Certain Areas of Township Parks B-17-2019

Manager Jakubec noted the Solicitor's changes are red-lined. TobaccoFreeAllegheny notified the Township about the popularity of e-cigarettes growing among youth. The effects of vaping are harmful to the user, and expose risks associated with second-hand smoke.

Motion by Mr. Stewart to introduce for first reading ordinance Bill No. B-17-2019 was seconded by Vice President Vogel.

Mr. Stewart questioned why 'nicotine' was deleted. The Manager explained the ordinance includes any type of vaping, not just nicotine.

On voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

- (2) Amending the Township Parks Rules and Regulations B-18-2019

Manager Jakubec stated as a result of various vandalism occurring in Township parks, and to provide regulations regarding the future installation of electronic vehicle charging stations, the Township Parks and Recreation Commission is recommending updates to the Park Rules and Regulations.

Motion by Mr. Stewart to introduce ordinance Bill No. B-18-2019 was seconded by Vice President Vogel.

Mr. Stewart presented questions regarding portable propane grill limits, parking vehicles in grassy areas, shelter capacity, moving trucks staging vehicles in park parking lots, pets and amplifications systems, which the Manager answered satisfactorily.

On voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolutions

- (1) Authorizing Participation in the North Hills COG Sodium Chloride Contract Option Year II B-19-2019

Manager Jakubec recalled the North Hills Council of Governments received and opened bids in May 2018 for the purchase of sodium chloride. This year is Option Year II under the contract with Morton Salt, the lowest responsible bidder, and the cost per ton is \$69.36, the same price as the 2018-2019 winter season.

Motion by Mr. Stewart to approve resolution Bill No. B-19-2019 was seconded by Ms. Eccles and carried unanimously.

- (2) Amending the Township Fee Resolution B-20-2019

The Manager stated each year staff reviews the fees, and adjustments are recommended for the use of electrical car charging stations and sanitary sewer replacement building permits. She indicated the charging stations will be available at Squaw Valley Park and the Lauri Ann West Community Center. The first hour is free and each subsequent hour is \$2.25, up to eight hours.

Motion by Vice President Vogel to approve resolution Bill No. B-20-2019 was seconded by Ms. Eccles.

Mr. Stewart asked when leagues sign up for the baseball fields if the fee is per day. Manager Jakubec answered no, and explained the fee is per field for the season.

On roll call the motion carried unanimously.

VIII. DISCUSSION

A. Potential Renaming of Brownhill Bridge

Manager Jakubec informed Council about possibly renaming the Brownhill Bridge after Judy Spray. She noted Ms. Spray had served for at least 30 years on the Township's Planning Commission, as well as the Long Range Comprehensive Plan Committees. She proposed the renaming "Judy B. Spray Memorial Bridge".

Ms. Eccles questioned why the Brownhill Bridge was so named. Manager Jakubec believed it was named because the road was named Brownhill Road. She recalled a tradition of memorializing people that have had an impact in the community. She suggested placing a plaque on the bridge.

Motion by Mr. Frankowski to rename the Brownhill Bridge after Judy B. Spray, was seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Citizens

No comments.

B. Council

President Smith stated some residents that live along Saxonburg Boulevard cannot say enough about how the sewer project is progressing. Manager Jakubec stated the contractor, Chivers, has been very good about addressing issues.

Ms. Eccles questioned when the old Kerr Elementary School building would be demolished. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. indicated the building would be demolished as soon as school is out.

Mr. Frankowski asked if the Geese Police also chase ducks. The Manager stated the dogs are trained only to chase geese.

C. Staff

Manager Jakubec asked Mr. Heath of 63 Fox Point when the Tesla Solar Shingles would be installed. Mr. Heath indicated the process is still being coordinated.

Mr. Stewart inquired about the status of the ball fields. The Manager stated the fields are not open yet, but hoped they would be open for fall ball.

Manager Jakubec stated the tennis court has been patched and painting the lines is weather dependent. She noted the tennis court will also have pickle ball lines. She stated another pickle ball court is available at Beulah Frey Park. The Manager stated the gazebo to memorialize Melissa Kratsa has been ordered and hoped it would be installed for September.

Ms. Eccles requested an update from flooding events. Manager Jakubec stated the hill has slid behind 45 and 47 Kittanning Pike, across from M & M Auto. House no. 45 is vacant, but no. 47 is occupied. Trees slid down and it is difficult to see the hill. She noted Police Officer Maria Sciacca has a drone which was used to inspect the situation and the images were downloaded. The residents of 47 Kittanning Pike were asked not to stay for the night, until the structure can be inspected tomorrow. She indicated both landlords have been very responsive. The Manager indicated the hill is still holding water from last year. Ms. Eccles questioned who is responsible, which the Manager indicated the property owner. Mr. Frankowski indicated the property goes back 145 feet. The Manager stated staff would continue to monitor and provide updates to Council.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice President Vogel to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

Attachment(s): Sign-In Sheet(s)