

MARCH 2, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The March 2, 2015 Council Meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. Mayor Anthony DeLuca presiding.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor DeLuca – Good Evening we will call this meeting to order. The Agenda will stand as presented. Will you please stand for The Pledge of Allegiance?

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Manager Rayan, Secretary Yeager, Director Planning Blackwell and Solicitor Alexander.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Wendy Reitenauer – 216 Hochberg Road – I am hear as a follow up to last time I spoke about the recommendation that Penn Hills adopt some kind of dog protection laws in Penn Hills and I was wondering if you all were able to look it over and if you had any opportunities to discuss it?

Craig Alexander – Solicitor – I did begin to look it over and with the meetings that were cancelled I didn't know that this was actually on the Agenda today or I would have had my notes and my research for you today. If you leave me your information, an E-mail address or something like that I can provide that to you.

Wendy Reitenauer – provide what? What would you be providing?

Craig Alexander – what my response was to the inquiry.

Wendy Reitenauer – and you are?

Craig Alexander – I am the Municipal Solicitor.

Wendy Reitenauer – I understand that the copy that I gave you is an amendment to Pittsburgh’s City’s Code so it is not the entire City Code.

Craig Alexander – I pulled up the whole thing.

Wendy Reitenauer – you did?

Craig Alexander - yes.

Wendy Reitenauer – o.k. well does anybody else want to say anything because I just had a few more comments.

Mayor DeLuca – no go ahead as soon as he gives it to us I think we all agree that we need to do something.

Wendy Reitenauer – oh well that is good. I would just like to reiterate that the fact that The City of Pittsburgh recently amended their laws really speaks to the ongoing concern that a lot of Communities are having over the increase in animal neglect and abuse and the fact that we are the largest community outside of the City and we get a lot of City migrants here this is almost like a City environment and I think we need to be on par with what the City is providing as far as animal protection. It is just a matter of time when we are going to have the same degree of issues here that the City has been dealing with over a long period of time. People in the City finally got tired of tolerating the way that the animals are being treated in neighborhoods, left out, case in point in our Community recently the dogs that were found in the home or left outside, tied outside, do we want our Community to be like this? It is a shame. If we had a dog protection law or a law that said you cannot leave animals tethered outside you cannot leave animals outside for lengths of time in any kind of weather really because you can’t predict the weather. I mean the same dog you see left out in the summer is the same dog that is being left out in the winter. If a humane agent comes to see it in the summer and says well no problem that is the same dog that is going to be out there in the winter so I think I like the idea that the City has a global look at it is not just whether there is some plywood dog house or some plastic igloo dog house out there to provide shelter that everybody I think would understand that is inadequate shelter for below zero temperature. So the fact that we have dogs that are being found left outside if we had had a law or if we have a law in place that says you can’t leave dogs outside tethered or just left to roam in a fenced in yard then the neighbors might have they would of have legal grounds to call our Police Department and get some assistance there, but since we don’t have any laws there are no legal grounds for a resident to call in and say their dogs are left outside, what we are left to do and what the City of Pittsburgh residents in the past are left to do is call humane agencies like I mentioned last week, Humane Society, which are grossly understaffed and they can’t come out for every call whenever you call them. They say they might be able to get to it next week. That is really inadequate. If we have something where we can entrust to our Municipal Police or if we had a humane agent on staff where we could get, first of all prevent it by having good

laws, prevent the people from leaving their dogs out as “dog guards” or whatever they are doing that would really curtail the likelihood that people are going to be able to do that because we will have laws to prevent it. Then if the people do it we will have a way to call and have legal grounds for the Police coming and saying look you can’t do this it is inhumane and it is against our Municipalities Codes. Basically I would just encourage you all to consider if you aren’t experiencing this in your neighborhood I can tell you numerous people in Penn Hills who are and it is an increasing problem and if people are going to get pets they should be treated as pets not outdoor guard dogs. Do we want to live in a Community of dog guards, I don’t.

Mayor DeLuca – right. Thank you.

Sara Kuhn – just to follow up on your appearance from the last Council Meeting and this one I do agree as Council I am sure does too that our first step is to get some type of Ordinance, Resolution, Law so our Police Department have something to back them up when they do this. So as the Solicitor said he will prepare something for Mayor and Council to go over and read and then at that time we will put something on the books because I think all of us are in agreement, that this is not a tolerable situation in our Municipality.

Craig Alexander – Solicitor – absolutely. The City Ordinance is a very comprehensive Ordinance, it is a good Ordinance.

Wendy Reitenauer – who would I give my e-mail to?

Mayor DeLuca – give it to Craig.

Chrissy Yeager – I can write it down in the meantime. reitw@verizon.net.

MINUTES

Mr. Underwood made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2015.

Mrs. Kuhn seconded the motion.

Mrs. Kuhn – I would just like to ask the Manager Moe if you had an opportunity to contact Comcast on the customer relationship that I had addressed at the last meeting and if you could give me some type of memo on the bidding for the contract so that we don’t have where the vendors put up bonds that are inaccurate. You don’t need to give me a report today but if you could just give me something to see where we are at on that I would appreciate that.

Moe Rayan – as far as Comcast actually on Thursday I left a message for the Area Manager but I haven’t heard back from him yet as far as that and on the bidding process I will prepare a report on that for you.

Mrs. Kuhn – thank you so much.

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

EXPENDITURES

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to approve the Expenditures this will be for two meetings, March 2, 2015 – Journal Vouchers is 0 - \$0.00, C.D. Requisitions – 10 - \$105,604.65, Master 30293 – 30440 - \$1,105,600.97 making a grand total of \$1,211,205.62 moving forward for the February 16, 2015 meeting it will Journal Vouchers at 1 - \$92,675.01, C.D. Requisitions – 4 - \$17,860.00, Master 30187 – 30292 \$701,853.23 making a grand total of \$812,388.24.

