

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 2344 West Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237.

Council President Martha Creese called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was held for the three Pittsburgh Police Officers who had been killed in service on April 4th.

Cathy Krummert called the roll:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Martha A. Creese, Presidentpresent
Richard H. Hartman, Second Vice Presidentpresent
Jane A. Hopey, Vice Presidentpresent
Ash K. Marwahpresent
Andrew Hrishenkopresent
Amy E. Sablepresent
Junior Councilperson Bryan Hoggpresent
Mayor William H. Kipppresent

ENGINEER:

Bob Nedzesky, W.E.C. Engineerspresent

SOLICITOR:

Robert Max Junker, Law Offices of Ira Weisspresent

STAFF:

Don Dorsch, Chief of Police.....present
Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretary.....present
Ronald Merriman, Superintendent of Public Workspresent
Brienne Morris, Assistant Parks & Recreation Directorabsent
Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officerabsent
Ambrose Rocca, Borough Managerpresent
Bill Schweitzer, Golf Course Superintendent.....present
Jim Watenpool, Parks & Recreation Directorpresent

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Mrs. Hopey moved the minutes of the March 18, 2009 pre/post meeting, the March 18, 2009 regular meeting and the April 1, 2009 work session, be approved, seconded by Mr. Hartman and carried unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT - Mr. Rocca read the March 2009 Treasurer’s Report. March 2009 receipts totaled \$219,178.36 and March 2009 expenditures totaled \$326,412.76. Year-to-date receipts totaled \$1,180,242.39 and year-to-date expenditures totaled \$1,217,624.25. Mr. Rocca announced that the borough received confirmation from Allegheny County that Franklin Park has the second lowest millage of the 130 municipalities in Allegheny County. Franklin Park has held this position for the past 5-6 years. Mrs. Sable moved the Treasurer’s Report be accepted as read, seconded by Mrs. Hopey and carried unanimously.

POLICE REPORT – Mayor Kipp read the Police Report and activity report for the month of March 2009. Mr. Hartman recommended the Police Report be filed with the Police Secretary.

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BUILDING INSPECTION REPORT - Mr. Rocca read the Building Inspection Report for March 2009. Mr. Phillips issued 17 permits and collected \$22,971.00 in fees. Total value of construction was \$2,605,581.00.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION - Mrs. Creese announced that an executive session was held on April 1, 2009 to discuss Franklin Nursery litigation.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Peggy Kipp, 1505 Brimfield Drive – Mrs. Kipp stated that Officer Kim Boucek conducted a self-defense course for the Bradford Woods Women’s Club yesterday. Mrs. Kipp noted that it was a great course, and she encouraged all women to take it.

Rebecca Juneau, 1407 Scarlett Ridge Drive – Ms. Juneau urged Council members to do a better job. She discussed recent newspaper articles regarding Borough Council meetings, and she also discussed the adoption of the roads in the Scarlett Ridge Plan. Council members responded and discussed Ms. Juneau’s concerns. Mr. Nedzesky noted that there are several major issues that are preventing the borough from accepting the public improvements and they include: drainage facilities that are not in the proper easements, a drainage issue near Morrow Lane and a drainage issue near Lot 42. Mr. Nedzesky noted that he was in contact with the developer last week and encouraged him to pursue completing these items as quickly as possible so we can resolve this matter. The developer promised to do that, and Mr. Nedzesky will have a report at the next meeting. Chief Dorsch noted that the police department could enforce the laws, although they cannot cite someone for speeding until the roads are accepted.

James W. Lawrence, 2604 Fountain Hills Drive – Mr. Lawrence asked Council to consider removing the stop signs that were recently installed on Brandt School Road at West Ingomar Road. Mr. Lawrence also commented on the actions of some Council members and encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming election.

Michele Chetoka, 1655 Norman Drive – Mrs. Chetoka commented on the January minutes that mentioned ongoing police negotiations, and she stated that she hopes the issues will be resolved and the police get what they deserve. She noted that the police have always been there when she calls and they also assist with borough-sponsored events.

Mrs. Hopey read from the Questions & Answers section of the recent Pennsylvania Borough News Magazine. The question was regarding occasions when citizens make nasty comments to officials and employees at a public meeting and whether a borough could control that by implementing rules of decorum. The answer was that municipalities must be very cautious not to violate a citizen’s Free Speech rights since The American Civil Liberties Union had threatened to sue one township after it implemented a policy that prohibited a citizen from making negative comments against officials or employees.

Dennis O’Keefe, 1511 Sandhurst Drive – Mr. O’Keefe asked Council to better represent the borough and work together.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS – Mrs. Hopey moved Council authorize the payment of the bills, which have been reviewed and approved since the last meeting, seconded by Mrs. Sable and carried unanimously.

