

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKSHOP MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A. Call to Order by President Smith at 7:07 p.m.
- B. Roll Call

Council Members Present: Robert John Smith, President of Council; Cassandra R. Eccles, Vice-President of Council; Richard S. Hughes, First Ward; George H. Stewart, Second Ward; Michael F. Hammill, Third Ward; John R. Denny, Jr., At-Large

Absent: Olivia T. Payne, Fourth Ward

Also Present: Greg Caprara (*), Township Treasurer; Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA, Township Manager; Charles W. Steinert, Jr., P.E., Township Engineer; Christopher Komora, Special Projects Coordinator/Code Enforcement Officer; John Valinsky, Consulting Engineer, LSSE; Todd Giammatteo, Public Service Superintendent; Jay Davis, Police Superintendent; Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

(*) attended meeting via zoom.com.

President Smith suggested advancing the agenda to the transfer of a Liquor License resolution, as representatives from Viva La Vida Restaurant were in attendance.

III. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- A. Authorizing Transfer of Liquor License into the Township

Manager Jakubec stated owners of Viva La Vida Restaurant, LLC are requesting an inter-municipal transfer of restaurant liquor license No. R-5655 from Virk Yilmaz, LLC, 5440 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 to Viva La Vida Restaurant, LLC, 1141 Freeport Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. The resolution approves the liquor license transfer. A Public Hearing was conducted prior to this Special Workshop to receive public comments concerning the request.

Motion by Mr. Stewart to approve resolution Bill No. B-40-2023 was seconded by Mr. Hammill.

Mr. Hughes questioned who Virk Yilmaz, LLC is. The Manager indicated Virk Yilmaz, LLC is a defunct restaurant that had a liquor license to sell.

The motion carried unanimously.

II. MS-4 TRAINING

Due to audio difficulties, training was rescheduled to October.

III. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION CONTINUED

B. Review of Proposed Capital Improvements Plan

Mr. Stewart recalled 2020 was an anomaly with expenditures, partly due to COVID-19. Manager Jakubec added the Saxonburg Boulevard Sanitary Sewers were also installed in 2020.

Mr. Denny, Jr. inquired about the amount of increase from last year. Manager Jakubec stated she did not prepare a percentage, but it would be included in the budget document.

The Manager referenced the Progress Report which reflected the status of 2023 improvements. Some projects were completed and others were continued into 2024 due to design and grant applications.

Mr. Stewart asked if Truck #18 was finished. Mr. Giammatteo indicated the truck should be delivered by the end of this month or beginning of October.

Mr. Stewart questioned what \$410,000 for the municipal building included. Manager Jakubec noted a new set of garages are needed in the back and the skylights in Admin are leaking.

The Manager proceeded to review each proposed project included in the Capital Improvement Plan. The following projects are for consideration in the 2024 budget.

Parks and Recreation

O'Hara Township Community Park Trail Stabilization

A failed gabion wall along the creek needs replaced and the trail restored. Grants totaling \$179,514 have been awarded.

Meadow Park Pickleball Courts

Two new courts would be constructed, including netting and fenced enclosure, near the tree line and away from the residential area.

George J. Sacco Park

The flex court needs resurfaced and sealed. Staff will power-wash the fence and paint it.

Roads

Comprehensive Road Improvement Program

Roads are currently being evaluated for milling and resurfacing in 2024. Staff has recommended continuing joint bidding with Fox Chapel Borough and getting the contract out for bid earlier. Staff offered piggybacking on the contract to Sharpsburg Borough.

Mr. Hughes noted a jump of \$150,000 in 2025 for the road improvement program. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted a list of roads in RIDC will need milled and paved.

River Road Retaining Wall

River Road between the railroad and Freeport Road is becoming unstable. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained this is the one-way exit on the eastern end of River Road, where it comes up to Freeport Road. The turn to get onto Freeport Road is at a bad angle, and you cannot see to the left. He recommends widening it and realigning it so it is easier to enter the intersection. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. indicated Township staff could do the work. The Manager noted 38 townhomes are to be constructed along River Road, which will increase traffic.

Mary Street Retaining Wall

It was noted that all the work is outside of Penn D.O.T.'s right-of-way; but the Township would need to work with the railroad.

Stormwater Management

Woodland Park Stormwater Facility

Grant applications in the amount of \$400,000 have been submitted.

Powers Run Stream Restoration

The contract has been awarded. Grant funds have been received in the amount of \$100,000 and additional grant applications have been submitted.

Grove Street Stormwater Facility

The Township acquired property along Joanne Street for the construction of a stormwater facility. Grant applications have been submitted.

Coxtown Run Stream Restoration

Grant applications have been submitted.

MS4 Stormwater Management Program

The program continues to reduce contamination of stormwater runoff and prohibit illicit discharges. Grant applications have been submitted.

Sanitary Sewers

Sanitary Sewer Assessments, Monitoring and Improvements

Sanitary sewer line annual maintenance is required by a Consent Order with Allegheny County Health Department, ALCOSAN, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Agency and others. Repairs include open cut and slip-lining.

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted the sanitary sewer lines are currently being inspected and cleaned, which helps identify which future segments to line. Also being considered is lining manholes.

Mr. Denny, Jr. questioned how many sewer lines can be monitored and inspected with \$400,000. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated about 25,000 feet of sewer line is inspected, or 20% of the system. Each year the goal is to repair 2,500 feet of sewer line.

