

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
MAY 3, 2022**

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A. Call to Order by President Smith at 7:04 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance led by President Smith.
- C. Roll Call

Council Members Present: Robert John Smith, President of Council; Cassandra R. Eccles, Vice-President of Council; George H. Stewart, Second Ward; Michael F. Hammill, Third Ward; Olivia T. Payne*, Fourth Ward; John R. Denny, Jr., At-Large

Absent: Richard S. Hughes, First Ward; Greg Caprara, Township Treasurer

Also Present: Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA, Township Manager; Philip Weis, Township Solicitor; Charles W. Steinert, Jr., P.E., Township Engineer; Christopher Komora, Code Enforcement / Storm Water Coordinator; Loren R. Kephart, Public Service Superintendent; Scott K. Slagel, Police Superintendent; Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

(* represents attending via zoom.com)

II. MS-4 TRAINING

John Valinsky of Lennon Smith Souleret Engineers ("LSSE") was in attendance to provide the mandatory MS-4 Training to Council and staff. He noted the Township has an MS-4 Permit which is regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"). The goal is to improve water quality State-wide. Mr. Valinsky presented an overview of the Minimum Control Measures, and requirements of Pollution Reduction Plans. The Plans will be implemented next year. Storm water facilities are proposed for Gamma and Epsilon Drives, which will satisfy the sediment reduction requirement for that area, as well as provide relief from flooding along Freeport Road. Pine Creek stream restoration is proposed near Calmwood Road, and includes stabilizing the riparian buffer so the water flows naturally. He indicated LSSE would prepare the annual progress report for the Township and submit it to DEP. Mr. Valinsky stated the Township's permit will automatically renew in November 2023, at which time he anticipates additional Pollution Reduction Plan requirements.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Tom Powers, Powers Run Road, provided updates on current projects. It was noted the pillars along Powers Run Road were constructed by the Fairview developer between Locust and Coral

Drives in 1931 to demark luxury cottages. Scott McCune was the realtor. The original painting used for the O'Hara Township History Book cover will be on display at the Heinz History Center. Blawnox Borough will celebrate their Centennial in three years and will reference the Township's history book. Mr. Powers also stated he has a new book coming out May 14th about the Allegheny Arsenal Handbook, which includes pictures of buildings and developments. He will be speaking about the book at the Cooper Siegel Library.

Vice President Eccles questioned if the Heinz History Center sells a lot of Township History Books. Mr. Powers stated not a lot are sold; he refers people to the Township office.

IV. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

A. Recommendation Concerning Act 57, Sanitary Sewer Tap Fee

Manager Jakubec referenced a memo from Township Engineer Chuck Steinert concerning a recent study of the sanitary sewer tap fee. The current sanitary sewer tap fee is \$3,300. Based on the study, a justifiable tap fee would be \$7,400. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. has recommended increasing the sanitary sewer tap fee to \$5,500. The Manager stated the special purpose part tap fee established for the Saxonburg Boulevard sanitary sewers is not changing. If property is developed in the Saxonburg Boulevard area, the fees would be \$5,500 for the sanitary sewer tap-in fee plus the special purpose part tap fee. She explained how the fees were set up due to the potential development of the area. Anywhere else in the Township would just pay the \$5,500 sanitary sewer tap-in fee.

Mr. Stewart suggested not including the calculation method. The Manager noted the Township would have to keep the calculation method on file in case someone wants to review it.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution on the May 10th regular meeting agenda for consideration.

B. Request for Inter-municipal Transfer of Restaurant Liquor License

The Manager referenced a letter dated April 14, 2022 from Mark Kozar, Esquire of Flaherty & O'Hara on behalf of Local Provisions, LLC requesting an inter-municipal transfer of restaurant liquor license No. R-18452 from RT 8 BBQ Company, LLC, 3932 William Flinn Highway, Allison Park, PA 15101 to Local Provisions, LLC, 1111 Freeport Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. A Public Hearing is scheduled for May 10, 2022 prior to the Regular Council meeting to receive public comments concerning the request.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution for consideration on the May 10th regular meeting agenda.