NORTHLAND LIBRARY QUARTERLY PAYMENT – Mrs. Hopey moved the Treasurer’s office be authorized to prepare a check in the amount of \$66,071.75 payable to Northland Library for the second quarter payment of 2009, seconded by Mr. Hartman and carried unanimously.

APPOINT PETER M. VERCILLA TO THE MCCANDLESS-FRANKLIN PARK AMBULANCE AUTHORITY BOARD – Mrs. Hopey moved Peter M. Vercilla be appointed to the McCandless-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority Board to fill the unexpired term of G. Reynolds Clark, which expires December 31, 2009, seconded by Mr. Hartman and carried unanimously.

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RESOLUTION NO. 962-2009, OTSA EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS, BEAR RUN PROPERTY –

Mr. Junker summarized Resolution No. 962-2009. Mrs. Sable moved Resolution No. 962-2009 authorizing the Ohio Township Sanitary Authority to institute eminent domain proceedings for the property owned by Bear Run Associates, L.P., located within the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, seconded by Mr. Hartman and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 963-2009, APPOINTING DEAN R. KRAKOWIAK AS A PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER

– Mr. Junker summarized Resolution No. 963-2009. Mr. Marwah moved Resolution No. 963-2009 appointing Dean R. Krakowiak as a part-time police officer, to serve in such capacity starting on the date that the Chief of Police formally and satisfactorily establishes Mr. Krakowiak's eligibility for this position through the receipt of the necessary clearances, be adopted, seconded by Mr. Hrishenko and carried unanimously.

CLEANING CONTRACT EXTENSION – Mrs. Sable moved to extend the current Agreement between the Borough and Northern Home Service Company for cleaning services for the municipal building and the Blueberry Hill Park Activity Center for the one-year period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, at the rates specified in the Agreement, seconded by Mr. Hartman and carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZE POLICE CAR PURCHASE – Mr. Hartman moved to authorize the purchase of one (1) 2009 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor from Woltz & Wind Ford, Inc. of Heidelberg, PA, at a cost of \$22,472.00, under the Joint Bid for Police Vehicles submitted to the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance for its bid opening on November 17, 2008, seconded by Mr. Marwah and carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS – Junior Councilperson, Bryan Hogg, announced the ten 2009 Community Scholarship recipients:

Laura S. Amster
Bryan M. Hogg
Zachary D. Hood
Jeffrey H. Lin
Patrick H. Morgan
Elaine C. Oestreich
Dinesh Palanisamy
Marina Seminatore
Ryan M. Troia, Mel Lubert Scholarship Recipient
Kerri E. Woodward

Mr. Rocca announced that the Annual Scholarship Golf Outing would be held on July 20, 2009 at the Shannopin Country Club.

SOLICITOR – Mr. Junker congratulated Bryan Hogg on receiving a scholarship.

MAYOR KIPP – Mayor Kipp congratulated the scholarship winners, noting that he used to serve on the Scholarship Selection Committee before he became Mayor. He thanked the residents who spoke this evening for their comments. Mayor Kipp announced that the Franklin Park Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary would hold a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, May 2nd. A Hazardous Household Waste Collection would also be held on Saturday, May 2nd at the North Park swimming pool parking lot. On Saturday, April 25th Council and Mayor will hold their annual road tour of the borough. Mayor Kipp attended the Lunch with the Easter Bunny and the Easter Egg Hunt, and he thanked the Recreation Board volunteers, the Boy Scouts, Mr. Watenpool and Miss Morris for their work organizing these events. Mayor Kipp commended the public works department employees for the excellent job they do.

MR. HRISHENKO – Mr. Hrishenko complimented Mr. Watenpool for a successful Seniors Program. Mr. Hrishenko also commented on discussions at the last meeting regarding the Pension Plan losses.

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MRS. HOPEY – Mrs. Hopey commented regarding the actions of some council members. Mrs. Hopey congratulated Bryan Hogg on receiving a scholarship. She thanked the audience for their comments this evening. Mrs. Hopey mentioned a discussion that had taken place during the pre-meeting regarding an email address used by Mr. Marwah. Mrs. Hopey announced that the Passavant Hospital Foundation would be holding Healthy Living seminars free of charge.

MRS. SABLE – Mrs. Sable thanked everyone for coming tonight and thanked those who spoke this evening. Mrs. Sable discussed that her children had found a crossbow bolt in the woods behind her home, which also abuts borough property. She thanked Mr. Rocca, Mr. Watenpool and Chief Dorsch for taking the following actions. The property was posted “No Hunting”, a letter was mailed to residents in the area, and the police spoke to one individual regarding the possibility that it was this person who was hunting. Mrs. Sable congratulated Bryan Hogg on his scholarship and Peter Vercilla for his appointment to the Ambulance Authority.

MR. MARWAH – Mr. Marwah discussed earned income tax revenues and the 2009 budget.

MR. HARTMAN – Mr. Hartman congratulated Bryan Hogg on receiving a scholarship.

