

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL VIRTUAL WORKSHOP MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

Manager Jakubec read a statement regarding virtual meeting procedures.

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A. Call to Order by President Smith at 7:00 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; Gregory Caprara, Third Ward; Allison Berger, Fourth Ward; Cassandra Eccles, Fifth 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; Loren R. Kephart, Public Service Superintendent; Scott K. Slagel, Police Superintendent; Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

II. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- A. Application for Minor Subdivision Approval – Tara Villa Plan of Lots

Manager Jakubec stated James and Tara Kappernaros, owners of parcel 290-P-71, and Alexandra and Nishan Williams, owners of parcel 290-P-72, wish to revise the lot line between the parcels located along Tara Villa Place. The Planning Commission reviewed the application at its January 18th regularly scheduled meeting and has recommended to Council that approval be granted.

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. recalled last January a minor lot line revision was to include this lot line correction. The revision involves moving the rear lot line 20'.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution for consideration on the February 9th regular meeting agenda.

- B. Application for Final Riverfront Unit Overlay Development Approval – Miramar Landing

The Manager recalled the Preliminary Plan was approved by Council at the December 8, 2020 meeting subject to 14 conditions. The Township Planning Commission reviewed the Final Riverfront Unit Overlay Development application at its January meeting and has recommended to Council that approval be granted subject to 11 remaining conditions and four comparable departures. She acknowledged Mr. D. J. Housley and Mr. Dom Ricciuto were in attendance.

Mr. Housley stated all the requested changes to the site were made. They are working with the Township Engineer to address the remaining conditions. Fox Chapel Authority will provide the fire hydrants.

Ms. Eccles questioned if the 2009 traffic study had been updated. Mr. Housley noted another Traffic Consultant provided an updated report. The results are the same as the 2009 report, but with one less residential unit. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. recalled the original Lighthouse development traffic study recommended adding a turn lane on Freeport Road which has been implemented.

Mr. Stewart questioned who has control of the traffic signal on Freeport Road that allows the necessary turns. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated Sunoco owns and controls the signal timing. The Township can work with Sunoco to modify the timing if necessary.

President Smith questioned why the Township would maintain the 48" stormwater pipe. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated the Township has been working with Sunoco and Penn D.O.T. on this project for a number of years to improve drainage and reduce flooding on Freeport Road. It was noted the Developer is responsible for installing the pipe as part of the site improvements. President Smith questioned how far the Township would maintain the pipe. Manager Jakubec stated the Township will own the pipe from the railroad tracks and down; Sunoco will own under the railroad tracks. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated the pipe within the development will be the responsibility of the Home Owners' Association, which is reflected in the Home Owners' Association documents.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution on the February 9th regular meeting agenda for consideration.

III. VISITOR

A. Presentation of Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat

Ms. Mandy Steele, Fox Chapel Borough Councilmember, stated coal-tar-based pavement sealcoat is near the top of the list of hazardous chemicals and is under the radar. She stated Fox Chapel Borough has banned the use of coal-tar-based pavement sealcoat, as have several states, and she is seeking to have it banned in all municipalities. Ms. Steele stated asphalt is much safer.

It was noted the Township does not use any coal-tar-based pavement sealcoat; a polymer seal is used. Ms. Steele stated it appears to be heavily used in RIDC and in driveways.

President Smith questioned what the Township uses when roads are chip sealed. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated the Township uses something that is flexible.

Mr. Caprara questioned if the Township has any ordinance about the use of laminates. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained the Township does not have any means to control the use through permits.

President Smith questioned how this is different from banning chemicals used on lawns or Chick-fil-A using Styrofoam cups.

Mr. Caprara stated the information provided is all about ‘potential harm’, ‘potential effects’. He questioned how many kids have been effected; where are the scientific statistics.

Vice President Vogel questioned what the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) says about the product and requested to see documentation from scientific sources.

Mr. Denny, Jr. recommended if Council considers taking action, it should point to EPA or DEP facts based on science. Ms. Steele indicated actual studies are available.

