

***MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK***

**MINUTES  
OF  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date:** October 10, 2016  
**Time:** 7:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Members Colella, Dixon, Gibbons, Hannan, Harrison, McLean, Moury and O'Brien

Also Present: Mayor Jack Allen; William J. Spagnol, Manager;  
Judith L. Miller, Assistant Manager;  
David Mongillo, Solicitor's Office;  
Chief Timothy O'Connor;  
Shawn Arbaugh, Community Services Director;  
Jean Statler, Municipal/Environmental Engineer;  
Joseph Villella, Finance Director;  
Ashley Moore, Municipal Planner

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Chair Announcement

An Executive Session of Council was conducted on Monday, September 26, 2016 to discuss personnel items.

**Reports of Officials**

4. Library Director's Report

Library Director, Christine McIntosh, stated that the Bethel Park Public Library provides services to inform, inspire and enrich the community.

Programs of interest for October include Ghost Hunting presented by the Western Pennsylvania Paranormal Hunters which will be held on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. This is a free event for all ages.

The annual Haunted Hat Tea will take place on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Tea and finger sandwiches will be served. Prizes will be awarded for the most unusual Halloween Hat. There is a \$5 donation for this event.

Cemetery Tales, Pittsburgh's Buried Art and Treasure will take place on Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m., presented by the Frick Art and Historical Center, which highlights Pittsburgh's picturesque cemeteries.

The annual Children's Halloween Party will be held on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Make sure you wear costumes. The Reader's Theatre group will perform and following their show, games and crafts will be set up throughout the Library. Literary pumpkins will be raffled off.

All of these programs require registration by calling the Library or stopping in to sign up.

Ms. McIntosh announced the current fundraiser. Purse Bingo will be held on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at Evey Hardware or at the Library. You can bring your own snacks.

Ms. McIntosh said the Library will close at 5:00 p.m. on Halloween night, Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

For more information on these and the many other programs and services offered by the Library, visit the Library's web site at [bethelparklibrary.org](http://bethelparklibrary.org). You can also follow the Library on Facebook or Twitter.

5. Police Chief's Report

Chief O'Connor thanked everyone that attended Community Day and visited their booth.

He reminded all residents to have a safe Halloween Trick or Treat which will take place on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and to remind everyone to drive safely.

The next Crime Watch Meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Our Canine Jeez and Officer Carey Ellwanger will be present.

You can following the Police Department news on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Assistant Fire Chief Bob Brown thanked all who attended their recent Open House at the new Fire Station on Brightwood Road. He said a special thank you to Evey True Value Hardware, Bethel Park Shop 'n Save, Lockets by David and Dana, the Bethel Park Police Department, Tri Community South EMS, Allegheny Hazmat Team, and the Upper St. Clair Fire Department for the use of their fire extinguisher simulator.

He reminded the community to turn the clocks back on Sunday, November 6. When you turn clocks, you should also change batteries in all smoke and carbon dioxide detectors.

At this time, he gave the fire report for the month of September.

7. EMS Director's Report

EMS Director Nora Helfrich announced that it is subscription month and reminded everyone to support Tri Community South. She said that the October 20 is the Flu shot program which will be held at the Base this year. The shots are free.

Ms. Helfrich said the Police Department recently invited them to a dog training program that was excellent. They learned how to deal with aggressive dogs.

Also, the EMS was trained last week by the UPMC trauma surgeons to do a program called Stop the Bleed. EMS is teaching and certifying all the school districts and teachers in the event of a mass casualty and hope to also involve some local organizations.

Ms. Helfrich said that they will have units staffed for Halloween night at intersections in all three communities to keep kids safe.

Mr. Moury said that he wanted to mention this under Chair announcements. He said that Miners' Memorial Park will keep their name. At last month's meeting, it was suggested to rename the park in memory of our late Ward 1 Councilman John Pape. Instead, it would be fitting, as Mr. O'Brien suggested, that Mr. Pape be honored at next year's Memorial Day ceremony and Miners' Park will keep its name.

8. Mayor's Report

Mayor Allen introduced Representative Dan Miller, Representative Rick Saccone and Representative John Maher and asked Mr. Dixon to step up. The Representatives presented Paul Dixon and the Dixon family with a Citation for Martha's Run. The Dixon family's loss has turned into a fantastic event for the people of South Hills. Martha's Run, a 10-K race that is held annually, was established in memory of Martha Dixon, FBI Special Agent, who lost her life in the line of duty in 1994, proceeds of which build playgrounds in the South Hills in Martha's memory. The Dixon Family started this tradition 20 years ago. Mr. Dixon said that Martha died heroically at the Police headquarters in Washington, DC, while working with police solving cold cases when a gunman entered the office and fatally shot a police detective and a special agent. Mr. Dixon spoke of his sister and said she died heroically, she stopped the criminal in the middle of his rampage. Mr. Dixon thanked the House of Representatives and the Commonwealth for this honor.

