

May 17, 2010 Council Meeting Minutes

The May 17, 2010 Council Meeting was called to order at 7:31 P.M. in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. Mayor Anthony DeLuca presiding.

Approval of Agenda Items

Mayor DeLuca announced that the agenda will be amended deleting Resolution No. 2010-038. The remainder of the agenda will stand as presented.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council and the audience stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Roll was called and the following members of Council responded:

Present: Dr. Kincaid
Mrs. Kuhn
Mr. Palumbo
Mr. Underwood
Mayor DeLuca

Also present were: Manager Rayan, Finance Director Schrecongost, Attorney Anne Sweeny from the Solicitor's Office, Controller Futules, Planning Director Davidson, and Administrative Support Specialist Carson.

Mayor DeLuca announced that an Executive Session was held on May 5, 2010 with the Fire Chiefs.

Presentation

Kathy Risko the Associate Director of the Congress of Neighboring Communities or CONNECT stated that CONNECT is a program out of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh and was developed by Dr. David Miller. It is a forum for discussion between the City of Pittsburgh and the thirty-five municipalities that share a common border with the City. In June of 2009 members of those communities came together for the first congress. Every municipality has three delegates; two elected officials and one appointed. Ms. Risko stated that she is here to encourage Penn Hills to become involved with CONNECT. There are three committees; Operations, Policy, and Executive. Currently Penn Hills has a seat on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is comprised of thirteen member communities and four officers.

Mr. Jay Rickenbaugh a Graduate Student Intern with CONNECT stated that CONNECT is doing a lot of support on policy issues concerning public transportation within the Metro area, EMS services, energy efficient lighting, and reducing utility costs for municipalities. He stated that CONNTECT also has a data base of Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreements so that if a municipality wants to enter into one legal language from the data base can be used.

Ms. Risko stated that CONNECT has established a list of Expeditors in each municipality whose purpose is to be the point person of contact regarding inter-municipal relations. In January 2010 a meeting was held for the Expeditors so that they could meet one another as well as to discuss issues that their municipalities would like to have help with. Two of the issues that Mr. Rickenbaugh spoke about energy efficient lighting and increased ways to help with public transportation came from these discussions. The next meeting of the Expeditors will be held on June 2, 2010 at the Greentree Fire Hall. At this meeting representatives from the City of Pittsburgh will share their experience in working on a pilot LED lighting program.

The Port Authority of Allegheny County has identified Transits Hubs to be developed in our region. Seven of the ten Transit Hubs are within the CONNECT foot print; one of things we are doing is looking for federal funding or other funding to establish the Transit Hubs.

Ms. Risko announced that the City of Pittsburgh will hold an energy auction on May 26, 2010; communities are encouraged to either take part or observe. On May 27, 2010 CONNECT will hold an event with WQED to screen a movie entitled "The New Metropolis" in which they talk about the issues in communities that surround a Metro Area. A large number of civic leaders will come together to have a facilitated dialogue that will be filmed and used for WQED programming going onward. Ms. Risko announced that the second annual CONNECT congress will be held on June 18, 2010 at the Twentieth Century Club in Oakland.

Ms. Risko thanked Mayor and Council for the time to speak at tonight's meeting.

Mrs. Kuhn asked if any federal stimulus funding has come through CONNECT.

Ms. Risko explained that CONNECT has done an assessment of stimulus funding to see that if CONNECT as a whole were to lobby for money how much more stimulus funding may have come to the region. Mr. Rickenbaugh stated that 67% of the jobs in Allegheny County are within the CONNECT foot print, but only 57% of the funding within the County went to the CONNECT foot print; there is a 10% funding gap from where the jobs are as to where the money went to.

Mrs. Kuhn asked who would determine the way in which funding received by CONNECT would be distributed.