Ms. Berger suggested including information in the Township Newsletter to educate people and recommend not using it, which would be better than trying to enforce. Vice President Vogel and Mr. Denny, Jr. agreed it should be included in the Newsletter, and posted on the Township website.

IV. CITIZEN COMMENTS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Tom Powers, Powers Run Road, informed Council that he digitized a 1975 film of the O’Hara Township Centennial Celebration, which he gave to the Township Manager. He would also give the cans of 16mm film to the Township.

Mr. Powers also noted the Manager had suggested doing two history lectures which are scheduled for February 10th and February 17th. Manager Jakubec requested Mr. Powers to verify Mr. Miguel Sague’s availability for the February 10th lecture about the historic informational signs. She indicated the lectures will last about one hour and will be through zoom.com.

President Smith asked if the Township ever got any storage place at the library. Ms. Eccles recalled the library wanted money to provide storage space. Mr. Powers stated the Carnegie Library closed when COVID hit. Mr. Powers stated at some point the historic items in his possession will have to passed on to someone.

President Smith requested the Manager to email Council reminders about the lectures.

II. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION CONTINUED

C. Introducing Chris Komora, Stormwater Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer

Manager Jakubec introduced Chris Komora, the Stormwater Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer. She noted Mr. Komora will be inspecting stormwater facilities in relation to MS-4 regulations, and requirements to qualify for a stormwater fee reduction. As Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Komora will enforce violations related to the Nuisance and other ordinances, perform rental property inspections, along with other various duties. He will be working with Scott Chermak. Mr. Komora is currently working to obtain Property Maintenance Code Certification.

D. Requesting Authorization to Jointly Bid the 2021 Road Improvement Program with Fox Chapel Borough

The Manager referenced a memo from Township Engineer Chuck Steinert requesting authorization to bid jointly with the Borough of Fox Chapel for the 2021 Road Improvement Program in order to realize economies of scale. The roads recommended for milling and

resurfacing are Kappa Drive, Meadow Heights Drive, Joanne Street (north and south), Alleyne Drive, Dowling Drive, Division Street, Weir Drive and Village Drive will be included in the base bid. Alternates include Davonshire Drive, Fairgrove Drive, Queens Court, Papercraft Avenue, Emily Drive and Fox Ridge Farms Drive. She stated the program would be structured similar to last year and alternates could be added.

Vice President Vogel recalled in years past other local municipalities also participated, and questioned if they had been asked to participate this year. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated Sharpsburg, Aspinwall and Blawnox are always asked to participate, but he had not received any responses.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution for consideration on the February 9, 2020 regular meeting agenda.

- E. Requesting Authorization to Jointly Share Engineering Inspection Services Related to the 2021 Road Improvement Program with Fox Chapel Borough

Manager Jakubec referenced a memo from Chuck Steinert recommending joint sharing of engineering inspection services with Fox Chapel Borough for the 2021 Road Improvement Program in order to realize economies of scale.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution on the February 9, 2020 regular meeting agenda for consideration.

- F. Requesting Authorization to Participate in the State Road Salt Contract for the 2021-2022 Winter Season

The Manager explained in order for the Township to continue participating in the Pennsylvania Department of General Services (“DGS”) sodium chloride (road salt) contract, a new Salt Contract Participation Agreement must be executed and submitted to DGS by March 15, 2021. The Township shares contracts with the North Hills Council of Governments and the State for road salt and it is recommended that the Township continue to share the road salt contracts for the upcoming 2021-2022 winter season in order to maximize cost savings, needed tonnage and delivery.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution for consideration on the February 9, 2020 regular meeting agenda.

Vice President Vogel inquired about current road salt supplies. Mr. Kephart stated 400-tons was delivered today and another 100 tons are expected to be delivered tomorrow.

- G. Requesting Authorization to Apply for Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County CITF Grant Funds for Greenwood Cemetery Stormwater Improvements Project, Epsilon Drive PRP Implementation Project and the Gamma Drive PRP Implementation Project

Manager Jakubec stated staff is seeking authorization to apply for grant funding through the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County CITF Program. Staff is requesting \$250,000 for the Greenwood Cemetery Project, \$250,000 for the Epsilon Drive Project, and \$220,000 for the

Gamma Drive Project. Staff has been working with Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering, Inc. on these projects.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolutions on the February 9, 2020 regular meeting agenda for consideration.