Mr. Palumbo seconded the motion.

Mrs. Kuhn – I just have one question well really not a question I guess I just wanted to make it noted that on Page Three, Check No. 30300 to Cargill for salt I do see that

Mayor Deluca – for March or February?

Mrs. Kuhn – March 2 – I just wanted the Public to know and see that we have spent \$199 thousand plus for the salt because of the weather that we have been enduring and I do appreciate Moe the memo that you sent out because when the residents call myself or any other Council Member or the Mayor we can give them a run down on what has transpired and what the situation is and that we had been well prepared but unfortunately never realizing that we were going to have the weather that we did. So I do want that to be noted for the Public because \$200 thousand dollars is a lot of money so it is not that we aren't trying to get our salt for the roadways and that we are doing the best that we can which I think Public Works has done very well under the conditions.

Moe Rayan – actually \$200 thousand plus like you had mentioned in the earlier part of your conversation, we have spent a lot of money so far and there is a lot of money out there that we haven't gotten salt for that we placed purchased orders on. They the suppliers are behind about upward of 3,000 ton behind in delivery they are just trickling tonnage to us from what we normally get from them – 500, 1000 ton at a time, right now we are getting about 100 ton a week so it pretty slow at this point.

Mrs. Kuhn – right and that was very helpful because to explain to the residents it is not that Penn Hills didn't put in for the salt unfortunately the suppliers because of all the other areas they are not giving us what we have asked for so I do appreciate that Moe it was very helpful Moe, thank you.

Moe Rayan – you are welcome.

Mrs. Kuhn abstained on February 16, 2015 Expenditures Check No. 30202 for \$600.00 rental to Don Kuhn Auto Body and Mrs. Kuhn abstained on March 2, 2015 Expenditures on Check No. 30417 to Don Kuhn Auto Body for rental and tow and yes to all the others.

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

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Palumbo made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2015-010** – a Resolution of the Municipality of Penn Hills, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in support of The Proposed Activity of Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, 631 Iron City Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

Mr. Underwood seconded the motion.

Mayor DeLuca – Chris do you want to give to the audience a brief breakdown.

Chris Blackwell – yes sure. We went with Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh in 2014 and they have been doing a considerable amount of work for low income people, veterans, seniors in the City of Pittsburgh for many years, maybe twenty-five or more and they realize there is a need here in Penn Hills as well so they would like to expand their boundaries into Penn Hills. So they came forward and met with us and some members of The Community Development Corporation and I think there is a real opportunity for partnership with them not only the work they do on their own but also with our own rehab programs and senior programs as well. Sort of some sharing of expertise.

Mayor DeLuca – thanks Chris.

Jim Getsy – 151 Crescent Hills Road – Chris do they do services only or do they do stuff like rehab or things like that?

Chris Blackwell – they do both. They have volunteers to do the service and then they have money from foundations, UPMC to actually buy the products.

Jim Getsy – do they look for local volunteers?

Chris Blackwell – yes.

Jim Getsy – o.k. thanks.

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

Mr. Underwood made a motion to approve **Resolution 2015-011** - a Resolution of the Municipality of Penn Hills, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania awarding a contract for Alarm Monitoring and Maintenance to Security Systems of America in an amount of \$20,328.00 for a Two-year Period.

Dr. Kincaid seconded the motion.

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

ORDINANCES

Mr. Underwood made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2015-2572** an Ordinance of the Municipality of Penn Hills, Allegheny County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and restating The Police Pension Plan for termination from employment on or after January 1, 2015.

Dr. Kincaid seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Palumbo made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2015-2573** an Ordinance of the Municipality of Penn Hills, Allegheny County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania amending Chapter 1620 of The Codified Ordinances titled International Fire Code.

Dr. Kincaid seconded the motion.

Mrs. Kuhn – I am assuming that this was brought on to an Ordinance from the information that we received from the Fire Marshall and I think that this was important language that should be incorporated into that Ordinance so I do thank the Fire Marshal for giving that information to Mayor and Council.

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

REPORTS

Mrs. Kuhn - I just want to make note that through the Manager's Memos to us the grant that we received for \$13,000 from Ben Roethlisberger for the K-9 I think that was very commendable of Ben.

Dr. Kincaid – yes I second that.

Mr. Underwood – I would like to make a report to the Council of The ALOM Committee which I am a part of representing Penn Hills that their budget and also coming up is their Spring Conference up in Seven Springs that goes into much detail of interest and I gave that booklet to Moe of which there is an Agenda of the days that they are having the meetings and the committees so that is for Council’s reading and Moe will give everybody a copy of that. That is basically my report. Thank you.

Mayor DeLuca – this past weekend I did attend the Lincoln Park Community Center they had their celebration on National Black History Month and in it they talked about some of the programs that they are going to be offering at the Lincoln Park Community Center and I got some handouts Moe that I think we need to hand out and to get the information to the Library, Senior Center and of course out front. They are starting little workshops like on trauma, issues relating to school age children, drug and alcohol, mental health and domestic violence. They are going to be starting like a lot of programs, youth projects mentoring after school activities and stuff so I think we need to get this information out and if people are looking for help they will know where to turn and this is in conjunction with I think Allegheny County so if they are not able to help you they can get you in touch with someone that would be able to help you.

Mayor DeLuca - With that we will go into an Executive Meeting for Personnel Matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor DeLuca entertained a motion to adjourn.

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Underwood seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

DATE

MAUREEN M. SORCE
MANAGER’S REPORT