Mr. Rickenbaugh stated that CONNECT is looking at ways to reorganize federal funding formulas to recognize that Penn Hills has some of the same issues that the City has but does not have the population to be classified as a large Metro Area. There are no plans for CONNECT as an organization to lobby for federal funding and then disburse this money to the municipalities.

Ms. Risko explained that funding would be project based and that the projects would benefit multi- municipalities.

Mayor DeLuca asked how many communities of the thirty-five municipalities that surround the City of Pittsburgh are involved with CONNECT.

Ms. Risko stated that only two communities are not members yet; Fox Chapel and O'Hara.

Mayor DeLuca asked how CONNNECT is funded.

Ms. Risko explained that CONNECT is funded by six foundations and that it is housed at the University of Pittsburgh. The organization is set up so that I am the Associate Director and I have one full-time employee and one part-time employee who help with outreach and communication; plus a team of six Graduate Student Interns who do much of the data research. CONNECT does not require dues from member communities just your time and ideas.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Palumbo made a motion to approve Minutes of May 3, 2010.

Mr. Underwood seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion to approve the Minutes of May 3, 2010 was approve by a vote of 5-0.

EXPENDITURES

Approval of Warrants

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to approve the Master Expenditure Summary dated May 17, 2010 including 1 Journal Voucher in the amount of \$3,422.43; 0 CD Requisitions; 0 EECBG Requisition; Master Checks numbering 14463-14591 in the amount of \$678,418.50; making a grand total of \$681,840.93.

Mr. Underwood seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Underwood made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2010-035** authorizing the Municipal Manager to enter into an Agreement with Campbell Durrant Beatty Palombo & Miller, P.C. to prepare an amended and restated Police Pension Plan Document.

Mr. Palumbo seconded the motion.

Mrs. Kuhn stated that she believes this is the resolution that has been held because the cost was high so we decided to put this professional service out for bid. This firm has stated that they will not exceed \$2,000.00 while the other firms are higher. She also stated that the Manager recommends Campbell Durrant Beatty Palombo & Miller not only because the cost is low but also because they are familiar with the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mrs. Kuhn stated it was well worth going out for bids.

There being no further discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Mrs. Kuhn made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2010-036** authorizing the filing of an application for funds with the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County.

Dr. Kincaid seconded the motion.

Mr. Eric Hardy asked if this is funding for a specific project.

Mayor DeLuca responded yes; this is for the redevelopment of the intersection of Maple Lane and Rodi Road.

Mrs. Kuhn stated that the backup information shows that this is a construction project for public improvements including traffic signalization, street improvements, and sidewalks. Is the \$250,000.00 grant coming directly to the Municipality and do we disburse the funding.

Municipal Manager Rayan stated that is correct.

Mrs. Kuhn asked if this money is going towards street improvements and sidewalks or just for the traffic signalization.

Municipal Manager Rayan responded that the total project is in the amount \$750,000.00; \$500,000.00 is private funds and the \$250,000.00 is part of the application. Our understanding from the County is that this money will go more towards the intersection improvement, but I will have to verify that the money will be for the roadway widening and the sidewalks.

Mrs. Kuhn stated that she was aware that the \$500, 00.00 was coming from the Developer and she wanted to make sure that the additional money would not be used for the signalization but for the improvements.

Mr. Underwood asked if this money is to be used to tie both lights in together; the existing traffic signal and the one at Maple Lane. They would work simultaneously.

Municipal Manager Rayan stated that was correct; the one on Rodi Road and Purity Road.

Mr. Underwood stated that the distance between the two traffic signals is not what PennDOT normally prefers. They prefer the signals to be further apart. PennDOT did a study and stated that they prefer that the signals be further apart; but the plans do not indicate the recommended placement.

Municipal Manager Rayan stated that at one time PennDOT did have objections where it is now proposed; however, the engineering study was provided for PennDOT that showed monitors in place that would lessen the backup of traffic on the ramps.

There being no further discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 4-1; Mr. Underwood voting no because he was concerned about public safety.

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2010-037** authorizing the submission of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Underwood seconded the motion.

Mrs. Kuhn asked that Planning Director Davidson relay to Chris Blackwell that he did a good job and it is a very helpful report.

Mrs. Kuhn asked who decides on the amount of money and to which project it would go to.

Planning Director Davidson stated that Mayor and Council decide what projects to fund under the federal guidelines. This is actually a report of what has been spent during a certain period of time; not what has been funded.

Mrs. Kuhn asked that once the funding comes from HUD how it is determined what projects come in front of Mayor and Council for a vote.

Planning Director Davidson stated that there is a procedure that is followed starting with hearings at the end of August or early September, meetings with the Planning Commission, hearings with Mayor and Council, and workshop meetings. In January Mayor and Council approve the CDBG Budget.

Mrs. Kuhn stated that the funding is based on the needs and desires of the community.

There being no further discussion, the motion was approved 5-0.

REPORTS

Mrs. Kuhn asked if anything has been decided on naming the pavilions at Universal Park for the three fallen Penn Hills Police Officers. Mr. Hromyak has stated that he would pay for the wood used for the plaques and former Police Officer Felock would donate his time in making them.

Mrs. Kuhn stated that she had five residents contact her from the housing development adjacent to the Rite Aid on Universal and Saltsburg. They brought to her attention that Rite Aid was to have set up an escrow account; part of it was to be used to move the school bus shelter to the Rite Aid property. She asked the Municipal Manager to look into this matter.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Planning Director Davidson stated that Mrs. Doaks, 6850 Royal Drive, has offered to donate land adjacent to thirty acres that is owned by the Municipality. The Planning Department recommends that the Municipality accept this gift. The cost to the Municipality would be preparing and recording the deed.

Mayor DeLuca asked if the land is on the hillside or on the level.

Planning Director Davidson stated that it is wood land like the land the Municipality owns was given by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to be kept as permanent open space.

Mrs. Kuhn stated that if the Municipality would accept the land then the taxing bodies would lose a share of the taxes it brings in; which in this case are not very much.

Mayor and Council did not object to the Municipality owning the property.

Planning Director Davidson said he would write Mrs. Doaks and request that she get a copy of the deed for this parcel; he will then forward it to the Solicitor's office.

Mr. Underwood asked if this parcel is adjacent to Mrs. Doaks property.

Planning Director Davidson said that the parcel is in the back of her property.

Planning Director Davidson stated that a resolution will be prepared to accept the deed of dedication.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John Dugan of 731 MacFarlane Drive stated he felt compelled to let Mayor and Council know about the moving Police Unity Memorial activities in Washington DC.

Mayor DeLuca stated that he and Councilman Palumbo participated in the Police Memorial on the North Side two weeks ago. Residents should make a point to see this memorial.

Mr. Joseph O'Connor, 1095 Maple Avenue, stated that he is a volunteer fireman for forty-five years. He stated that this past February was the worst for driving a fire truck in the subdivisions because of the parked vehicles on the street. If you travel some of these subdivisions today you will see illegal vehicles parked in parking spaces; cars parked in driveways since February which have not moved. Mr. O'Connor stated that Code Enforcement Officers should also be checking to make sure that the parked cars are legal. Before next winter there should be enforcement of No Parking and enforcement of not being able to have illegal vehicles on the street or on your property.

Municipal Manager Rayan stated that the Department of Public Works continually works closely with the Police Department and Code Enforcement to have these illegal vehicles removed. My Office has looked into how other communities prevent parking on the streets from November to April and hopefully we can find a solution to this problem. If feasible, we will present something to Mayor and Council in the fall.

The Mayor announced that Council will go into an Executive Session to discuss contracts and personnel.

There being no further business, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Kincaid made the motion to adjourn.

Mr. Underwood seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8: 24 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – CONTRACTS AND PERSONNEL

Cynthia A. Carson
Administrative Support Specialist II

Date