Mayor Allen announced that the annual Bethel's Bounty will be held on Sunday, November 13 at the Crown Plaza from 5:00 – 7:30 P.M. Tickets are available at Evey True Value Hardware, Bethel Bakery and Judy's Java.

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. at the Bethel Park Community Center.

The Fall Leaf Collection is under way and will continue through November 18<sup>th</sup>.

At this time, Mayor Allen introduced the new Community Services Director, Shawn Arbaugh. Mr. Arbaugh came to Bethel Park from the Harrisburg area and is very thankful for the opportunity to serve the residents Municipality. He was previously the manager of South Londonderry Township near Hersey, Pennsylvania, and prior to that with the Pennsylvania DEP in the wastewater and storm water compliance areas. He also spoke of his career in the US Army.

Mr. Moury said that Mr. Arbaugh assured us all that Community Center renovation work will be completed on time for the Tree Lighting ceremony in November.

Mayor Allen introduced Bill Haberthur and Pat O'Shea of the Bethel Park Historical Society, as well as Council President Moury. The Bethel Park Historical Society started its 2016 Capital Campaign to raise money to restore the 1905 schoolhouse on the corner of Park Avenue and South Park Road. They have established a Miner's Museum to honor the Coverdale and Mollenauer miners, and also a military museum to honor our veterans. He said thank you for a generous donation from the Murdock family. They are renovating a second floor classroom to its former glory. For the physical structure, they are looking for the support of the community, both residents and local businesses, for this 111 year old building. Therefore, the 2016 Capital Campaign is up and running. Several fundraisers will be announced in the next few months.

At this time, Representative John Maher presented the Bethel Park Historical Society with a GEDF (Gaming and Economic Development Fund) Grant in the amount of \$140,000 to launch the Jump Start program. Representative Maher said that for this program to be successful, the community has to do their part to make this an asset in the community.

Mr. Moury said on behalf of the Bethel Park Historical Society, he thanked Representative Maher for the generous check and for all his work and commitment to help bring this building back to life. The new group is working together to preserve the building. It is going to be called the School House Arts and History Center. The funding is going to be used for first-floor HVAC, and windows. A lofty goal of around \$1 Million is set. He again thanked Representative Maher because he again stepped up to bring the dollars back to preserve the history of the community.

Mr. O'Brien said that Mr. Moury, just as he did with the fire company, is working toward preserving the School House Arts and, knowing Mr. Moury, he will also

see this project through to the end the best he can. He also talked about Representative Maher's help some years ago in getting the Logan Creek project completed to the satisfaction of the residents in and around the Logan Creek area.

Mr. Moury said that he is an "Ideas Guy". He said he is grateful to everyone who jumps on board to make these projects work. He is looking forward to working with the community and the board to accomplish a goal that is going to be a part of the history of Bethel Park.

9. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2016.

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2016. Motion Carried 8 – 0.

10. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #101016 in the amount of \$4,198,630.61. Motion Carried 8 – 0.

11. Residents' Comments (non-agenda items only)

Request verbatim text by Council Member Harrison.

Ruthie Hale, 2530 Highland Circle.

Ms. Hale said:

"I guess I really have two questions. One I've brought up about three or four years ago, how to move forward with Brightwood Road sidewalks? Especially from where the Lytle trolley stop connects down to the Route 88 Walmart Shopping Plaza, and speaking of the School House, the plan of homes surrounding that is where I grew up and it was the original plan of homes in Bethel Park from 1903. I think somebody, Mr. Spagnol, got a giant map with the date and whatnot, but I think they did a beautiful job with the fire department, new fire house on Brightwood Road and I was hoping to ask how to move forward with that project. The second comment, and I know that this is a touchy issue so I bring it up lightly, but I need help personally as a resident. There was an article in the newspaper brought up in August in regards to the yet unresolved controversy of the fire house in regards to the Home Rule Charter that Mr. Harrison, Councilman Harrison, had brought up and I just don't know how to find resolve with that myself. So I just throw that out there and that from what I could research, before Bethel Park was a Municipality, it was a Borough, and when it became a Municipality, that is when we adopted something called the Home Rule Charter which gave Council more power to void of the State connections, but that to me also means that there's more, needs to be more accountability for that process and looking around again, Councilman Harrison is the one that was here

in this community during the time that the transition from the Borough to the Municipality with Home Rule Charter came. And I know he's been honored for his service and I'm just trying to figure out how to make good on this controversy within myself and with the community and again, thank you for the beautiful fire house. Thank you."

