



MINUTES
FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 18, 2023

PRESENT: Andrew C. Bennett, Council President; Harrison S. Lauer, Vice-President; Frederick C. Leech, Sarah Hanna, Bradley D. Harrison, Betsy Monroe, Councilmembers; Walter A. Scott, III, Mayor; A. Bruce Bowden, Solicitor; Michael J. Stevens, Chief of Police; Gary J. Koehler, Borough Manager; Larry Kurpakus, Public Works Director

ALSO

PRESENT: Logan Dressman, Ethan Kolek, Junior Councilmembers; Stephen Whittingham, Park Commission member; Michael Pohl, Kento Ohmori, Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department; Jonathan Colton, six other attendees

VIA ZOOM: Shawn M. Peterson, Borough Secretary; Avery Litwin, Junior Councilmember; and one other attendee

ABSENT: Thomas Karet, Councilmember; Jeanine A. Mancuso, Treasurer

Mr. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Lauer moved that the November 20, 2023, meeting minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed by a unanimous vote.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

Kento Ohmori, 154 Oakhurst Road, stated he was a potential candidate for the Zoning Hearing Board and would be honored to serve on the Board if appointed. Mr. Bennett recognized Mr. Ohmori as serving on the Volunteer Fire Department and the Construction Board of Appeals for the Borough.

Mr. Bennett also recognized Jonathan Colton, who was in attendance and will be stepping on to the Borough Council on January 2, 2024, at the Organization Meeting at 6 p.m.

PARK COMMISSION

Stephen Whittingham updated Council on the Park Commission items discussed at its meeting on Monday, December 11, 2023.

The Park Commission unanimously agreed to recommend to Council two candidates for six-year terms expiring on December 31, 2029.

Mr. Leech moved to appoint Melinda Guinn and Jeff Beyer to the Park Commission, with terms expiring on December 31, 2029. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

The Park Commission recommended that the Council approve the authorization to install musical flowers, mushrooms, and a tree in Annie's Field of Dreams in McCahill Park near the Lilliput Play Houses. The additions, which will cost almost \$30,000, will be fully funded by donations from Second Harvest, the Natali Family Trust, and Annie's Foundation.

Ms. Monroe moved to approve the authorization to install the musical flowers, mushrooms, and tree in Annie's Field of Dreams in McCahill Park. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Stevens asked Council to approve the amended Red Dot Sights (RDP) for Duty Pistols Policy for the Fox Chapel Police Department.

MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 18, 2023

Page 2

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the amended Red Dot Sights for Duty Pistols Policy for the Fox Chapel Police Department. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed by a unanimous vote.

TREASURER REPORT

Ratification of Payments – November 2023

Mr. Leech moved that the payment of bills for November 2023 (General Fund Vouchers 4321 - 4406 in the amount of \$546,217.36) be ratified. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Refuse and Recycling Subcommittee

At the September 2023 Council meeting, administrative staff requested that a subcommittee of Council be formed to assist with bid specifications for the future refuse and recycling contract due to the anticipated higher costs and potential collection changes. Council agreed that a subcommittee be formed.

Andrew C. Bennett, Harrison Lauer, and Frederick C. Leech have individually volunteered to be members of this committee with Mr. Koehler and Ms. Peterson.

Public Safety Assistance Committee Appointment

At the October 16, 2023, Council meeting, the Council approved the creation of a standing Public Safety Assistance Committee in Fox Chapel for the oversight and follow-up of action items and future projects relating to public safety with a creation date of December 1, 2023. The makeup of this committee will be three Council members, the mayor, a member from Foxwall EMS, a member from the Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department, and one resident with a background in public safety. Administration support members of the committee will be the Chief of Police, who is also the Emergency Management Coordinator, and the Borough Manager.

The position for a resident with a background in public safety was advertised on the Borough website and Fox Chapel Alert. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Borough Building and via Zoom.

Ms. Monroe moved to appoint Thomas Donahoe, Dylan Morris, and Eva Malecki to the Public Safety Assistance Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

Robert Hyland of the Fox Chapel VFD and Gino Mollica of Foxwall EMS will also join the other members of this committee.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Budget

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the 2024 Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee, reviewed by Council, and advertised for available viewing by the public. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bennett and passed unanimously.

Organization Meeting

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the Organization Meeting date of Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 6 p.m., immediately followed by the regular Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

The Civil Service Commission Organization Meeting will be held the same day at 5:30 p.m.

Ordinance No. 726

Ms. Monroe moved to enact Ordinance No. 726, establishing the sewer rates for Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) and restating Borough, Harmar, and AVJSA sewage rates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed unanimously.

MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 18, 2023

Page 3

Resolution No. 690

Mr. Lauer moved to adopt Resolution No. 690, fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for general revenue purposes at 2.95 mills on each dollar of market valuation for 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously. This is the same rate for the past five years.

Ordinance No. 727

Mr. Harrison moved to enact Ordinance No. 727, amending Section 338.13A Stop Intersections Established of the Borough of Fox Chapel Code by adding stop signs on Old Mill Road at Easton Road in east and west directions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed unanimously.

Community Library Association (CLA) Board Appointment

Mr. Leech moved to approve the appointment of Florrie Chapin for an initial one-year term on the CLA Board as recommended by the CLA Board members. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

Zoning Hearing Board Appointment

Kyra Tucker's term on the Zoning Hearing Board will expire on December 31, 2023, and she does not wish to be reappointed. The position was advertised on the Borough website and Fox Chapel Alert.

The Zoning Hearing Board members recommended the appointment of Kento Ohmori or James Killeen to the Zoning Hearing Board, based on their relevant background and experience, for a three-year term. As both individuals are very experienced, Borough Council asked Borough staff to contact the active Zoning Hearing Board members to inquire about having an alternate member appointed along with a new member appointment.

Mr. Lauer moved to table the Zoning Hearing Board Appointment item until the January 2, 2024, Council meeting to ensure the Zoning Hearing Board members would like an alternate member appointed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hanna and passed by a unanimous vote.

As this was the last meeting for Thomas Karet as a Councilmember before his term expires on December 31, 2023, Mr. Bennett recognized Mr. Karet's service to the Borough. On behalf of the Borough and all of Council, Mr. Bennett thanked Mr. Karet for his years of service and contributions.

With no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON
Borough Secretary