C. Recognizing Dino Iasella on his Achievement to Eagle Scout

Manager Jakubec stated Dino Iasella and his team of youth and adult volunteers constructed a wigwam structure out of non-traditional materials. The wigwam was built with metal conduit and rubberized tree bark and installed at The Depreciation Lands Museum in Hampton Township for

a Native American exhibit. Wigwams are domed huts used as living structures by the Indigenous tribes in the Northeastern United States.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution on the May 10th regular meeting agenda for consideration.

D. Recognizing Evan Kotchey on his Achievement to Eagle Scout

Manager Jakubec noted Evan Kotchey and friends constructed two wooden benches for the Edible Trail at Woodland Park to complete the requirements for obtaining Eagle Scout status.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution for consideration on the May 10th regular meeting agenda.

E. Recommending Proclamations Commending to Police Officers

The Manager referenced a memo from Police Sergeant Benjamin Wolfson commending the swift and professional actions of Township of O'Hara Police Officers Craig Cress and Maria Sciacca, Aspinwall Borough Police Officer Leann Heffley and Blawnox Borough Police Officer Nicholas Hawk, which actions resulted in saving the life of an individual suffering a mental health crisis. She indicated the Police Officers would be asked to attend the May 10th regular meeting.

The consensus of Council was to include the proclamations on the May 10th regular meeting agenda for consideration.

F. Requesting Authorization to Purchase Police Vehicle

Manager Jakubec explained as a result of supply chain delays, Police Superintendent Scott Slagel is requesting authorization to purchase one 2022 Ford Interceptor utility, AWD Police vehicle through the South Hills Area Council of Governments ("SHACOG") Purchasing Alliance Program from Laurel Ford, Windber, PA 15963. The cost of the vehicle as specified is \$33,855.00. The vehicle would be delivered this year. She recalled a truck ordered last year was delivered this year. She noted issues in getting the interior equipment for the truck.

Vice President Eccles questioned the purpose of having a Police truck. Police Superintendent Slagel noted items that can be hauled in addition to being able to traverse private roads.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution for consideration on the May 10th regular meeting agenda.

G. Requesting Authorization to Auction Used Equipment on Municibid

The Manager stated that staff is recommending auctioning one 2019 Ford Police Interceptor vehicle and other equipment no longer used through Municibid, an online auction company where the Township gets money for equipment no longer used and other municipalities and individuals have an opportunity to purchase needed equipment at a price they can afford. Auctioning equipment through Municibid has been quite lucrative.

The consensus of Council was to include a motion on the May 10th regular meeting agenda for consideration.

H. Discussion on Condition of Certain Township Recreational Courts

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained the Meadow Park court has experienced extensive damage as a result of the extreme freeze and thaws last winter. Repairs to the court exceed the budgeted amount. He recommended redoing the entire court. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted he was reviewing other products, but if he could not find a suitable product for the court, he recommended milling the entire court and adding new posts for the nets. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained the cracks in the Woodland Park court have opened up. He recommended resurfacing the court next year and Armorseal the cracks in the interim. He noted other court surfaces in need of touch-ups. The court at Schafer Park will be done this year; the community center flex court has cracks that can be repaired and should hold up five or six more years.

Manager Jakubec added the Sacco Park flex court needs some touch-up work.

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted funds are available for the trail at O'Hara Township Community Park. Grants would continue to be applied for. The budget includes funds next year for the trail and wall.

The Manager noted the Parks and Recreation Commission support focusing on the courts this year. The Township will use money intended for the trail in the budget this year for the courts instead.

Mr. Stewart asked if the Meadow Park court is a safety issue. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. indicated most of the cracks are less than 1/4" wide.

I. Discussion of the Federal Department of the Interior Renaming Certain Waterways

Manager Jakubec referenced a notice she received from the Secretary of the Interior regarding a task force deemed to rename water ways with derogatory names. The notice included a list of six suggested names for the creek that runs through O'Hara Township Community Park. Five of the names have conflicts. The task force will have the creek renamed by the end of this year. If Council wants a different name they can pursue a different name through the USGA.