BRYAN HOGG – Bryan thanked everyone for the scholarship. Bryan noted that there are some Council members who are receptive to residents’ comments and they appreciate feedback. He noted that he is always willing to hear from residents.

MRS. CREESE – Mrs. Creese congratulated Bryan Hogg on his scholarship. Mrs. Creese attended the Lunch with the Easter Bunny and was very impressed with the program. She attended the Senior Luncheon and Dave Wessel from the Medicine Shoppe was the speaker. She attended Officer Boucek’s personal safety class, and encouraged all women to attend. She was invited to attend a tour of the Baiert Family YMCA last week, and she noted that in view of the economic climate any current member of the YMCA who loses his/her job would be given two months of membership at no charge. Mrs. Creese responded to the comments made by Mr. Hrishenko’s earlier in the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

- Mr. Merriman informed Council that the supply of recycling bins is running very low. The current supply was ordered 15-20 years ago and the current price is \$8.00 for the bin and lid. Residents moving into a newly constructed home receive their first bin and lid at no charge. Mr. Merriman recently obtained a price of \$5,154.00 for 300 (24-gallon) blue recycling bins through the State COSTARS Program. The cost of the bin would be \$11.53 each and lids would be an additional \$4.65 each. There would also be a plate charge of \$300 to put Franklin Park Borough on the side of the recycling bin. The total cost for residents to purchase a bin with a lid would be approximately \$17.00. Council discussed and it was noted that \$1.00 per bin could be saved if we do not put Franklin Park Borough on the side of the bin. The only other option is to allow residents to purchase their own containers from local retailers. It was noted that if residents purchase the bins from the borough there would be a more uniform look and it is easier for the garbage/recycling company to determine the location of the recyclables. Mr. James Lawrence indicated from the audience that he is in the recycling business and he could also obtain a quote for Mr. Merriman. Once Mr. Merriman receives and compares the quote from Mr. Lawrence, he will move ahead with the purchase since our supplies are running low.

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CHIEF OF POLICE

- Chief Dorsch commented that the rape mentioned in the police report occurred at a social event where the parties knew each other. Although this does not in any way diminish the seriousness of the crime, Chief Dorsch wanted to explain that it was not a random act.
- Chief Dorsch informed everyone that there was a burglary on Sheffel Road (off Louise Road which is off Reis Run Road near the border with Ross Township) around 9:30 a.m. on Good Friday. The rear door was kicked in and they took jewelry and money. Chief Dorsch noted that there have been similar incidents in Ross Township. He cautioned everyone to be aware.
- Chief Dorsch thanked Mrs. Kipp and Mrs. Creese for the comments regarding Officer Boucek's self-defense course. He also noted that Officer Boucek would be conducting this course next month for female students at North Allegheny High School and also at LaRoche College.

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

- Mr. Watenpool reported that the parks employees have been working on tree removal in Linbrook Park. This has been an ongoing problem in the park.
- The new pavilion in Blueberry Hill Park is moving along. The restrooms are almost complete and all picnic tables have been constructed and have been placed in the upper level.
- They are continuing with ball field preparation and mowing.
- The Square Dance will be held at 8 p.m. this Saturday at the Activity Center.
- The Wildflower Hike will be held at 9 a.m. on April 25th and a perennial exchange will be held at 11 a.m.
- Mr. Watenpool informed Council that the soccer and cricket associations would like to purchase bleachers for their fields. These associations would reimburse the borough for the full cost. Last year, the borough purchased bleachers and the IFPAA and Lacrosse Association paid for some of them. Council authorized Mr. Watenpool to order the bleachers.

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT/MANAGER

- Mr. Schweitzer noted that the season is off to a good start and they had the best March in the 20-year history of the golf course.
- The new POS system is up and running and it is working well.
- The Rally for the Cure will be held May 3rd at the golf course. The event will benefit the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Fund. Mr. Schweitzer encouraged people to participate in this event or make a donation.
- The Junior Program is off to a good start.
- Mr. Schweitzer noted that Mr. Rocca puts a lot of time into organizing the scholarship golf outing to raise the money for the scholarships that are awarded each year.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION - Mrs. Creese announced that Mr. Marwah had asked for an executive session after the regular meeting regarding Franklin Nursery litigation. Mr. Hrishenko indicated that he would abstain from participating in the executive session.

SCHOLARSHIPS - Mr. Rocca noted that it takes a lot of work to evaluate the scholarship applications. The Scholarship Selection Committee evaluated approximately 27 applications this year. All of the seniors that applied for the scholarships have outstanding records and most of them are above a 3.8 up to a 4.3 QPA. Mr. Rocca also noted that Bryan Hogg had the highest score of all of the scholarship recipients.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN – Mr. Hartman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Marwah and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy L. Krummert
Borough Secretary

Audience Present - 28