Mr. Moury said:

"Two quick things. One on the Brightwood Road, that is a County road and they did repave it. We did request, and it would be really up to them. You may want to contact the County Councilperson."

Ms. Hale said:

"And I did, and I brought that up before when I came a couple of years ago, and the County Councilman Vince Gastgeb explained that the road is a county road, but the adjacent abutment is Municipality. So it would have to be from the Municipality."

Mr. Moury said:

"I don't want to, the road and the right of way is truly owned by the county so they would certainly have..."

Ms. Hale said:

"That's not, that's exactly opposite of what Councilman Gastgeb said."

Mr. Moury said:

"I'm just telling you, that's what it is. And then the unresolved controversy, that really, it's become a controversy, I think I shared an email with you, that the checks and balances with the County Elections Department. They're the ones who verified if it's legal or not. They deemed the questions to be legal, that's why it went on the ballot, so that's the checks and balances. We had our solicitor review it, he actually proposed it, it went to the County. The County Elections Department approved it. So, you know for the most part we considered it done, people like to make it a controversy where there isn't one. But that's the checks and balances in place. If it was illegal, the County Elections Department would not let the question go to the ballot. Okay? Thank you very much."

Chris Ollio, 5132 Park Avenue.

Mr. Ollio said that Council addressed one of his biggest concerns about Miners' Park. It is very near and dear to his heart, he grew up in the Coverdale section, that the name will not change so that's not going to be an issue. Another thing that concerns him is the history of Bethel Park that was just briefly discussed and he is happy that that is happening. He said the community is growing fast with developments going up everywhere, with rezoning and a lot more businesses

everywhere and that is great. But Coverdale was very important to this community at one time, Coverdale Mine No. 8. There were 250 houses built there, one of the biggest in Southwest Pennsylvania. He is requesting that Bethel Park recognize Coverdale and bring the history back. He said he would like us to place a sign to say what the community is about, like they do in other communities. He said Coverdale can grow and thrive because it is affordable for families. He feels people neglect the area because they don't understand it. He said it should be recognized as the historical area that it is. He then mentioned that Bethel Park is planning to hire more police officers and spoke about a mass casualty, as was brought up by the EMS director. He is in the military and is a staff sergeant in Army National Guard and is familiar with mass casualties. He said that Bethel Park has an opportunity to do a roving police patrol to the schools and should incorporate the security plan with constant monitoring of schools in order to catch a potential problem off guard.

Mr. Moury said that Miners' Park does have a stone with all the miner's names and there could be something tied in with the historical society. And a building on Industrial Park is tied into the mine, so that can be worked on with the Historical Society. He said as far as the schools are concerned, we've had a School Resource Officer for 18 years who is now the school police officer. We have a second police officer that goes out to the schools and last week, Canine Officer Jeez was at the schools. Mr. Moury said we also work with the schools through Police Pals.

Mr. Ollio said his two children are being taught to fight back, make loud noises and throw things at a suspect. He said in the Virginia school shootings, the kids that fought back got out and the kids that didn't were killed. But it is more difficult for younger kids. He said he appreciates what is being done in the schools, but we have a big police force and he feels we should allocate the officers to get into the schools a little bit more often.

## **GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE**

### 12. Citizens' Comments – General Policy and Finance Items

None

### 13. General Policy and Finance

Ordinance – Parameters Ordinance – Fire Department Bond Refinancing

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve the Ordinance authorizing the incurring of non-electoral debt by the Municipality of Bethel Park, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing and directing the issuance of general obligation bonds of the Municipality of Bethel Park.  
Motion Carried 8 – 0.

Mr. Moury said this is a potential refinancing of the Fire Department bond issue. We are not engaging in new debt, just refinancing the old. This could drop the debt service of the bonds if we do, in fact, refinance.

14. Appointment – First Ward Council Seat

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mr. Hannan to appoint Joseph A. Consolmagno to the vacant First Ward Council Seat, who shall serve as Councilman of the First Ward until the next election in November 2017 and certification of the results by Allegheny County Elections Division. Motion Carried 8 – 0.

