

MAY 1, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

The Agenda will stand as presented. The meeting started at 7:32 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Kuhn
Dr. Kincaid
Mr. Underwood - Not able to attend for Personal Reasons
Mrs. Sapp
Mr. Brodnicki

Also present were Rayan, Manager, Scaglione, Police Records Secretary, Blackwell, Planning Director, Schrecengost, Finance Director, Minsterman, Engineer and Alexander, Solicitor.

Mayor Kuhn - First on the Agenda is Citizens to Address Council. Kathleen Raborn - Shade Tree Commission in Penn Hills. Kathleen before you speak I do want to acknowledge that I am in receipt of your letter of March 23, 2017 and it is regarding the audience and the media to know what The Shade Tree Commission in Penn Hills is. There are many many good reasons for this reducing air pollution and reducing storm water runoff, increasing property values, increasing tax revenue and the list of her qualifications would take much too long to go over and I do want to say I am sorry your letter was February 5, 2017 to me and when I did receive it I did contact and spoke in length with Chris Blackwell and I had said to Chris that I did receive Kathleen's letter and went over the facts that were presented to me and stated that this was Chris's expertise not really mine and that I asked him to get in touch with Kathleen to help her to guide her through the process and then send an Ordinance to Mayor and Council and I cannot speak for my Council but my opinion at that time was that it was a great idea and that the STC had my support but the steps that they had to do Chris was more familiar with telling them and I did tell Chris after he spoke with Kathleen to explain then to come and have an Ordinance prepared and to come before Mayor & Council for the vote so with that Kathleen if you could give your name and address.

Kathleen Raborn - hello, 5562 Ziegler Avenue, Verona, PA 15147. May I first start out by handing out a couple handouts to everybody on Council.

Mayor Kuhn - that is fine.

Kathleen Raborn - I am a landscape designer with my own business in Penn Hills Raborn Landscape Design, LLC. I am very proud of being a Penn Hills resident and I always try to give back to our Community through a variety of Environmental projects. Two of my recent projects through the Penn Hills CDC have been the Monarch Project in which I grow and give away 1,000 plants for free to Penn Hills residents to beautify their properties and to help the declining population of the Monarch Butterfly. In addition I have also designed and maintain the garden under the electronic billboard on Allegheny River Boulevard. Both of these projects have required the help of many volunteers. Now I am asking to start a Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission. In November I attended a work shop through Penn State Extension on how to start a Shade Tree Commission which gave me the information that I needed to move forward. The most important point that I want to share with Mayor & Council tonight is that we will not request any money from Penn Hills to buy or plant trees. Once a Shade Tree Ordinance is approved we are eligible to get tree planting grants from organizations such as Tree Vitalize, a program under DCNR Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Allegheny Watershed Alliance and other organizations. The second important point is that the Shade Tree Commission will be advisory only. We have no intention of anyone having to get our approval for a tree planting or for a tree removal. The healthy tree benefits a Community. I have given the Mayor and members of Council a handout of which I have listed some of the most significant benefits the trees can provide a Community. Please note that I have also listed references on your handouts which sites studies to back up this information. Number one trees increase residential property values and will therefore increase our Municipal Tax Revenue. Recent studies by the U.S. Forest Service show that healthy mature trees and landscapes increase property values by up to 15% and homes, apartments and offices rent and sell faster in wooded Communities. #2 trees are good for business. They will make our Community more attractive to prospective restaurant and shop owners, again increasing our Municipal Tax Revenue. Studies have shown trees and landscapes are among a visitors first impression of a place. They help improve the image and reputation of neighborhoods and business districts. In areas with trees shoppers shop more often and longer in well landscaped business districts. Shoppers are willing to pay more for parking and up to 11% more for goods and services in a Shaded Business District. Number 3 trees take up huge amounts of water through their roots reducing storm water runoff and reducing the combined sewage overflow into our 3 rivers. Number 4 trees have been shown to reduce crime by fostering safer, more sociable neighborhood environments. So how do we go about setting up a Shade Tree Commission. Howard Davidson has given us a good start by writing a draft of the Shade Tree Ordinance for us. I have included it with your handout. Choosing members for the Commission I have a group of very impressive Penn Hills Residents that would like to volunteer for the Commission including Sandy Feather an Educator with Penn State Extension, Brian Dermody from Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and Katie Shuler from Phipps Conservatory. In addition I would also appreciate your recommendations that it might include someone from Council and another Municipal Official, a local tree company representative and maybe somebody from our maintenance department or possibly somebody from Duquesne Electric. The Shade Tree Commission will develop

