

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK  
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2007**

---

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 2344 West Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237.

President Martha Creese called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Cathy Krummert called the roll:

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Laura A. Coombs.....present  
Martha A. Creese, President .....present  
Richard H. Hartman.....present  
Jane A. Hopey, Second Vice President.....present  
Ash K. Marwah .....absent  
Amy E. Sable .....present  
Junior Councilperson Brenna Thorpe .....present  
Mayor G. Reynolds Clark .....present

**ENGINEER:**

Bob Nedzesky, W.E.C. Engineers.....present

**SOLICITOR:**

Robert Max Junker, Law Offices of Ira Weiss .....present

**STAFF:**

Don Dorsch, Chief of Police.....present  
Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretary.....present  
Ronald Merriman, Superintendent of Public Works .....present  
Brienne Morris, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director .....absent  
Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer .....present  
Ambrose Rocca, Borough Manager .....present  
Bill Schweitzer, Golf Course Superintendent.....present  
Jim Watenpool, Parks & Recreation Director .....present

**PRESENTATIONS TO OUTGOING COUNCILWOMAN LAURA A. COOMBS** – Mr. Ralph LeDonne from State Representative Mike Turzai’s office presented Mrs. Coombs with a citation from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Mrs. Creese presented Resolution No. 936-2007 to Mrs. Coombs in recognition of her years of dedicated service to the community. Mrs. Coombs thanked the Mayor, Council, staff, members of the audience and the voters, and stated that she hopes she made everyone proud during her tenure on Council. Mr. Hartman moved Resolution No. 936-2007 recognizing Laura A. Coombs for her service on Borough Council, be adopted, seconded by Mrs. Sable and carried unanimously. Mr. Hartman thanked Mrs. Coombs for her service.

**RECOGNIZE BOB MANDERA & WILLIAM GROSSMAN** – Mayor Clark noted that these two gentlemen have participated in the Erie to Pittsburgh Walk for Diabetes over the past 30 years. Mayor Clark presented Mr. Bob Mandera and Mr. William Grossman with Certificates of Recognition for their efforts to raise money for the American Diabetes Association through the Veterans Diabetes March. Mr. Mandera thanked the Mayor and Council. He noted that when they started they raised \$2,000 and this year they raised \$44,000.

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK  
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2007**

---

**RECOGNIZE BOY SCOUT TROOP NO. 36 FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE** – Mayor Clark recognized the following scouts and leaders for their community service. First-time awardees received patches.

First Time Awards

Matt Waldron  
Scott Campbell

Adults Third Time Award

Dennis Courson – Mr. Courson noted that the scouts have helped with many borough activities, such as the Festival in the Park, the Easter Egg Hunt and the Halloween Party. He thanked the borough for the opportunity to provide service to the community. The scouts also participate in the Adopt A Highway Program. He noted that some of the Eagle Scouts have chosen to construct trails in Linbrook Park for their projects.

Eagle Scout Rank

Joseph Epperly  
Jeffrey Gilmour  
Tyler Minto

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – Mrs. Coombs moved the minutes of the November 14, 2007 pre/post meeting, the November 14, 2007 regular meeting, the December 5, 2007 special meeting with changes to the times, and the December 5, 2007 work session, be approved, seconded by Mr. Hartman and carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - Mr. Rocca read the November Treasurer's Report. November 2007 receipts totaled \$446,232.69 and November 2007 expenditures totaled \$314,592.50. Year-to-date receipts totaled \$5,981,217.32 and year-to-date expenditures totaled \$5,691,340.11. Mrs. Hopey moved the Treasurer's Report be accepted as read, seconded by Mrs. Sable and carried unanimously.

**POLICE REPORT** – Mayor Clark read the Police Report and activity report for the month of November 2007. Mr. Hartman recommended the Police Report be filed with the Police Secretary.