Mr. O'Brien said that there were very qualified candidates for the vacant Ward 1 council seat and the decision was difficult. He thanked all the individuals for stepping up to place their names on the line.

Mr. Moury said that replacing a long-time friend and Councilman was bittersweet. He appreciated the interest from the community to fill this vacancy.

Mr. McLean said thank you to all who applied and their interest in helping. He advised everyone that we do have vacancies on our other Boards and Commissions and if any residents are interested, he encourages them to apply. The election is only one year away for those individuals who would like to run for Council seats.

Mr. Moury said that there is currently a vacancy on the Planning Commission and an alternate position on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. McLean also said that Council is continuing their review of the Proposed 2017 Budget. The Public Hearing will be held on Monday, October 24, 2016 at 7:45 p.m. in Council Chambers for those who wish to attend. A copy of the proposed budget is available for review on the Bethel Park Website as well as at the Bethel Park Public Library.

Mr. Moury said that taxes are not going up.

## **PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS**

15. Citizens' Comments – Planning and Zoning Items

None

16. Planning and Zoning Items

Ordinance – Bethel Park Properties Rezoning, Library Road

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve the ordinance rezoning parcels identified as 475-L-167, 475-L-171, and 475-L-175 located at Library Road from C-4, Office Commercial Districts to C-1, Neighborhood

Commercial Districts. Motion Carried 6 – 0. Council Members Moury and McLean abstained.

Mr. McLean said that he will recuse himself from voting on this Ordinance as he provides professional services to the client.

Mr. Moury said he will recuse himself from voting on this Ordinance due to professional reasons.

17. Application No. 2016-0472 Maple Springs Plan of Lots, Major Subdivision, Maple Springs Road

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve Application No. 2016-0472 Maple Springs Plan of Lots, Major Subdivision, Maple Springs Road, which includes a request for a modification to Section 60.21.1.3 of the Municipal Code, in accordance with the Municipal Engineer's memorandum dated October 5, 2016. Motion Carried 8 – 0.

18. Appointment of Zoning Hearing Board Member

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Hannan to appoint Carol Stewart as a full time member of the Zoning Hearing Board, effective immediately, with an expiration date of December 31, 2020. Motion Carried 8 – 0.

#### **HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS**

19. Citizens' Comments – Health, Safety and Welfare Items

None

20. Health, Safety and Welfare Items

Ordinance – Amendments to Rules and Regulations of the Civil Service Commission.

Motion by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve the Ordinance amending the Rules and Regulations of the Civil Service Commission. Motion Carried 8 – 0.

21. Appointment – Position of Permanent Police Officer

Motion by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve that the permanent employment of Rachel Boyer be ratified as per the recommendation of Chief Timothy O'Connor. Motion Carried 8 – 0.

22. Appointment – Position of Permanent Police Officer

Motion by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve that the permanent employment of Ryan Weister be ratified as per the recommendation of Chief Timothy O'Connor. Motion Carried 8 – 0.

23. Appointment – Position of Permanent Police Officer

Motion by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve that the permanent employment of Stephen Hozella be ratified as per the recommendation of Chief Timothy O'Connor. Motion Carried 8 – 0.

**PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS**

24. Citizens' Comments – Public Works and Maintenance Items

None

25. Public Works and Maintenance Items

Inter-municipal Sewage Service Agreement – Bethel Park Municipal Authority, Municipality of Bethel Park, South Park Township and Union Township

Motion by Mrs. Gibbons and seconded by Mr. Hannan to authorize the appropriate Municipal Officials execute the Inter-municipal Sewage Service Agreement between the Bethel Park Municipal Authority, the Municipality of Bethel Park, South Park Township and Union Township. Motion Carried 8 – 0.

26. Resolution – Allegheny County Sanitary Authority and Green Revitalization of Our Greenways Grant Application

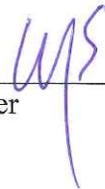
Motion by Mrs. Gibbons and seconded by Mr. Hannan to adopt a resolution to apply for grant funds through the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority's Green Revitalization of Our Greenways (GROW) Program for the McLaughlin Run South Sewer Rehabilitation Project. Motion Carried 8 – 0.

27. Resolution – CDBG Grant Application – Cherry Street Storm Sewer Phase 3

Motion by Mrs. Gibbons and seconded by Mr. Hannan to adopt a resolution which authorizes the requesting of funds through the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development for the Cherry Street Storm Sewer Phase 3 Construction Project. Motion Carried 8 – 0.

28. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 8:30 P.M.

  
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Manager