a written management program that is science based. This will ensure that the appropriate tree species will be chosen on the appropriate site conditions. Our careful selection will help prevent problems such as roots uplifting sidewalks, roots and sewers, trees going into power lines etc. An additional goal of the Shade Tree Commission would be to encourage existing businesses to replace trees and shrubs that were originally planted by The Penn Hills Planning Commission. This is something Chris Blackwell, Planning Director is hoping this is something we can accomplish. Where would we get the volunteers to plant and maintain the trees? We would use tree tenders that our local residents trained by Tree Tenders in Pittsburgh on proper planting pruning and maintenance. There are currently 1700 tree tenders in Allegheny County. I have asked their Executive Director to schedule tree tender classes in Penn Hills and she is hopeful that they can be scheduled in September. Some organizations such as Tree Vitalize provides the trees and the volunteers to plant them and finally I have had a pretty good track record of getting large groups of volunteers to help me with environmental projects. As you can see I have a large group of residents who are showing support for the Shade Tree Commission tonight by wearing green shirts and I thank all of you for being here. These neighboring Communities already have a Shade Tree Commission, Verona, Oakmont, Forest Hills, Aspinwal, Wilksburg, Swissvale, Blain, Etna Sharpsburg, City of Pittsburgh and Edgewood which is in the process of starting a Shade Tree Commission. I am hopeful that our first project can include planting trees around the new sidewalk around Frankstown Road near Hauckberg Road a project suggested by Chris Blackwell and helping Nine Mile Run Water Shed Association plant trees across from the new U Pull and Pay. Finally I would like to use Crescent Hills as an example of how trees can positively affect the neighborhood. About a year ago Crescent Hills was voted as the best overall neighborhood in the eastern suburbs by In-Community Magazine. I strongly believe that one of the main reasons why Crescent Hills is so desirable is because of its mature trees and the benefits that they provide. By approving a Shade tree Commission we can help make the rest of Penn Hills as desirable as Crescent Hills. Thank you.

Mayor Kuhn - Thank you very much. I do agree with everything that you have spoke on and I do want to say first of all congratulations to you and to all of the representatives that are here with you tonight. We had last meeting that we need to make everyone aware that We Are Penn Hills and I had last month a women who came up and spoke and gave many many good suggestions about litter in our Community and serving on The Planning Committee with Howard Davidson for ten years before I was on Council I know that Howard has always been pushing trees in our Community and any development that comes in that was always top on his list and I do agree with you that a neighborhood that has trees throughout it is so much more becoming than one that is bare and without landscape and I do like that you have pointed out that it helps with our storm water runoff. I will admit I was unaware that so many surrounding Communities have a Tree Shade Planning Commission and I will take fault for that because of the fact I don't like Penn Hills to be last so as I said when you presented your information to me I was 100% in favor of it and I know that Chris is very well educated on grants and how to go about them so that is why I asked Chris to contact

you and guide you on what has to be done and for the public and the media as you say you aren't up here asking for funding so that says a lot that we have concerned residents in our Community that are willing to do the work. So I guess the next thing that we would do is I know that you stated that the Ordinance was made up by Howard

Kathleen Raborn - right it is just a draft.

Mayor Kuhn - right and Howard is very familiar with our Ordinances so I would ask Chris if you would go over this and see what needs to be replaced or added to it and then put it on our Agenda for Mayor and Council to vote on.

Chris Blackwell - o.k. I will do that.

Mayor Kuhn - thank you again.

Kathleen Raborn - thank you all for making that so easy for me.

MINUTES

Mr. Mark Brodnicki made a Motion to approve the **Minutes of April 10, 2017**, Council Meeting Minutes.

Dr. Kincaid seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion the Motion was passed by a 4-0 vote.

EXPENDITURES

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to approve the **Expenditures of May 1, 2017**, Journal Vouchers 0, \$0.00, CD Requisitions 14, \$10,542.70, Checks 37335 - 37502 – \$1,089,772.99, making a Grand Total of \$1,100,315.69.

Mrs. Sapp seconded the motion.

Mayor Kuhn - the expenditures are not May 31, 2017 it should be May 1, 2017. Thank you for correcting that.

Mayor Kuhn - abstain from Check #37376 to Don Kuhn Auto Body in the amount of \$600.00 for rental and yes to all others.

There being no further discussion the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Brodnicki made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2017-029** – approving a Sewage Module for Plan Revision and New Land Development for 520 Rodi Road, Penn Hills, PA.

Dr. Kincaid seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Kuhn - The next four Resolutions which would be Resolution No. 2017-030 and 2017-031 and 2017-032 and 2017-033 before we discuss it and have it open for the public I do want to give some information to the residents and also to the media. The four Resolutions that we are voting on represent \$1,106,699.00 now that is a great amount of money and that pertains to our sewage, correct?

Moe Rayan - that is correct Mayor.

Mayor Kuhn - so \$1,106,6990.00 is on the table for sewer projects that we the Municipality have to continue to pay for our mandates from DEP and EPA. Now Penn Hills has been very fortunate that when I came on an Dr. Kincaid with previous Mayor DeLuca, Anthony DeLuca we were under a Criminal Consent with the EPA because of the failure to comply with the mandates that had presented. We were very lucky that we did vote and changed our Engineer to Gateway Engineers and we had meetings with the State in Harrisburg and we worked very hard because we were the only Municipality in Allegheny County that was under Criminal Consent and so as hard as we worked and with the excellent work of our Water Pollution Director Tom O'Grady we were able to get out of the Criminal Consent and into Consent Order which all the other surrounding Communities in Allegheny County were under. We still work very hard and we told our residents not just at Council Meetings but meetings throughout the Community that yes we had to increase the sewage but we gave them our word we would not increase for five years. Well we went eight and there was no increase and we did not have to borrow any money, we didn't have to take any bonds out for any money through the help of all that I have mentioned we were able to run the sewage as it should be run and last year we received from the DEP that we were so advanced and so ahead of every other Community and had done such a wonderful job of record keeping that we were basically on our own now and not having them on our back so that does not mean that Penn Hills does not have to continue the mandates that are on us, we have to pay for them just like we are doing tonight. \$1 million one hundred plus thousand dollars. Now I realize it is May and we all know what happens in May but I have comments from residents and who have you that Penn Hills Council and Mayor are terrible and our finances are so bad and our sewer rates are so high but in these comments I do not know because no comment was made on how we were to pay for our sewage and our mandates. Mayor and Council like I said didn't increase the rates for eight years but we still kept in compliance and we still have to. Now those who

made the statements regarding a higher fee they did not say how they would lower the fees, they will not say how they feel that we did not handle it properly, they did not say what solutions or give any solutions to Mayor and Council on what they had in their minds that they were going to be able to do to handle all the problems of the sewers and mandates. It is easy to make general statements but Mayor & Council has three Budget Hearing Meetings in December and in those Budget Hearing Meetings whichever one who wants to be in Government should be aware of is that that Budget comes out December 1st and Mayor and Council vote on it December 31. Home Rule Charter says we have to have two meetings and we had three. I didn't have anyone at those meetings saying that they thought that the sewage shouldn't be raised or saying that they feel that if we did x y z we wouldn't have to raise them so comments are very cheap and you can say them but this Mayor and Council and our Administration and our Directors worked so very hard for our residents of Penn Hills and that is why we have Public Meetings is because if you have a solution or you want to ask why you can't do that without coming to a meeting so with all due respect I find it very insulting to criticize without giving your solution of what you would do so that being said I do want to ask for a Motion for Resolution 2017-030.

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to approve **Resolution No 2017-030** - awarding The Penn Hills 2017 CCTV Inspection Contract to State Pipe Services, Inc., in The Total Amount of \$208,362.50.

Mrs. Sapp seconded the motion.

Mayor Kuhn - anyone who has any solutions regarding the cost of our sewer rates this is your time to come up.