President Smith recalled in the past, O'Hara Township has been farther ahead compared to other communities in the program and thought a lot of the repairs had been done. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated O'Hara is well ahead. With a new Consent Order comes new requirements. A lot of the Township's system is terracotta pipe.

Powers Run Sanitary Sewer Upgrade

The project involves relocating the sanitary sewer line from the western side of the street to the eastern side and upsizing the pipe to reduce the amount of surcharge in the Township's lines and protect against washout.

Vehicles and Equipment

Truck and Major Equipment Replacement

Additional items include a salt spreader for a pickup truck, a conveyor to put dirt in a truck to be more efficient, a Quickview camera that is small enough to fly into stormwater lines, a hot set pressure washer to clean the truck beds and apply fluid film to protect the beds from rust.

Vice President Eccles referred to a recommendation to purchase a small pickup truck. The Manager explained the Public Service Superintendent tried to use the police SUVs, but they can be a maintenance nightmare. He would prefer a small truck. The SUV vehicles could be sold on Muncibid.

Public Safety

Ambulance Replacement

Manager Jakubec noted the Fire Funding Committee met earlier this evening. Parkview has not ordered a new ambulance because they are unable to obtain a chassis for an ambulance. This purchase may be moved to 2025. The 2027 ambulance will be purchased by Oakmont Borough.

Police Response Vehicles

Each year two police vehicles are replaced. The proposed expense also includes the transfer of all equipment. The vehicles will be black with a new design.

Emergency Equipment Assigned Fund Balance

Money is placed in a fund for future fire apparatus. No new apparatus will be purchased. The fire study should be finalized next week and will determine if any equipment is needed.

Handheld Portable Radios

Six new radios were obtained through a county grant program this year. Six of the same radios are proposed for purchase in 2024 and 2025.

Rifles

It is recommended to replace the existing patrol rifles with current standards, including shorter barrels, suppressors, and red dot sighting. The old rifles will be traded-in or sold.

Electronic Speed Signs

Two signs were purchased this year and installed in RIDC. The speed signs have been well received.

Mr. Hammill suggested installing the electronic speed signs in other neighborhoods. Mr. Denny, Jr. questioned if adding more speed signs has been considered, and the cost of a sign. Police Superintendent Davis recalled the cost was \$600 to \$800 for two signs. Manager Jakubec suggested purchasing four electronic speed signs in 2024. Mr. Hughes commented that he would like to know where speed signs are needed. Police Superintendent Davis stated people are just happy to see something. These signs do not record. He noted areas in the Township that speed enforcement cannot be done because of where houses are and sight distance. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. suggested looking for hard-wire versions, which Police Superintendent Davis said are available.

Drone Accessories

It is recommended to outfit the current drone with a search light and one-way broadcasting system and purchase a portable drone monitoring station. Police Superintendent Davis stated drones do save lives. The speaker system allows emergency responders to tell people what to do and a remote station allows the drone operator to do more.

Taser Replacement

Tasers were replaced this year. The old tasers and accessories were delivered to Blawnox Police Department. Chief Pat Goodman extends his thanks and appreciation.

Municipal Building

Skylight Replacement

The skylights in Administration are leaking and need replaced.

Equipment Purchases

It is recommended to replace two wired mics with wireless mics. Wired mics pose a trip hazard.

Public Service Storage Building Replacement

It is recommended that the existing equipment/material storage building be replaced.

Planning and Zoning

Digital Mapping/GIS

Surveying and updates to GIS and TRAISR will continue in 2024.

Mr. Denny, Jr. noted the Long Range Comprehensive Plan is not yet completed. He questioned how the mapping matches up with the Long Range Comprehensive Plan. The Manager anticipated in future years the maps would match the Long Range Comprehensive Plan. Chapters of the Plan are anticipated to roll out in October for the committee to review.

Manager Jakubec noted the project rating sheets in the back of the Capital Improvement Plan and requested Council to complete the rating sheets and return them to staff by October 3rd so that staff can begin preparing the 2024 Budget.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Citizens

No comments.

B. Council

Vice President Eccles recalled attending the community center board meeting. The community center is very busy and does not have enough room. Some consideration is being given to building a pavilion by the playground outside. The estimated cost of a 30' x 44' pavilion is \$50,000 without a concrete slab. The Manager indicated staff could pour a concrete slab. She also noted the school district would need to approve the pavilion since they own the property. Manager Jakubec suggested including the cement pad in the budget.

Mr. Denny, Jr. questioned if the community center board had discussed expanding the building. Vice President Eccles confirmed, noting a plan is in place. The addition would go toward the swim club. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. indicated the addition would provide two accesses from the fitness center to the track.

Vice President Eccles also noted the community center could be a warming center if there was a generator. Manager Jakubec recalled the municipal generator cost \$65,000 in 2008.

President Smith questioned the Township's responsibility for funding any of the community center projects. Vice President Eccles indicated the community center board may ask for the Township's assistance.

The Manager noted other places that offer warming shelters.

Vice President Eccles also suggested consideration of a therapy dog for the Social Services Coordinator. Manager Jakubec noted some logistics need to be resolved. President Smith questioned why the Township never had a Police Dog. The Manager noted other local municipalities have Police Dogs. President Smith asked who else would have a support dog. The Manager did not know of any municipality having a support dog.

Mr. Hughes informed Council and staff that he would not be available for the October meetings.

C. Staff

Manager Jakubec requested Council to remain after the special workshop for an executive session regarding labor matters.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Stewart to adjourn the special workshop was seconded by Mr. Hammill and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m. and Council entered Executive Session.


Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary