

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK  
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020**

---

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held from 5:30 to 6:50 p.m. to discuss a police grievance.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this work session meeting was held both in-person and virtually via Zoom remote audio and video conferencing.

Council President Jim Hogg called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

James W. Hogg ..... present  
Jiang Li ..... participated via Zoom  
and telephone  
Brian S. Malkin ..... participated via Zoom  
and telephone  
Lucas R. Myslinski ..... present  
John P. Parks ..... present  
Thomas C. Schwartzmier ..... present  
Junior Council Person Emma Bernardi ..... present  
Mayor Dennis E. O’Keefe ..... present

**ENGINEER:**

Michael Malak, Senate Engineering Company ..... absent/excused

**SOLICITOR:**

Robert Max Junker, Babst Calland ..... present

**STAFF:**

Zach Brower, Recreation Program Director ..... present  
Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works ..... present  
Rege Ebner, Borough Manager ..... present  
Walt Healy, Police Chief ..... present  
Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretary ..... present  
Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer ..... present  
Bill Schweitzer, Manager of Golf Course & Parks Facilities ..... absent/excused

**AUDIENCE:** 3 in person and 6 via Zoom.

**MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW** – Mr. Ebner noted that through July the revenues are looking much better than expected. Earned income tax collection is \$200,000 ahead of this time last year. We are still being cautiously optimistic looking at the year end. Revenue is anticipated to be down by over \$400,000, but we also anticipate expenses being down over \$800,000. Some items could be delayed until next year because we will not have the staff time available, or we do not need to make the purchase this year. The Blueberry Hill pickle ball courts and three stormwater projects have been added this year. Stormwater projects will be done internally by borough staff. Mr. Ebner, Chief Walt Healy, Gary Bucuren and Zach Brower reviewed their budgets, and the status of budgeted purchases and projects.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**AGENDA REVIEW** -The following August 19, 2020, regular meeting agenda items were discussed:

- Special Recognition for three fire company members – A decision will be made next week as to whether this recognition should be pushed back until the September meeting.
- Public Comments – Wording will be added to the regular meeting agenda that written public comments must be submitted by 12:00 noon on the day of the meeting. The regular meeting will be held both in-person and via Zoom.

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK  
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020**

---

- Bellissimo Conditional Use Application – There was discussion about amending the motion since Mr. Bellissimo had stated during the public hearing that he was amending his application because he would not be selling firearms, only transferring firearms. Mr. Junker and Mrs. Krummert will amend the wording of the motion prior to the regular meeting.
- Dixon/McKee Lot Line Revision – Mr. Phillips briefly reviewed the application for a lot line revision and answered Council's questions.
- Zoning Hearing Board Appointment – During the August 19<sup>th</sup> pre-meeting, Council will interview and appoint an applicant to fill the current vacancy. Mr. Junker had previously indicated that Council could also appoint an alternate. Mr. Hogg suggested that Council appoint at least one alternate. A motion will be added to the agenda for the appointment of an alternate.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Report by Superintendent of Public Works

Mr. Bucuren provided the following report:

- Started basin work on Corporate Drive off Brandt School Road and discovered a problem. There is a privately owned detention pond on the Howard Hanna property that is overfull, and there are now fish in the basins out on the street. The water level in the basins is 2" below the grates. Mr. Bucuren has been in contact with Terry Corbett of Howard Hanna who indicated that someone has to go out with a boat on occasion to clean the outlet structure of the pond.
- Started basin work in the Ramblewood Plan in advance of paving next year. The concrete work has been completed by the contractor, and it has been inspected by the Borough Engineer.
- Finished a pipe, basin and end wall in the valley off Salem Drive. A drainage ditch between the homes was washing out a resident's property.
- Checking on pipe lining in different areas and finding some pipes that need to be replaced. There are so many utilities underneath the roads that they could run into some issues if they start digging. Mr. Bucuren is looking into the possibility of using a contractor that does pipework for the COG under the state contract, and he will obtain a cost estimate.
- Taking delivery of an additional 1,330 tons of salt in order to meet the minimum required order. The salt will be stockpiled on the salt dome property until it is needed.
- Mr. Hogg noted that Council had received an email last week from a resident on Bellwood Drive, and he asked for a status report. Mr. Ebner and Mr. Bucuren have met with Ms. Zick regarding a stormwater erosion concern on her property and other properties. The lines have been televised and there are no problems. It appears to be a private issue since the majority of the water is coming off other residents' properties. Mr. Ebner will notify the residents.
- Mr. Hogg noted that Folino Construction did a phenomenal job on the Brandt School Road paving project for Allegheny County. Mr. Bucuren will inform Allegheny County that Borough Council was very pleased with the work.
- Mr. Hogg noted that Shields Paving also did a good job paving the borough roads.

Report by Recreation Program Director

Mr. Brower provided the following report:

- The Activity Center is still under a 25-person limit for indoor activities as directed by Allegheny County due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most indoor rentals have been canceled. The outdoor pavilions have a 50-person limit.
- Sports Camp will be held next week and there are 133 registrants at this time. Refunds will be issued to anyone who cancels their registration due to COVID-19.
- Lori Merriman has submitted her resignation from the Recreation Board, and a motion will be added to the agenda for Council to accept the resignation.
- Mr. Brower noted that Recreation Board member Natalie Wingrove Scott has had no contact with him or the board since October 2019. He is recommending that Council remove Ms. Scott from the board. According to the Recreation Board Bylaws, a member can be removed if they miss more than three meetings/events in a calendar year. Several potential new members have been attending meetings/events. Mr. Junker will review the provisions of the ordinance and will report back to Council.

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK  
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020**

---

- Tiger Pride Football is still intending to play their season, but they must follow all COVID-19 protocols.
- IFPLL has been playing baseball. The rules regarding social distancing and masks have been difficult to enforce.
- REMAX would like to set up a hot air balloon in the lower meadow field in Blueberry Hill Park for advertising purposes. Mr. Phillips indicated that balloons are not permitted to be used as signs.
- The YMCA is looking for additional space to provide a child watch program for approximately 20 school age children from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Because school age children will only be in school two days a week and learning virtually for three days a week, working parents need a place for their children to go during the days they are not in school. Mr. Brower asked Council if the YMCA could use the Recreation Center for this purpose, and he noted that the YMCA would be responsible for rent, cleaning, etc. The request was discussed, and Mr. Phillips stated that no type of childcare is permitted in the R-2 zoning district. Council suggested that the YMCA contact the local churches.
- Mr. Brower has started a new partnership with Soccer Shots. The program would be held in Linbrook Park in the fall; at the Activity Center in the winter; and in Blueberry Hill Park in the spring.
- Mr. Parks asked about the status of a proposal from a resident to install a garden plot concept in Old Orchard Park. Mr. Ebner indicated that the EAC had reviewed the proposal and put it back in the resident's hands to come up with a concrete proposal. The EAC also recommended planting trees in honor or memory of someone.

Discussion regarding the Engineer's Report

- Mr. Hogg asked about a cost estimate for the Karen Drive Stormwater Project. Mr. Ebner indicated that the cost estimate is approximately \$100,000 total for the entire project, but there has been no discussion yet regarding the split between the borough and Ohio Township.
- Mr. Malkin asked if the Borough Engineer would go back to the drawing board to figure out a new plan for the Nevin/Dalton Stormwater Project since the previous project design fell through. Mr. Ebner indicated that other options will be considered with the most likely option being some type of underground detention facility along Nevin Drive. This will take some work because there are a number of utilities to negotiate. More than likely this project would carry into early next year, but the borough will make every effort to start the project this year. In the meantime, the borough will add some storm sewer lines and grates along Dalton Drive to help resolve one of the issues.
- Mr. Bucuren stated that a copy of the plan for the stormwater project below the municipal building is available for viewing.

Report by Building Inspector/Zoning Officer

Mr. Phillips provided the following report:

- The Planning Commission will consider two applications: (1) The Wetzel Plan that had been tabled from last month; and (2) A conditional use application on Lenora Drive for a solar panel array in the rear yard.
- The Zoning Hearing Board will consider three applications: (1) A shed; (2) An above-ground swimming pool encroachment; and (3) A resident on Nicholson Road who wants to rent out an addition to the home that was previously occupied by a relative.
- Mr. Hogg asked if there was an update on the renaming of the proposed street in the Deerfield Estates Plan. Mr. Phillips indicated that Maronda Homes had no issue with renaming the street.
- Mr. Phillips noted that the Bliss Land Development has a joint permit that they submitted to the DEP for the second time and it was denied. They now have to do some alterations to their stormwater facility and reconfigure their stormwater pond. It will significantly change the facility, and they will be required to come back through the Planning Commission and Borough Council.