Mrs. Getsy - what struck me whenever the rate was increased was I wasn't aware of it. I did backtrack and get the Budget and I did read it but I have to say that I think that there is a better way to inform the Community that this is going to happen and I think what I would recommend that such an increase for instance it went from I think \$6 dollars and some change to \$9 dollars and some cents per thousand gallons. That was like a 50% increase on the Penn Hills side of things and ALCOSAN did an 11% increase and all together it was a powerful hit to the residents of the Community. 20,000 of them did not show up in December to listen to these discussions so you have to think of ways you have to prepare people for this and I would say put it in at least the sewage bill and have a cover letter in that bill that goes out to everybody that says this is going to happen. Give a six month in advance even that this is going to happen. Be prepared for it. I don't question your need for it I don't question the fine job that you have done in taking care of the sewer problem but I do think that we can better inform the Community about it and don't really expect that they must come here to hear it whenever the Budget is being discussed.

Mayor Kuhn - just to verify what Mayor & Council has done. When we back in, when was the last increase?

Moe Rayan - the last increase was back in 2008.

Mayor Kuhn - in 2008 when we had those meetings with everyone we asked the residents who attended them would you rather have a graduated increase like 1/2 every year or what have you or would you rather have that we are giving you our word that we won't do it for at least five years and like I said we didn't do it for eight. There was not one person in any of the six meetings that we went to that wanted a gradual increase.

Mrs. Getsy - well that might be so but I am just saying for a preparation to be hit like my own personal sewer bill is 35% higher. Other folks were even higher than that and I can afford it but many folks cannot afford it to be stunned by such an increase so I saying give them an advance warning in the mail. Get letters going out every time the bill is going up four times a year. I get a letter from you all saying an increase is coming we haven't had one for five - eight years now it is coming and it might be pretty big get ready.

Mayor Kuhn - well that is a good ideal and I thank you for your suggestions but also when we have our meetings we had large signs easels on each side and I went down into the audience and spoke on and it showed and unfortunately ALCOSAN will not bill. They make Penn Hills bill.

Mrs. Getsy - yes I understand that.

Mayor Kuhn - I know a lot of people don't. So while I have this many people in the audience and you brought this up I would like to explain that. ALCOSAN does not bill they bill the Municipality and we have to bill the residents. ALCOSAN went up how many years Moe?

Moe Rayan - I believe it started in 2013 or 2014 by increment increases every year and it has been up to about a 17% increase a couple years ago.

Mayor Kuhn - now when people get that bill they think that increase came from the Municipality. The Municipality doesn't get one penny from ALCOSAN or from when they increase.

Mrs. Getsy - I understand that part but your part and you increased yours pretty high. It was the combination plus the service charge from \$15 to \$30 that went in to at the same time so

Mayor Kuhn - we had a service charge back in 2008 of \$30.00 and we lowered it to \$20.00 and then we lower it again to \$15.00. Now as I said I will agree with you that that is a good idea about sending a letter out saying that there will be an increase coming o.k. I think that is a very good suggestion, however, what is the solution for not increasing.

Mrs. Getsy - well I have no solution and I defer to the sewer part of business. I don't hesitate to believe that you got big expenses and you are doing your best to pay them. I am only talking about communication. That is it.

Mayor Kuhn - and I thank you for that and I thank you about being very honest and saying that you aren't a sewer expert so you don't know the solution but the thing of it is to criticize I know you aren't but some do.

Mrs. Getsy - I was criticizing about not warning people.

Mayor Kuhn - and I said I agree with that and that is a good idea but to criticize Mayor & Council's position after eight years of having to increase the sewer rates unless someone can come up and give us a suggestion how to keep up with the cost of the mandates then you know why make a negative statement against Mayor and Council when you don't have a solution.

Mrs. Getsy - I can't answer for someone else.

Mayor Kuhn - ok thank you very much.

Moe Rayan - Mayor just to add on that the same discussion took place in 2015 with regards of the possibility of rate increase in 2017 and 2015 and 2016 both items were discussed in a Budget Message.

Mayor Kuhn - thank you. While I have everyone's attention on the sewage, I have stated this before that The County is enacting what is called a Regionalization of all the 130 Communities in Allegheny County. I asked everyone every chance I get Penn Hills Mayor and Council have been fighting this from the first day it was presented. Briefly let me tell you what Regionalization is. The County is behind this plan of Regionalization and what that means is they are planning on putting a flat rate across the board for every Community in Allegheny County. Now first of all Penn Hills has already done all of their repairs. We are just maintaining now. We have a Community that is right next to us that has to come into our plant to be in compliance and we are negotiating with them. We were negotiating \$175,000.00 so that we could re-coupe the millions that we put into this new plan. Under the Regionalization that plant automatically goes into the Regionalization so they replied back to us we aren't giving Penn Hills anything because once the Regionalization comes in we will be able to go into that plant for free. Now that is very very sad that one time alone but if we go into a flat rate per household Penn Hills has 22,000 households so say it is \$10.00 a month for this flat rate multiply \$10.00 x 22,000 that is what Penn Hills will be putting into the pot because we are the largest Community in Allegheny County with the exception of The City of Pittsburgh. So let's say we have a small Community. We have 5,000 residents. Multiply \$10.00 x 5,000 what do you come up with. A lot less than the 20,000. So first of all Penn Hills residents for so many years have paid for us to redo all the work

underground and all the plants and what have you. We have done all that we are doing and that is maintaining now so they want Penn Hills to give over all their plants that we redid for other Communities to be able to come into and pay Penn Hills nothing. We as the largest Community will be putting your money into that pot that any other Community outside of The City of Pittsburgh and furthermore Penn Hills won't be taking anything out of that pot because of the fact we have already done everything. Now we have fought for probably what Rick three years now?

Rick Minsterman - yes.

Mayor Kuhn - our Engineer, our Manager and our Water Pollution Director and all of Mayor and Council and we have spoken to every high end official in the County and their statement was well you don't have to go into if you don't want to but the EPA will be on your back 24/7 and my comment to them was Penn Hills is use to the EPA being on us 24/7. We don't have to worry about it because we just got informed that we are in complete compliance and if you want to say we don't have to go into it then let me tell you this we won't. We will handle our own sewage as we always have and now see how much is in your pocket when you have lost 22,000 households and secondly ask our neighboring Community and how far they are going to have to put pipe in if they don't have to come into ours on Rodi Road and what are you going to have to do when you have to go down through Penn Hills to get to the connection on Allegheny Blvd. but that is Mayor and Councils voice. I tell everyone you have to contact these people and say I am a Penn Hills resident and I am not taking this anymore and that is why I said We Are Penn Hills we need to let everyone around us and every official to come out when it is time for their vote and want you to vote for them we need everyone of them to be contacted and say Penn Hills has already paid and we aren't paying for the other Communities so I told this to the media several times and unfortunately Penn Hills doesn't seem to get the support that we deserve but we fight for you but you also have to fight with us. Thank you.

Faith Milazzo - 121 Castle Drive - I would first like to thank you unrelated for putting our litter pick up on the web site that would be Saturday May 20th or 21st. I can't remember the date but I hope to see all of you there. I just want to make another comment about sewage. I can say I was one of the people who didn't understand how sewage worked until up until a month ago. I didn't know if it was Penn Hills, if it was ALCOSAN because our bills at least for me I have Oakmont and we are billed quarterly and there was nothing in our bill not from Penn Hills and not from ALCOSAN. It is kind of a shock and you don't know where it is coming from but I just want to point out one thing I am not one of the ones I don't have a suggestion either I mean I am not one of the people who jump on face book and they are crooks and they are ripping us off and they don't understand and I understand a lot more than I use to but just for clarification I have a sewage bill here and it is from 2010 for 13,000 my sewage bill was \$162.00 here about eight years later the same amount my sewage bill went up to about \$262.00 so I mean it is an increase of about \$100.00 and I just think it is important to note that some people they don't really understand how it works but we still have to pay the higher bill

so I feel it is important just to say that it is \$100.00 in ten years and that is 60 some percent and some people are just frustrated that some people may be talking out of turn and they are being unfair to Council and I am not denying that it is frustration just to see how high the bills are and that is a huge increase so I just wanted to say and when I looked at the Agenda I was a little concerned seeing those large numbers because our bills have gone up and my first thought is oh crap are they going to go up again just seeing a million dollars so I am sure you know this but I just wanted to say that.