**BUILDING INSPECTION REPORT** - Mr. Phillips read the Building Inspection Report for November 2007. Mr. Phillips issued 24 permits and collected \$7,463 in fees. Total value of construction was \$818,295.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Mrs. Creese announced that an executive session was held on December 5, 2007 to discuss Franklin Nursery litigation.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** - None

**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. Coombs and carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING, SAINTS JOHN & PAUL PARISH CHARITABLE TRUST CONDITIONAL USE APPLICATION**

– Mrs. Creese turned the meeting over to the solicitor to conduct the public hearing. A court reporter was present to take a verbatim transcript of the hearing. Mr. Junker noted that at a prior Planning Commission meeting the 45-day time limit for the conditional use hearing was waived by the applicant. Under the MPC, and under our zoning ordinance, the use of this parcel of property, in this particular zoning district as a church or religious structure or facility, is only permitted by conditional use. Mr. Bill Heintz of Gateway Engineers reviewed the plans for the new church and answered questions from Council. Mr. Michael McCabe, a building committee member, also addressed some of the questions.

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK  
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2007**

---

The hearing was closed and the meeting was turned back over to Mrs. Creese. Mrs. Sable moved approval be granted for the Conditional Use Application submitted by Saints John & Paul Parish Charitable Trust for the property located at 2586 Wexford Bayne Road for the construction of a new building and site improvements in the R-4 zoning district, contingent upon compliance with the Building Inspector/Zoning Officer's Staff Report dated November 27, 2007, and the letter from W.E.C. Engineers dated December 19, 2007, seconded by Mr. Hartman and carried unanimously.

**SAINTS JOHN & PAUL PARISH CHARITABLE TRUST SUBDIVISION APPLICATION** – Mrs. Hopey moved preliminary and final approval be granted for the Subdivision Application submitted by Saints John & Paul Parish Charitable Trust, for the property located at 2586 Wexford Bayne Road for a lot line revision in the R-4 zoning district, contingent upon compliance with the Building Inspector/Zoning Officer's Staff Report dated November 27, 2007, and the letter from W.E.C. Engineers dated December 19, 2007, seconded by Mrs. Coombs and carried unanimously.

**SAINTS JOHN & PAUL PARISH CHARITABLE TRUST LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION** – Mrs. Coombs moved preliminary and final approval be granted for the Land Development Application submitted by Saints John & Paul Parish Charitable Trust, for the property located at 2586 Wexford Bayne Road for the construction of a new building and site improvements in the R-4 zoning district, contingent upon compliance with the Building Inspector/Zoning Officer's Staff Report dated November 27, 2007, and the letter from W.E.C. Engineers dated December 19, 2007, seconded by Mr. Hartman and carried unanimously.

**ADAM SLADE LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION** – Mrs. Hopey moved preliminary and final approval be granted for the Land Development Application submitted by Adam Slade for the property located at 2315 Nicholson Road for site improvements for a business office use in the M-2 zoning district, contingent upon compliance with the Building Inspector/Zoning Officer's Staff Report dated December 14, 2007, the letter from W.E.C. Engineers dated December 18, 2007, and also a landscape architect's signature and seal on the plan, seconded by Mr. Hartman and carried unanimously.

**SEIZE \$20,000 CASH BOND, SETTLERS WALK PLAN, PHASE III** – Mrs. Hopey moved to seize the \$20,000 cash bond being held by the borough for curb and gutter repair in the Settlers Walk Plan, Phase III, in accordance with the Borough Engineer's recommendation letter dated November 29, 2007, seconded by Mrs. Sable and carried unanimously.

**SETTLERS WALK PLAN, PHASE IV, DENY REQUEST TO ACCEPT PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS** – Mrs. Sable moved to deny the request by Franklin Park Properties, LLC for the borough to accept the public improvements in the Settlers Walk Plan, Phase IV, in accordance with the Borough Engineer's recommendation letter dated November 29, 2007, seconded by Mrs. Coombs and carried unanimously.

**SETTLERS WALK PLAN, PHASE V, DENY REQUEST TO ACCEPT PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS** – Mrs. Sable moved to deny the request by Franklin Park Properties, LLC for the borough to accept the public improvements in the Settlers Walk Plan, Phase V, in accordance with the Borough Engineer's recommendation letter dated November 29, 2007, seconded by Mrs. Hopey and carried unanimously.

