

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
AUGUST 10, 2021**

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A. Call to Order by Vice President Vogel at 7:03 p.m.

Manager Jakubec noted virtual meeting procedures.

- B. Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice President Vogel.

- C. Roll Call

Council Members Present: Charles A. Vogel, Vice-President of Council;
George H. Stewart, Second Ward; Allison Berger,
Fourth Ward; Cassandra Eccles, Fifth Ward

Absent: Robert John Smith, President of Council; Gregory
Caprara, Third Ward; John R. Denny, Jr., At-Large

Also Present: Ted Curran, Treasurer; Julie A. Jakubec, CPA,
CGMA, Township Manager; Brendan Lucas,
Township Solicitor; Charles W. Steinert, Jr., P.E.,
Township Engineer; David Kovac, LSSE Consulting
Engineer; Loren R. Kephart, Public Service
Superintendent; Benjamin Wolfson, Police Sergeant;
Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

Manager Jakubec explained that President Smith was on vacation; Mr. Denny, Jr. had a business conflict; and Mr. Caprara had personal matters to attend.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolutions

- (1) Awarding a Contract for the Long Range Comprehensive Plan B-51-2021
Consultant

Motion by Mr. Stewart to approve resolution Bill No. B-51-2021 and was seconded by Ms. Berger.

Manager Jakubec stated the O'Hara Township and Fox Chapel Borough Joint Long Range Comprehensive Plan Review Committee has concluded interviews for a Plan consultant. The Committee is recommending awarding the bid to Pashek + MTR, with a base bid of \$101,630. The Township and Fox Chapel Borough will share the cost.

Mr. Stewart, a member of the committee, explained the process of requesting proposals, reviewing the proposals received, and conducting interviews. The committee unanimously favored Pashek + MTR.

On roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Vogel noted revisions for the next two proposed resolutions, which were updated on the Township website and watermarked “Draft 2”.

- (2) Requesting Authorization to Enter into a Contract for the Construction of the Greyfriar Stormwater Facility B-52-2021

Motion by Ms. Eccles to approve resolution Bill No. B-52-2021, and was seconded by Mr. Stewart.

The Manager stated Township Engineer Chuck Steinert, P.E. is recommending the Township piggyback on the County of Allegheny Contract Number 8493 for the construction of the Greyfriar Drive Stormwater Facility Project. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. has recommended awarding the contract to Pugliano Construction Co., Inc. for \$337,961.

Mr. Stewart requested a review of the revision, which the Manager stated the Solicitor recommended adding “subject to the Township obtaining all required easements necessary for the project in a form acceptable to the Township Solicitor.” Solicitor Lucas explained if a needed easement is not executed, the Township would not be bound to the contract.

On roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

- (3) Requesting Authorization to Enter into a Contract for the Construction of the Gamma Drive Stormwater Facility B-53-2021

Motion by Mr. Stewart to approve resolution Bill No. B-53-2021 and was seconded by Ms. Berger.

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated the revised proposal was received late this afternoon. The price for the construction of the Gamma Drive Stormwater Facility is \$254,889 from Pugliano Construction Co. He noted construction of both the Greyfriar and Gamma Drive stormwater management facilities would be completed by year-end. The Gamma Drive project requires one easement.

Manager Jakubec noted the Greyfriar facility would help to reduce flooding in the Kittanning Pike area and the Gamma Drive facility would help to reduce flooding in the area of Margery Drive.

On roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

- (4) Agreeing with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Concerning Universal Indoor Masking for Protection Against the COVID-19 Delta Variant B-54-2021

Motion by Ms. Eccles to approve resolution Bill No. B-54-2021 and was seconded by Ms. Berger.

Vice President Vogel noted the school board voted last evening to make masks required universally, which he believed to be the right thing to do.

Manager Jakubec stated all Township employees are wearing masks regardless of vaccination status, and visitors are to wear masks.

On roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion

(1) Solicitor's Conflict of Interest – Tax Assessment Appeal Representation

Motion by Mr. Stewart to grant a waiver of a conflict of interest to the Township Solicitor was seconded by Ms. Berger.

Vice President Vogel recalled prior requests from the Solicitor. He noted the school district initiated the tax appeal. Solicitor Lucas noted based on the school district's tax rate compared to the Township's tax rate the school district has more interest in the appeal.

Vice President Vogel questioned what if the Township was appealing the tax. Solicitor Lucas explained both parties would have to agree to a conflict of interest waiver.

On voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Citizens

No comments.

B. Council

Ms. Eccles recalled in-person meetings were to begin in September and questioned if that remained the plan since the COVID-19 virus is spreading again. Vice President Vogel preferred not to begin in-person meetings.

Manager Jakubec stated the public meeting room is in the process of being outfitted to provide people the option of attending meetings via zoom when in-person meetings resume. She suggested postponing in-person meetings until after the September 28th Special Capital Improvements Workshop, when virus spread statistics could be analyzed and discussed further, to which the consensus of Council concurred.

Mr. Stewart stated he has rented a park shelter for October 3rd and questioned what the outdoor situation would be with regard to the COVID-19 virus. The Manager indicated CDC guidance was not yet available.

Ms. Berger stated since the Veteran's Hospital, H. J. Heinz Campus implemented a ban on smoking on the VA property, patients and workers are smoking along Delafield Road. People in wheelchairs and others are sitting on the grass, standing along Delafield Road all the way to where the wall begins. She noted it is difficult to see people at dusk and expressed fear for their safety.

Manager Jakubec recalled advising the VA's attorney about potential safety issues when the smoking ban on VA property was initiated. She suggested putting the VA on notice of a dangerous situation.

Vice President Vogel noted the location of a pipe setting along Powers Run Road. Staff believed the pipe fell off a truck. Manager Jakubec requested staff to pick up the pipe, as the Township could use it. Mr. Kephart stated the pipe is very heavy and very expensive.

Mr. Stewart requested information about the North Hills Council of Government meetings, since he plans to attend on behalf of the Treasurer.

C. Staff

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

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. announced that paving begins on Monday and the contractor is to notify affected residents.

The Manager noted the historic boards have been installed at O'Hara Township Community Park. Ms. Berger commented that the boards are fantastic and award worthy. She and her daughter learn something new every time they visit the park.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Stewart to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Ms. Berger and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m. and Council entered into Executive Session.

Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

No Attendees