Mayor Kuhn - that is alright. We had contact with the water authorities and asked them if they would send right Moe a letter even to send a letter explaining that Penn Hills has not received this full amount and as I said it went up that much but if it would have gone up that much eight years ago how much would you have been paying and how much did you save in those eight years that it didn't. Penn Hills I mean this Mayor and Council first of all we aren't paid employees we don't have offices up here, under The Home Rule Charter the Manager manages the day to day and Mayor and Council legislates and vote on expenditures so none of us had the qualifications of the maintenance and what have you of the sewers but we you know we don't have anything better to do let's raise the sewer rates. It is mandates and because of the fact twenty five years ago when the Mayor & Council wouldn't take responsibility to maintain sewers because you can't see sewers they are underground you can see a park you can see a nice paved road but you can't see sewers so it is not popular. So past Administrations many of them did nothing and by doing nothing we were hit with a Criminal Consent which caused fines which everybody thinks was so high the fine was \$150,000 and none of us were on at that time, not one of us. If you are afraid if what you vote what has to be done and what is correct and you are not going to get elected then you should not be sitting here. We got Mayor Deluca's Administration and like I said Dr. Kincaid and I were on it and we had to clean up the mess so like I said these aren't increases that we are making these are mandated so if the suggestion would be don't do them then you are going to go back exactly where you were and it is going to cost thousands of dollars. It is not popular and as far as myself being able to handle it yes but I have a granddaughter, her husband and two children who live in Penn Hills and I have another grandson, wife and one child that live in Penn Hills. They flush their toilets, they take showers and they do laundry a lot more than I do so when I make that decision it is just as hard on me because I have children who have children and it is affecting them also.

Faith - I understand and I am sure that you understand that too but I think sometimes peoples speak out of frustration and I have a family of three and I think my sewage is a lot lower that a lot of people, some people are \$600 or \$700 per quarter and if it were me I would cry but I do have a question and I don't know if you can answer this. I know at least in my quarterly water bill from Oakmont there are no rates listed and I really never understood that and I have to go to the web site I think that is them and not Penn Hills but again a few months ago I didn't understand how it worked but when I saw the rates going up I didn't know if it was Penn Hills and I understand a lot more know but I agree with Mrs. Getsy it would be great to have a warning if it is happening but even just rates on there it might have nothing to do with Penn Hills but I

have rates on my electric bills and I have rates on my gas bills. It is like it is a hidden thing.

Mayor Kuhn - Penn Hills is not in charge of the billing you know.

Faith - well again thank you and hope to see some of you May 20th at the litter pick-up. Thank you.

Moe Rayan - just to let you know it is based on usage as well. I am just letting you know it is based on the usage the more you use the more you are going to pay and the question, was it 13,000 gallons in 2008 and was it 13,000 this time. The usage itself because it only went up three dollars per thousand. I am just doing the math in my head and it could be right around \$60.00 or something like that.

Mayor Kuhn - o.k. any further questions from the audience please come up.

Mrs. Sapp - I just want to say thank you to the two residents that came to the podium to speak and I think you both gave good advice. Thank you and thank you for the encouragement.

There being no further discussion the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mrs. Sapp made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2017-031** - awarding the Penn Hills Phase IX 2017 Sewer Repair Contract A -- Excavation Contract in The Total Amount of \$300,711.00.

Dr. Kincaid seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Brodnicki made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2017-032** - awarding the Penn Hills Phase IX 2017 Sewer Repair Contract B -- Lining -- In The Total Amount of \$321,075.00.

Dr. Kincaid seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2017-033** - awarding a Contract to State Pipe Services, Inc., for The Penn Hills Phase IV 2017 Sewer Repair Contract -- Contract C Spot Lining.

Mr. Brodnicki seconded the motion.

Mrs. Sapp - I just want to make sure this is not an oversight this is Resolution 2017-33 or should it be 2017-033?

Moe Rayan - 033.

Mayor Kuhn - thank you.

There being no further discussion the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Mark Brodnicki - I would like to make a motion that we get an Anti-Litter Ordinance and get Moe or Chris to get an appropriate one together. Get signs for that and maybe when we have an official Ordinance we can get signage and have Public Works put it in proper places where most occurrences happen.

Mayor Kuhn - o.k. we will take that into consideration and speak to and I already think I asked Chris to prepare one, is that correct?

Chris Blackwell - yes and I am also meeting with Faith on May 11th to discuss that and other strategies to deal with the issue of litter.

Mayor Kuhn - thank you.

REPORTS

Dr. Kincaid - I would just like to report we had a very successful Easter Egg Hunt and I was able to attend at Penn Hills Park and the crowd was estimated above 800 and just wanted to commend John and his staff, John Scaglione for doing a wonderful job and this brought Penn Hills Community together in a positive way and no negatives and also for your information speaking to some of the adults there they came from other surrounding Communities and were very impressed what took place on that afternoon. Thank you.

Mrs. Sapp - I just want to take the time and say to all the people who have taken litter as your passion to make sure that Penn Hills stays beautified and clean. Thank you so very much. That is not an easy task. It is not a pretty task. I just want to say thank you and to Faith I was eating a burger the other day and I had a piece of lettuce on my hand and I wanted to throw it out the window and I got convicted by you so I put it back in my hand so I just want to say thank you for that and to Robin thank you so much and keep up the good job. Keep up the good work. I don't like to pick up litter but I won't litter and I will pass out the trash bags and I will be there on the 20th to do something. Thank you very much.

Moe Rayan - I would like to recognize the folks that put our ground breaking ceremony for our new wonderful building on Friday. I thank John Scaglione and his crowd, Parks and Recreation folks, also Gerry Nosal and Scott Shepard and Public Works folks and the contractor for preparing the site for us so we could celebrate our event. Thank you.

Mayor Kuhn - thank you. I just wanted to ask I know Moe you weren't at the last meeting but I didn't know if you got my notes that on this litter and for some of the suggestions were that we send the businesses a letter on the 250 foot area that they need to maintain around their businesses. The second was that if we could have trash cans in different areas of the Municipality and the rubbish removal there was a complaint that when they were picking up the rubbish that they were very careless and things were falling out of the cans or out of the bucket and let them know that they need to have their employees be more careful and not leave it, dropping it is one thing but not leaving it and I don't know we did tell Faith that there would be a meeting with her and probably you Moe and I know that you weren't available so I just wanted to remind you of those four items.

Moe Rayan - I am aware of those items and we are in contact with the garbage hauler however we are going to stress that but we all know it happens in front of my house and when they dump items on the street they leave it and we complain about that all the time and we will continue to do that but it is I hope the people that pick up litter like Faith and myself I do it every week a couple times a week in front of my house it is something that everyone should be doing. We don't have to tell people to pick up litter so we are hoping that we could be announced on face book or whatever televise that the message gets across that people need to do that on their own without us trying to pick up that piece of garbage in front of your house but it is being taken care of. I am not going to attend the meeting, I know Chris is preparing to meet with Faith and they have some items to discuss which almost all of them we do on our own in terms of litter pick up. We pick it up on our own Municipal roads, we contact the State when we see litter distributed all over the brim to pick it up so we take care of business as well but it is nice to thank Mrs. Sapp on her comment it is nice to have people to go out and encourage others to do the litter pick up but most of those things we do on our own not necessarily on a day to day basis. Franktown looks beautiful, Rodi Road looks beautiful. Our sweeper is out in the spring time so it is time to clean up and we are aware of it and our Public Works Department work hard to keep the town clean and they go after those groups when they leave the bags out on the street . Penn Dot picks it up so those things are in place already. I just want to make sure everybody is aware. I wasn't at the last meeting we are all aware of the litter it is nothing new to us.

Mayor Kuhn - thank you Moe the only think that I would like you to follow up on again is even though the Municipality calls the rubbish people on a regular basis about some carelessness of some of the drivers and leaving things on the road or in front of people's houses it is not acceptable to say we already complained about it well then they need to be called in and

Moe Rayan - they know it is not acceptable if they continue they talk to their operators and it is a continuous battle that never wants to go away.

Mayor Kuhn - o.k. and with that again I also always inform my residents when I am speaking to them that Penn Hills is one of a few of the surrounding Communities that pay for the residents rubbish removal. Most of our surrounding Communities charge a quarterly rate to have it picked up or they have to get their own companies to pick it up so it is a big cost when just like we make comment on how much of an increase the sewage is quarterly well like I said Penn Hills is one if not only in the surrounding areas that don't charge that. That gets paid by your taxes. Now the other Communities pay taxes also and we aren't out of line with our mileage but that is a very large hit to the Municipality Budget. I think it is close to 2 and a half million is it?

Moe Rayan - that is correct. Upward of \$2 million dollars for the rubbish pick up and upward of \$500,000 for the recycling.