**2008 BUDGET** – Mrs. Hopey moved the annual budget for the year 2008 be approved (the official budget will be available in the general office during normal business hours), seconded by Mr. Hartman and carried unanimously.

**ORDINANCE NO. 559-2007, TAX ORDINANCE FOR 2008** – Mr. Hartman moved Ordinance No. 559-2007 levying and assessing taxes for general and specific purposes for the year 2008, be enacted. Mr. Junker summarized Ordinance No. 559-2007. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hopey and carried unanimously.

**2008 TABLE OF ORGANIZATION** – Mrs. Coombs moved the 2008 Table of Organization fixing the salaries for employees and appointees of the Borough for the calendar year 2008 be adopted, seconded by Mrs. Hopey and carried unanimously.

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK  
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2007**

---

**RESOLUTION NO. 934-2007, POLICE PENSION PLAN CONTRIBUTION FOR 2008** – Mr. Junker summarized Resolution No. 934-2007. Mrs. Hopey moved Resolution No. 934-2007 establishing the contribution rate of 1% of compensation for the participants of the Borough of Franklin Park Police Pension Plan for the 2008 plan year, be adopted, seconded by Mrs. Sable and carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 935-2007, ENGINEERING FEES FOR 2008** – Mr. Junker summarized Resolution No. 935-2007. Mrs. Coombs moved Resolution No. 935-2007 ratifying and approving engineering fees for the year 2008, be adopted, seconded by Mrs. Hopey and carried unanimously.

**INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. 560-2008, NUISANCE PROPERTIES** – Mr. Junker introduced Ordinance No. 560-2008 providing standards governing facilities and other dwellings as safe, sanitary and fit for human habitation; fixing certain responsibilities and duties of owners, operators and occupants of dwellings, dwelling units, rooming houses and rooming units; authorizing the inspection of dwellings and the vacating or removal of dwellings unfit for human habitation; providing for the removal, repair or demolition of any building or structure, which is or threatens to be a public nuisance, dangerous to the health, safety, welfare and morals of the residents of the borough and providing penalties thereof. This ordinance will be properly advertised for enactment at a future meeting.

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY SNOW & ICE AGREEMENT ADDENDUM** – Mrs. Hopey moved to authorize the execution of the Addendum to the Allegheny County Snow and Ice Agreement, which was signed on October 17, 2007, seconded by Mr. Hartman and carried unanimously.

**PLANNING COMMISSION PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES** – Mr. Hartman moved to approve the Procedures for Appointment and Reappointment of Planning Commissioners and Guidelines for Orientation of New Planning Commissioners, seconded by Mrs. Hopey and carried unanimously.

**RESIGNATION OF BRIAN MCLAUGHLIN FROM RECREATION BOARD** – Mrs. Sable moved to accept the resignation of Brian McLaughlin from the Recreation Board effective December 31, 2007, seconded by Mrs. Coombs and carried unanimously.

**RESIGNATION OF AMY E. SABLE FROM PLANNING COMMISSION** - Mrs. Coombs moved to accept the resignation of Amy E. Sable from the Planning Commission, effective December 5, 2007, seconded by Mrs. Hopey and carried unanimously.

**BOROUGH MANAGER** – Mr. Rocca commented on the 2008 budget and tax ordinance, noting that the budget is in sound financial shape. The real estate tax millage will remain unchanged and the year-end balance should increase by \$200,000-\$250,000. Next year the borough will spend a significant amount of money on road improvements, introducing a GIS system, updating the financial software and increasing donations to the fire company. In the past, public works has paved approximately 3.5 miles of road per year. In 2008 public works will pave 5-6 miles. The future looks very promising, and we do not expect taxes to increase over the next several years. Mr. Rocca wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**SOLICITOR** – Mr. Junker congratulated the scouts and encouraged them to continue on that path. He also thanked Mrs. Coombs for the dedication and time she put in on behalf of the borough.