J. Recognizing Retiring Police Superintendent

The Manager informed Council that Police Superintendent Scott Slagel has decided to retire. Scott's last day working for the Township is June 2, 2022.

The consensus of Council was to include a resolution recognizing Police Superintendent Slagel's service to the community for consideration on the May 10th regular meeting agenda.

Several members of Council conveyed congratulations to Police Superintendent Slagel.

K. Solicitor's April 13, 2022 Invoice

President Smith acknowledged Senior Solicitor Phil Weis was in attendance. There were no comments about the invoice.

L. Proposed May 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda

Manager Jakubec noted a resolution reapproving the Hidden Grove Plan would be added to the May 10th agenda. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted the original plan was not recorded, which was discovered when they tried to record a revised plan.

V. CONCERNS OF COUNCIL

Vice President Eccles referenced an article in The Herald about new staff and programs at the Sharpsburg Library.

Mr. Stewart recalled a few members of Sharpsburg Council and the former Mayor thanked him for the contribution to the library.

Mr. Stewart questioned if the Township was a member of CONNECT, which the Manager stated no, adding a lot of the same things are done at the COG level.

Vice President Eccles asked if the park equipment had been delivered. Manager Jakubec stated not yet. She noted other park equipment that had been received, and anticipated the other equipment to be delivered mid-May.

Vice President Eccles inquired about the status of the water fountain in O'Hara Township Community Park. The Manager explained a part was damaged when installed, but it is under warranty. The part is on order.

Mr. Hammill inquired about the status of the zoning ordinance update to include chickens. Manager Jakubec stated she drafted an ordinance and the Township Solicitor reviewed it. The proposed ordinance includes guidelines and a permit. She stated the Professor from Penn State University was very helpful. She anticipated Council would review the proposed ordinance at the end of summer.

Mr. Hammill noted water trickles out of the water fountain at Sacco Park, and suggested checking the water pressure. The Manager indicated she would ask the plumber to check the water fountain.

President Smith asked if residents would be allowed to have chickens. Manager Jakubec confirmed, noting the number of chickens allowed can be based on square footage. The ordinance will also address how things are enclosed. President Smith asked if a building permit would be required for any structures for the chickens. The Manager indicated small structures would not need a permit and larger structures would.

Mr. Hammill questioned Fox Chapel Borough's requirements for chickens. Manager Jakubec believed Fox Chapel Borough residents could just have chickens while other municipalities have guidelines.

President Smith questioned if the Township is going to regulate having chickens if it would include how it looks and how big. Manager Jakubec noted Penn State University recommended regulating size.

VI. CONCERNS OF STAFF

Manager Jakubec informed Council that five banker boxes and six cases of hand sanitizer (donated by Rite Aid) were dropped off for Ukraine.

The Manager stated American Legion 597 and Etna Cub Scout have provided a flag drop-off container. The Scouts will properly dispose of flags dropped off. An installation ceremony of the flag drop-off will be conducted this Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Manager Jakubec announced Pizza with Police is scheduled for May 24th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at O'Hara Township Community Park, Shelter No. 2.

The Manager stated a new Police Officer has been hired and begins Monday. Natalie will attend a meeting so Council can meet her.

Mr. Denny, Jr. suggested promoting Township sponsored events through the school district. The Manager indicated she would ask the school district. She added that the community center promotes Township activities.

Manager Jakubec informed Council about redistricting information she had compiled.

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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop adjourned at 8:05 p.m. and Council entered into Executive Session.


Cathy Bunas, Manager's Secretary

Attachment: Attendance Sheet(s)

SIGN-IN SHEET

DATE 5-3-2022

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA

Council Workshop
Meeting

Name

Address or Organization

John Valensky

LSSE

Owen

Cindy Harris

Tom Powers

Luis Romero

5/3/22