

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL PRE/POST MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022**

A pre/post meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 2344 West Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237. The meeting was also held virtually via remote audio and video conferencing.

Council President John Parks called the meeting to order.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Jiang Li present
Brian S. Malkin present
Lucas R. Myslinski, Vice President present
Uday Palled present
John P. Parks, President present
Thomas C. Schwartzmier, Second Vice President present
Junior Councilperson Jackie DiGiacomo present
Mayor Dennis E. O’Keefe present

BOROUGH ENGINEER:

Kevin Brett, Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc. present

SOLICITOR:

Robert Max Junker, Babst Calland present

STAFF:

Zach Brower, Recreation Program Director present
Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works present
Cindy Crain, Finance Director/Borough Treasurer present
Rege Ebner, Borough Manager present
Walt Healy, Police Chief present
Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretary present
Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer present

PRE-MEETING

AUDIENCE: 2 (2 in person and 0 virtually)

ANNUAL MEETING WITH TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) - Council and Mayor held their first annual meeting with the TAC Chairperson, Matt Garland. The TAC was formed by Borough Council last year and five members were appointed. The TAC had previously submitted a year-end report to Borough Council, and Mr. Garland reviewed some of the work they have undertaken over the past year. The TAC was asked to focus on a number of different topics provided by Borough Council, including cellular reception in the Reis Run/Clover Hill Golf Course area; use of social media; and understanding the Borough use of technology, software, hardware and solutions. They did engage in a number of those areas and made some recommendations regarding social media. They gained an understanding of the software and business continuity issues that exist, and they engaged to understand the vendors, technology plan and IT modernization effort. Over the last year, they have focused on two issues that are interrelated but have to be considered somewhat separately. The first was the cellular reception mobile telephony concerns that are in the geographic middle of the Borough. There is a quality of life concern, as well as some aspects of public safety where police, fire and EMS have difficulty communicating by cell phone. The TAC has engaged with Verizon, SBA Communications, AT&T and Crown Castle to try to understand the issues. They have also had very robust input from community members who would be most directly in line of sight or affected by a local cell tower. The TAC has also been gathering information and understanding some of the public safety radio issues experienced by the police, fire and EMS in an effort to solve some of the challenges, to modernize and to figure out how to manage the dead zones.

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These two issues are interrelated, but they are two different technologies requiring different solutions. They need to consider the existing infrastructure and the potential solutions to address both concerns, while also considering the history and failed efforts in prior years to erect a tower. The TAC has engaged Lattamus Communications to do a propagation study to understand the public safety radio concerns and how to potentially resolve the issue without creating a new infrastructure in the center of the Borough. The TAC attended the Planning Commission meeting last night and they plan to work together on these issues. They will be recommending a comprehensive review by an independent third party to hopefully address both cellular and radio communication issues.

OLD BUSINESS - None

AGENDA REVIEW - The following March 16, 2022 regular meeting agenda items were discussed:

- Ordinance No. 665-2022 Public Hearing – Mr. Junker briefly reviewed procedures for the public hearing on the interstate buffer yard Zoning Ordinance amendment.
- Introduction of Ordinance No. 666-2022 – Mr. Junker noted that the Farmers' Market Ordinance will go through the typical process.
- Milling and Disposal of Bituminous Materials – Mr. Schwartzmier asked for clarification regarding the disposal of the materials, and Mr. Bucuren stated that the material is hauled to the Borough storage site by the contractor.

MANAGER'S REPORT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Proposed 2022 Paving Program and 2023 Curb & Gutter Program – Mr. Bucuren provided the lists showing the streets for curb work and paving. We do not yet know what the price of asphalt will be, and the lists may need to be adjusted. Once the commodity price is determined, we will decide what streets on the list can be completed with the budgeted funds.
- Letters supporting grant request by Penn State Extension – Council's packet had included two letters supporting the grant application. They will be applying for the grant this week.
- Comprehensive Plan update – The Steering Committee meeting was held last Wednesday, and they did an exercise with committee members and residents in attendance. The focus is on the Steering Committee getting things moving forward. There will be many opportunities for the public to be involved. HRG will make a survey available for all residents to complete either online or by hard copy. The Borough will publicize the survey on the website, and we will also send out an email blast and mail a post card to all residents to make sure everyone has the opportunity to participate in the process. HRG will be meeting with staff and will take a tour of the Borough.

Mr. Junker discussed residents directly contacting consultants, engineers and solicitors, and he noted that there needs to be a channel of communication. If a consultant receives communication from a resident, it should be directed through the Borough.

- Transition from Zoom to Teams – Mr. Palled noted that a few people recently tested Teams. The tentative schedule is to transition to Teams by May since the Zoom subscription expires in June.
- Old Orchard Park Pickleball update – The pickleball group met last night. The group includes both homeowners near Old Orchard Park and pickleball players. They discussed the noise issue. All pickleball players in Old Orchard Park will be required to use the Gamma quiet pickleball. The courts will open on April 1st and play will only be permitted from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the first two weeks. Play will then be permitted from dawn to dusk. The Borough will order a gross of Gamma quiet pickleballs and will offer them for sale at cost. There will be a limit of two balls per person.

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The pickleball community is not in full support of the use of the Gamma quiet pickleballs because it changes the feel of the game. Signs will be posted, and we will advertise through social media that only the Gamma quiet pickleballs will be permitted. This is a reasonable compromise, and we are asking that the pickleball community be self-policing. It is likely that beginners and intermediate players will play at Old Orchard Park, and expert players will choose to play at other courts with regular pickleballs. Pickleball play at Blueberry Hill Park will be open year round and all types of pickleballs will be permitted.

- Opportunity to purchase additional police vehicles – Chief Healy submitted a proposal for the purchase of two 2022 police vehicles at last year's price. The cost would be \$72,000 for the two vehicles. The Chief noted that he will be selling four vehicles through auction this year and he expects to receive approximately \$40,000 from the sale. Council concurred to move forward with the purchase.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS & MAYOR

- Mr. Palled reported on the Planning Commission meeting and the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee meeting.
- Mr. Malkin noted some typos in the Farmers' Market Ordinance.
- Miss DiGiacomo reported on the Community Garden meetings noting that they hope to have a proposal for the April work session.
- Mayor O'Keefe discussed two emails he had received. The first email was a request from Christina Malkin to hold a Depreciation Lands Day in May to be sponsored by the Historical Committee to assist Key Club members with obtaining their required volunteer hours. There was discussion that the Borough could explore this suggestion in the future, but there is not enough time this year since the Historical Committee will only meet for the first time in late April. There was also discussion regarding other community service opportunities through the Borough. Mr. Ebner will contact Mrs. Malkin to gather more information regarding her request. The second email he received was in regard to the posted name of a new street in the Deerfield Estates Plan. Staff will make sure that the street is named properly.
- Mr. Schwartzmier discussed that prior to the meeting he was directing traffic after a sink hole appeared on the bend of Cole Road near his home as a result of collapsed tin whistle pipe.

The regular meeting was held from 8:00 p.m. to 8:42 p.m.

POST-MEETING

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An executive session was held to discuss potential litigation, a police grievance, Public Works/Parks negotiations, a potential property purchase and the Gray litigation.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy L. Krummert
Borough Secretary