Mayor Kuhn - so that in itself is I said a benefit for the Penn Hills residents. I do want to make a comment on our ground breaking. It was a very worthwhile. It should of been attended better than it was. We sent out letters inviting all public officials and the only one that sent a representative was State Representative Anthony DeLuca. It was a big thing for Penn Hills. This building that we are in right now is 79 years old and it has serious problems some which probably are possibly a threat to the people who work in it and we have many people who always ask about Code Violations well we can't very well go after people with Code Violations when our building is one of the biggest violators. As I said this building is 79 years old and the repairs would have been as costly if not the same as building new and Penn Hills has to realize that yes we are an older Community but you can't stand still. If you stand still you will end up going backwards. We have a lot of public officials that have written Penn Hills off and we receive very little acknowledgment and we receive very little assistance so now that we are financially sound and we have most of our problems under control no matter what anyone wants to say we are financially sound and it is not wasted government spending and if there is I wish they would come up and tell me where the wasted money is being done and then we could address that and like I said you can say words but actions are more important than words but we need to be letting the County know that We Are Penn Hills and we do have a voice and it is time that they start recognizing it and not just during election time and coming out to a picnic and seeing your affair. We are the largest now. Has our population declined, yes it has but when you say such unfair criticism about your Community and not be like the people who are involved and come up and make our Mayor and Council be accountable and not those who are doing things to make our Community more beautiful. To make statements that are just so unfair and not only that where is your solution. Where were you. I brought up Crescent Hills at the ground breaking. If there was anyone that questioned that new building inside and out it was the group from Crescent Hills and I have total respect for them. They might not of liked the answers they got to their questions but when they asked a

question they got the answers and it was showing how governments and public can work together. It was good for both of us because it showed that and it made us know yes we have people who we have to be accountable for. When they ask a question and if we don't have an answer then we will get back to you with an answer. You might not like the answer but we will get back to you with an answer. They worked with us and they made us accountable and we let them see that Mayor and Council were aware of all aspects of that building. We built a new library that is state of the art that people from surrounding Communities come in and enjoy and that speaks well for Penn Hills and now we are not just going to have an Administrative Council Building, it is a Complex and it will house our Police Department, it will house Council Chambers, it will house all the Administrative Offices and our EMT's and Paramedics who have been down in the basement with terrible working conditions so it is a Complex of the Municipality and it should be something to be proud of and to us to be so insulted that no public official of any kind thought enough of Penn Hills to come to that Grand Opening is to me a slap in the face to Penn Hills and it is not going to continue. There were no media coverage, no pictures taken it was as the Manager said a few concerned residents who are really we could use the term watch dog. Watch dog is a word but if you look it up see what it means. It doesn't mean to sensationalize and say well I am a watchdog and what you have you to do to be a watchdog you have to come to this Mayor and Council and you need to ask questions and you need to give solutions and that was Crescent Hills. They are truly watch dogs so as I said it is a real plus for Penn Hills if we don't keep moving and improving then we will go backwards and let everyone who has put us into this write off of our Community and we will let them know that it is not going to happen anymore.

Dr. Kincaid - I just want to add I am reflecting on the garbage pickup and when we were at Seven Springs the Mayor did a nice job at talking to all the shakers and the movers but I had an opportunity to talk to some of the supervisors of the garbage collection company. Just a casual conversation for example Moe was not hear tonight and I was assured by the persons that I was talking to that they are in the process of doing further training of their operators and they are upgrading their trucks and it is amazing to me that that piece of equipment can be operated by one person and they explained all of that to me and it was pretty complicated but the point that I am trying to make is we can have hope that there is going to be improvement with regards to the garbage collection and the litter that they leave behind and etc. and I only said we will see what the future will tell but just a word of optimism I think it is going to get better as I was told when I was at Seven Springs by the people who make the decisions who hire and train the people and hopefully you will be able to witness that as I will in the near future. Thank you very much Mayor Kuhn.

Mayor Kuhn - we will have an Executive Meeting on Personnel Matters and Real Estate.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Kincaid entertained a Motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Sapp seconded the Motion.

Mayor Kuhn - Meeting adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 P.M.

DATE

MAUREEN M. SORCE
MANAGER'S SECRETARY