Report by Chief of Police

Chief Healy provided the following report:

- Chief Healy indicated that Officer Poisker's mother passed away today.
- The officers have not been called for issues regarding the use of the pickle ball courts since the lock was installed on the gate. They have responded to two calls for late play on the volleyball court. Mr. Schwartzmier asked if the police will cite people who jump the fence to play pickle ball. Chief Healy indicated that violators will first be issued a warning and then a \$5.00 ticket before finally being cited.
- The three police chiefs will be meeting with the school district on Friday regarding the plans for the start of school.
- The Chief reported that an altercation had occurred at Blueberry Hill Park. Both parties were cited and were incorrectly told by the officer that they cannot come back to the park. Mr. Junker indicated that the borough cannot prohibit the individuals from entering the park after one incident.

At this time, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Bucuren and Chief Healy left the meeting.

**McCANDLESS FRANKLIN PARK AMBULANCE AUTHORITY FUNDING** – Council participated in a call last week regarding the Ambulance Authority's immediate need for additional funding. They are asking each municipality to appoint a liaison to assist in developing a formula to determine each municipality's contribution. This is an imperative service that we and the other participating municipalities need to support. The borough saw this coming, and we have made contributions at a rate of \$5 per resident over the last four years. It is now time for the other municipalities to catch up with us. The borough would ask for a credit for the contributions that we have already made totaling \$75,000. For the other municipalities to match what we have done at a rate of \$5 per resident, Bradford Woods would have to give \$10,000, Marshall \$40,000, McCandless \$140,000 and Pine \$70,000 for a total of \$260,000. Going forward if all municipalities contribute \$4 per resident that would be an additional \$260,000. A letter will be drafted to the Authority, and the other municipal managers will be copied. The borough's strong response is that we expect the other municipalities to match what the borough has done, and we should get a credit for our contributions. The borough should not be penalized for being proactive. We will also provide a detailed list of the borough's in-kind services. The Ambulance Authority is expected to have a \$500,000 deficit this year.

**OLD ORCHARD PARK** – The hours for pickle ball play have been reduced, signs have been posted and locks have been put on the gate. Mr. Hogg asked Council if anything else should be done regarding this matter. Council discussed constructing the new pickle ball courts in Blueberry Hill Park and possibly repurposing the courts in Old Orchard Park. Council agreed to make the construction of the new courts in Blueberry Hill Park a priority and then wait to see if any further steps will be needed at Old Orchard Park. Mr. Brower indicated that league play could take place at Blueberry and family play could continue in Old Orchard if the courts remain. Mr. Brower left the meeting at this time.

**ZONING HEARING BOARD INTERVIEWS** – Five applications have been received for one vacancy, and interviews have been scheduled every 10 minutes starting at 6 p.m. on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hogg noted that Jim Lawrence and Toby Rechenmacher have already been interviewed for other positions, and he asked if they should be required to come in for another interview. Council and Mr. Junker discussed, and it was decided that all candidates will be interviewed on August 19<sup>th</sup>. A motion will be added to appoint a new member and an alternate.

**MANAGER'S REPORT DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Donation in honor of Thaddeus Popovich – Mr. Ebner received an email today that was forwarded to all members of Council for discussion tonight. It appears that somebody is offering an air quality monitor as a gift to the borough in honor of Thaddeus Popovich since he is moving out of the borough. Council discussed if the borough would be required to do anything with the gift and what purpose it would serve. Council concurred that the gift would be accepted, and Mr. Ebner will respond to the email.

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- Mayor O'Keefe expressed appreciation for the recent improvements to the audio and video system.
- Mr. Myslinski welcomed Emma Bernardi to her first full official meeting.
- Mr. Schwartzmier attended the North Hills COG meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Everyone was very supportive of Lynne Eklund who was recently promoted to the director's position, and she did a good job chairing her first meeting. Salt purchases and leaf composting were discussed at the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held to discuss the Bellissimo Conditional Use Application (quasi-judicial deliberations), the potential purchase of real estate and personnel.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy L. Krummert  
Borough Secretary