**MAYOR CLARK** – Mayor Clark thanked Mrs. Coombs for the time she served on council. He noted that the borough residents would miss her diligence and dedicated service. She was always well prepared and very knowledgeable about what was happening. Mayor Clark wished everyone a very safe and happy holiday season.

Mayor Clark also informed everyone that he would be stepping down at the end of the year as fire chief. He noted that Gary Scheller was selected as the new fire chief, and Ron Merriman would continue to serve as Assistant Chief. He also acknowledged other fire fighters in the audience this evening. He stated that it was a pleasure to serve 18 years, but it is time for new leadership to step up. Mr. Merriman thanked Mayor Clark for the years he put in as chief and noted that it was a pleasure to serve with him and under him.

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK  
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2007**

---

**MR. HARTMAN** – Mr. Hartman wished everyone Happy Holidays and noted that he would miss Mrs. Coombs.

**MRS. CREESE** – Mrs. Creese noted that Mrs. Coombs would remain involved in the borough, so she would not say good-bye. She wished everyone Happy Holidays. She congratulated Bob Mander and Bill Grossman for a job well done, and she also congratulated the scouts.

**MRS. SABLE** – Mrs. Sable wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked Mrs. Coombs for her service.

**MRS. HOPEY** – Mrs. Hopey wished everyone Merry Christmas. She noted that she and everyone else are proud of Mrs. Coombs for a fantastic job, and she is glad she got to know her.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

- Mr. Merriman wished Mrs. Coombs good luck and noted that she would be missed.
- He received a PA One Call from the Allegheny County Public Works Department. They are going to work the entire length of West Ingomar Road, between Rochester Road and Brandt School Road. They will take care of all public right-of-way improvements, shoulder work and the reconstruction of the road. This work will probably begin in the spring.
- They started working on Phase I of the Jenkinson Drive storm sewer project yesterday.
- Mr. Merriman wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**CHIEF OF POLICE**

- Chief Dorsch noted that it was very nice working with Mrs. Coombs over the last two years.
- He thanked Council for the holiday party and the employee recognitions.
- He thanked Mayor Clark for serving as fire chief. There has always been a good relationship between the police and fire departments. The fire department means a lot to this borough. Fire fighters are always ready to go using their own cars and gas. He thanked Mayor Clark for all of his volunteer time, noting that his dedication has been above and beyond.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR/ZONING OFFICER**

- Mr. Phillips wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.
- He noted that he is looking forward to working with Mrs. Coombs in the future.

**PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR**

- Mr. Watenpool thanked Mrs. Coombs for her support and noted that he enjoyed working with her.
- He thanked Mayor Clark for his service as fire chief. The parks department and fire department have worked well together and he hopes that will continue.
- They have been working on odds and ends in the parks. They have been clearing downed trees from the trails. The boy scouts are completing sections of the trails.
- The following programs were held last week: Lunch with Santa - 121 in attendance; Children's Cookie Exchange – 20 in attendance; Seniors Christmas Party – 80 in attendance.
- He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT/MANAGER**

- Mr. Schweitzer thanked Mrs. Coombs noting that it was a pleasure to serve with someone who shows so much dedication.
- He noted that he received a one-year contract with a new vending company. He will forward it to Mr. Rocca for Council to review and approve.
- He met with the golf course architect today. Money has been budgeted for review of the 5<sup>th</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup> holes, and the architect should have a proposal ready in the next 30-45 days that will include designs and cost estimates.
- He had budgeted money for a computer this year, and he will be making the purchase.
- He will be attending the annual National Conference for Superintendents and Club Managers in January. This was included in his budget.
- He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK  
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2007**

---

**BRENNA THORPE, JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON**

- Brenna noted that Mrs. Coombs had shown obvious dedication and made her feel very welcome when she was appointed.
- She wished everyone Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** – Mr. Hartman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Coombs and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy L. Krummert  
Borough Secretary

Audience Present - 46