H. Recommending Amendments to the Township Fee Resolution

The Manager explained as a result of the various increased costs, it is recommended to amend the Township Fee Resolution to cover actual expenses. She noted Public Service and Police salaries increase every year so the cost for services provided also increases. In addition, there has been a price increase for the Hometown Hero Banners.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution for consideration on the February 9, 2020 regular meeting agenda.

I. Recommending the Relocation of a Stop Sign on Parkview Boulevard at Kirkwood Drive

Manager Jakubec referenced a memo from Chuck Steinert explaining the current location of the STOP sign is not effective and is recommending relocating the STOP sign.

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. clarified the stop sign would be relocated from Parkview Boulevard to Kirkwood Drive southbound approaching Parkview Boulevard. He also noted the traffic on Kirkwood Drive travels at a higher rate of speed.

The consensus of Council was to include the ordinance for introduction on the February 9, 2020 regular meeting agenda for consideration.

J. Recommending the Replacement of a Yield Sign on Weir Drive at Oakhurst Road with a Stop Sign

The Manager stated staff has been verifying traffic signs authorized by ordinance in connection with the Codification of Ordinances project, and realized the YIELD sign, authorized by Ordinance No. 848 does not exist on Weir Drive at Oakhurst Road. Upon further investigation, staff is recommending a STOP sign on Weir Drive at Oakhurst Road instead of a YIELD sign. The proposed ordinance amends Ordinance No. 848 to provide for a STOP sign on Weir Drive at Oakhurst Road.

The consensus of Council was to include the ordinance on the February 9, 2020 regular meeting agenda for consideration of first reading.

K. Recommending the Naming of Township Recreation Partners

Manager Jakubec recalled representatives of the Lauri Ann West Community Center and Cooper Siegel Library have requested the Township's partnership in order to provide summer programs in the Township's parks in accordance with COVID-19 safety protocols.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolutions on the February 9, 2020 regular meeting agenda for consideration.

L. Annual Planning Commission Report

President Smith commented that the Planning Commission was not as busy last year as they usually are. He also noted the Commission always has good attendance.

M. Solicitor's January 15, 2021 Invoice

No comments.

N. Proposed February 9, 2021 Council Virtual Regular Meeting Agenda

The Manager noted resolutions for the CITF grants would be added to the agenda, along with the Whitetail Deer Management Report.

V. CONCERNS OF COUNCIL

Ms. Eccles questioned why the school zone sign on Powers Run Road, past Aqua Drive, traveling toward the river, is posted so far past the school. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated it could have been a school crossing at one time. He did not recommend adjusting the location of the sign.

Ms. Eccles asked if the Police Officers participated in training for Traffic Incident Management. Police Superintendent Slagel stated the Officers had not, and he would look into it. Ms. Eccles stated it is a four-hour class that can be done online.

Mr. Caprara asked if there has been any movement from the State on the Kittanning Pike sink hole. Manager Jakubec stated she had not heard from the State. She reached out to State Representative Innamorato and Senator Lindsey Williams and they are to check with Penn D.O.T.

Vice President Vogel noted a wire hanging to the ground near the community center. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated he has been trying to work with the communication companies, but no one wants to do anything.

Vice President Vogel stated dirt is being dumped at the dump site by the Water Authority, but presumed they had a grading permit. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated they do not have a grading permit, but they will. It is dirt for the Miramar Landing Development and they will need two grading permits; one for where they are dumping the dirt, and another for where they are moving the dirt to.

VI. CONCERNS OF STAFF

Manager Jakubec reiterated Tom Powers will be hosting History Lectures on February 10 and February 17 at 7:00 p.m. via zoom.com

The Manager announced the Township is sponsoring a Valentine Food Drive at the municipal building on Saturday, February 6 from Noon to 3:00 p.m. She noted the local food pantry is in dire need.

Manager Jakubec requested Council to remain after the workshop for an Executive Session to discuss a potential legal matter.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. and Council entered into Executive Session.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet

Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary