

## **AUGUST 13, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Mayor Kuhn – Good evening everyone. Before I call the meeting to order I have two announcements that I need to make. At our July Council Meeting, the recording audio was very hard to hear and it was not clear for the recording. So our Secretary Maureen sent a memo to Mayor and Council regarding the new speaker system and basically it is just telling us that when she tried to do the Minutes she could not hear what the people were saying. So she said she had talked to the person who installed the new system and he told her that the microphone has to be close to your mouth and you have to speak directly into the microphone and if you are at the podium and if you don't speak directly into the microphone then it won't be heard and she won't be able to pick it up on the recording for the Minutes. So anyone who is speaking as well as Mayor and Council make sure that you are speaking as I am right now directly into the microphone and if you turn your head and talk this way she is not picking it up. O.K. My second announcement is regarding the rules and procedures regarding Citizens Rights to be as described in the Charter. At our last meeting, unfortunately, Mayor and Council is generally very patient with permitting the Citizens to come up and speak but unfortunately some of them take advantage of the situation and we have people jumping up and coming up to the microphone when they are not permitted to do so under the Home Rule Charter. I will have copies of these procedures and I will ask the Manager to have them present at the door way for those who are first time coming to the meeting so that they understand exactly what the procedures are. And as I said this is not what Mayor and Council has enacted this is what is in our Home Rules Charter. So if you go to Article 4 Section 9 Citizens Right to be heard, Council shall provide for members of the public to address the Council on general or special concerns as stated at monthly Council Meetings. Persons shall deliver written notice of the subject matter at least seven days to the prior meeting. As I stated, that is what is in the Home Rule Charter. If you want to speak on a subject you to have to let our management know that you are going to speak very briefly just what you are going to speak on, a sentence or two is all that is needed. Council shall provide procedures to permit the public to discuss Agenda items without written notice. When we go through our Expenditures, Ordinances or Resolutions once the Motion is made and seconded, I will ask are there any comments from the audience and at that time anyone in the audience is free to come up and voice their concerns, ask a question, ask for information and that is with everything that we have on the Agenda. It is just when you want to speak on a specific item you do have to present that to the management seven days in advance and really that is for management and Mayor and Council to be able to have the information at hand that you are asking for and not that we just hear it at the meeting and we don't have the backup material for that. The final is regulation governing the conduct of the meeting in the manner the public and municipal officers shall conduct themselves. So as I said as a general rule we never really have any problem with that but unfortunately at the last meeting we were having after the person who was on the Agenda to speak people in the audience jumping up saying things at their seat not coming up to the podium. So as the Mayor I do run the meetings so I am letting everyone know that we are going to follow those procedures in the future. With that being said I am going to

amend the Agenda to include the Minutes of July 16, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes. We were a little late getting them because of the fact Maureen had a very difficult time having to play over and over again what was actually said in the meeting so that is why it is not on the Agenda and the reason for my amending it. Other than that the agenda items will stand as presented. Let us please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Kuhn - The Agenda will be amended adding the July 16, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL**

Mr. Brodnicki  
Deputy Mayor Sapp  
Mr. Underwood  
Mr. Petrucci  
Mayor Kuhn

Also in attendance were Manager Rayan, Secretary Sorce, Finance Director Schrecengost, Alexander, Solicitor, Toth, IT Supervisor, McCafferty, Director Code Enforcement, Chief Burton, Engineer, Minsterman and Police Officer Hoover.

Mayor Kuhn – Before we go to Citizens to Address Council, I also have another statement that I have to make publicly. Mayor and Council have always given an open microphone to Citizens Addressing Council. The normal allotted time for speakers I believe is two minutes. My opinion I do not like limiting my speakers, however, upon receiving multiple comments Mayor and Council have decided to impose a time to three minutes. Once those three minutes has been reached we will notify you and then you will have one minute to have your closing.

### **CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:**

Mayor Kuhn – First up is Brittney Norris and Elizabeth Taylor – Hoffman Kennel's Contract. If you could give your name and your address and as I said if you could speak right into the microphone.

Brittany Norris – 169 Glenfield Drive  
Elizabeth Taylor – 151 Glenfield Drive

Mayor Kuhn – Thank you. You can start your presentation.

Brittany Norris – O.K. due to the time limits I am going to skip ahead of it. I did send some preliminary slides to everyone prior to that talked about the different reviews and concerns that I had from both our experience of rescuing a dog from Hoffman Kennels and also on line. I have a number of slides that we are just going to highlight in there and go ahead and skip to some of the main points if you don't mind.

Mayor Kuhn – Since first time presenting I will set no time limits this evening.

Audience all clapped.

Maureen Sorce – Will go through slide show presentation. Microphone was not very loud.

Give our animals a chance. – We want positive Change for Animal Control in Penn Hills.

What's our story? Finding a Lost Dog.

On Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> I found a lost dog wandering at Mt. Hope Cemetery. I called 911 to report a large white boxer mix roaming loose but told them he did not seem aggressive. While I waited, was able to get a leash on him and inspect the dog. He had a collar, no tags and had no visible wounds. He was also very sweet and sat peacefully with me in the shade. After about 40 minutes a Police Officer arrived. He told me the dog would be taken to Hoffman's Kennels and to alert the neighborhood and lost dog groups on Facebook so the owner could find him. After walking home, I posted to Next Door and some of the lost dog Facebook groups.

What Happened Next?  
Awareness & Fear...

Within a few hours' dozens of people started commenting on the post. Pleading me to "Get him out of there" they're going to "Kill him in 48 hrs". I thought...what did I just do? This sweet dog does not deserve to die. How come I never heard of this place before? I started searching online to see if I could find answers. Some of the public comments from when I posted that he had been taken to Hoffman's Kennels listed some negative comments about Hoffman Kennels. When you search for Hoffman Kennel this is what you find – They have no dedicated Facebook page or website to notify the public of what animals they have. All you can find is an address and a phone number, and lots of bad reviews and articles that instill no confidence. After reading reviews and messages we decided we had to rescue. I called Hoffman's on Sunday, no answer. Left a message. I called Hoffman's on Monday morning 9 AM, no answer. Left a message. Decided to drive out to Delmont and be there when they were supposed to be open at 10 AM. I drove past the building three times looking for it as it had no signage. As I was close, I got the call back, and was told he could not be released until after 48 hrs.

To which I replied that's fine, and I told the woman on the phone I was actually about to pull in their driveway. I asked if I could come in to see him since I was already there and was told no. **Not without an appointment.** Our experience when he was picked up – Liz went to get him on Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. When she arrived slightly after 10 AM (their business hours) the facility was not open. After waiting several minutes someone came to the door. She was not allowed to go past the lobby which smelled of urine and had a sign that said no photos or video allowed. After the woman brought the dog out, she proceeded to tell her that “The bully breeds are euthanized more often because no one wants them, and they are harder to place, and they are not the bad guys.” After removing the dog from the facility, Liz noticed large sores on his front legs, and he smelled of urine and feces. We took him to Humane Animal Rescue in East Liberty – It was obvious he needed to be checked out by a vet, and we had heard great things about HAR, along with Liz had a great experience with them when she adopted her dog there. Within 2 weeks he was ready for adoption and looked 100% better. After about 1 week of being ready adoption, he “a dog no one wanted” was adopted by a loving family with children. This is why we decided to start the petition. We wanted to raise awareness and hopefully help push some positive change. Our Animals deserve a chance – Stop the use of inhumane Hoffman’s Kennel and Animal Control – The residents of Penn Hills are fed up with the unethical business practices and inhumane treatment of animals by Hoffman Kennels, Inc. located at 285 Cloverleaf Drive, Delmont, PA 15626. We are calling for the cancelling of Hoffman’s Contract. The residents of Penn Hills have been having repeat issues with Hoffman’s Kennel and Animal Control during their entire time on the Contract with the Township. Petitions have been raised about these issues in other townships before, however; no change has been made by Hoffman’s to attempt to work better with the residents or to provide better care to the animals when in his possession. Currently, there are over 1,600 on line signatures, comprised of Penn Hills residents and supporters from other areas. Our handwritten signatures from Penn Hills residents are now at over 270. Our residents do care about animals, and want to see positive change. We would like to source another provider for our animal control and kennel. However... We did a lot of research, and realized we needed a lot more information before we could try to source another provider. There is key information that the Municipality is either not asking for, or being provided, that Penn Hills should have for the sake of our animals and residents. We quickly realized that we had a lot of questions that need answered and that there are issues with our current Contract that should be changed, first and foremost. Animal Control is a service for the residents of Penn Hills. Our tax dollars pay for this service, and we deserve to know how that money is being used. Based off the 2010 census there are around 19,490 households in Penn Hills, and it is the second-largest Municipality in Allegheny County, after the City of Pittsburgh. According to the 2017-2018 National Pet Owners Survey conducted by American Pet Products Association (APPA), sixty-eight percent of U.S. households, owns a pet. Going by these estimates Penn Hills has roughly 13,253 families with pets. According to The American Humane Association, over 10 million dogs and cats are lost or stolen in the U.S. every year. “One in three pets will become lost at some point during their life.” We are a large Municipality with lots of animals. We realize animal control is not a popular role, but

that should not hinder the chances for animals. It may not be realistic to think every animal will get found, adopted or rescued, but every modern means necessary should be used to give them the best chance possible. While Hoffman's Animal Control Services may be accessible for Law Enforcement – with 24 hour emergency service, the residents do not have these same options. We are essentially at the mercy of an answering machine. They appear to intentionally make themselves hard to access and get a hold of, and they do not publicly post any animals in their possession. – No active Facebook or website with business info like areas served or posting of animals that have been found. This lack of transparency and accessibility is detrimental to the success of an animal being found or adopted. While they may work with some rescues, if they made their facility more open to the public, they would have a greater chance of people finding dogs or coming to adopt. What methods do residents have to get in contact with Hoffman's kennel? You call the phone number and get this message: Hi, you have reached dog control. Sorry we are not available to answer your call. Working hours are Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM. Kennel hours are Monday through Friday 10 AM to 4PM by appointment. If you are calling after 4 PM, on a weekend or holiday, only an emergency dog situation will be responded to during that time. Please leave your name, address, phone number and the name of the township or borough you live in with a brief message stating your problem and we will return your call. Also please leave a phone number so we may contact you during our working hours. If you have lost your dog, please leave a description. We will contact you only if your dog is picked up. Thank you. We want more transparency and accessibility to help our animals. We pay a lot for our animal control and kennel services. An average of 85% more, to be exact. Hoffman's Kennel Contracts we have obtained and reviewed. Penn Hills, North Huntington, Murrysville, Greensburg, New Kensington and Wilkins. We are the only area with a two year contract. All others start in January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>. What are we getting for this extra cost? What is the live release %? We want a monthly breakdown since 2017 of the following: How many animal control calls (non-emergency and emergency). Dogs taken into the Kennel – Dogs claimed by their owners – Dogs disposed of each month – pulled by shelters, adopted, euthanized. According to the PA Dog Law Act, Section 207, Requirements for kennels every keeper of a kennel shall keep, for two years, a record of each dog at any time kept in the kennel. This includes how the dog was dispensed. Maintenance of kennels – All kennels shall be maintained in a sanitary and humane condition in accordance with standards and sanitary codes promulgated by the secretary through regulations. Records to be maintained: Every keeper of a kennel shall keep for two years a record of each dog any time kept in the kennel. Such record shall show: The breed, color markings, sex and age of each dog. The date on which each dog entered the kennel. The full name and physical address at the time the dogs were received of the previous owner or kennel from whom the dog was received. This paragraph shall not apply to a boarding kennel. For what purpose each dog is kept in the kennel. The date on which each dog leaves the kennel. How the dog is dispensed. If the dog was transferred to another person or kennel, the record must state the full name and physical address of the person or kennel to whom the dog was dispensed. The name, address and telephone number of the licensed doctor of veterinary medicine used by the kennel.

Invoices are too vague. We want more details. It is basic business etiquette to provide an overview of services provided in an invoice. We should be provided a breakdown each month of: Calls taken, dogs taken to facility, dogs claimed by owners, dogs disposed by: Adoption, pulled by rescue, euthanized (should require veterinarian receipts). Other key answers we want answered: We want to know exactly how animals are being euthanized. And if it is by a veterinarian via injection, we want to see receipts. Why are animals that you have obtained not posted on a public site? This would only give them a better chance of being found. What happens to cats that are picked up by animal control? Are cats ever put into holding for a chance to be found or adopted? Do you provide medical treatment for injured animals? If so who is providing that treatment? Is there a daily exercise routine for dogs? What rescues and shelters do you work with? What is the complete list of areas you serve? We want to see change in business practice. Start an active Facebook Business Page (which is 100% free) and post the following information: Dogs are posted the day they are obtained – to allow residents to search and share to help find owners. All dogs that are unlicensed/not micro chipped are posted for adoption. They provide a full list of municipalities, townships and boroughs they serve and their kennel business hours. Provide info on what an owner needs to do to reclaim their dog (license, rabies tags, fees, etc). Post the list of rescues that they work with across the counties. Allow residents who are looking for their pet or looking to adopt, to enter their facility during the stated business hours of 10 AM – 4 PM without an appointment. Answering phone calls during their stated business hours without forcing residents to only be able to leave a message. Allow visitors who enter the facility to take photos/videos to help reunite dogs or drive interest for adoption. Call owners when a number is available and send letters only by certified mail. Concerns with Hoffman's Kennels Contract – What can make things better for the residents and animals of Penn Hills Municipality right now? Holding times – Hoffman's Boarding Kennels is to perform the following duties: To collect and capture as many dogs running at large within said Municipality as is reasonably possible. To hold licensed dogs for a period of five (5) days after capture, after having notified the owner, also to feed and water all dogs while in custody. To hold all stray dogs, unlicensed and of good health, for a period of 72 hours after which time said dogs will be placed or humanely destroyed. Time to retrieve a licensed dog is too short given notification by mail could take two days or more. Time to hold strays is too short, if they have to hold the dog for 48 hrs. for the owner to come forward, but after 72 hours it can be destroyed, that only gives it one day to be adopted or rescued. We do not require them to scan for microchips. We do not require them to feed or water strays. We do not require them to contact owners by phone if that information is available. These are not acceptable. Accessibility to residents – while police have direct numbers to reach Hoffman's the residents do not. We are at the mercy of an answering machine and waiting for a call back to do anything. Our contract only has language around the animal control hours and accessibility not business hours of the kennel and resident's accessibility we should not have to make an appointment to enter their facility during the kennel business hours of 10 AM – 4 PM. Someone should also be available to answer the phone during these hours. Working hours are from daylight until 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday; closed Saturday and Sunday. Emergency calls

are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Emergency calls answered after normal working hours or on Saturday, Sunday or holidays that require a truck to be dispatched will be charged to the Municipality at FORTY DOLLARS (\$40.00) per call. These calls will be verified with each month's reports. If the owner is located on any dog that is picked up as the result of an evening or weekend call where there is an additional charge of forty dollars (\$40.00) incurred. Give Cats a chance to be found or adopted. We currently require no hold time for cats. They can be destroyed immediately. Owners have no chance at retrieving them, as they can be destroyed or placed elsewhere without a hold time. There should be a hold time for cats and people should have the ability to adopt them for a minimal fee. The contracting Municipality understands and agrees that Hoffman's Boarding Kennels is not obligated to hold any stray felines for any period of time prior to placement or humane destruction of the stray feline. Hoffman's Boarding Kennels agrees to place cages for wild animals on residential property within the boundaries of the contracting Municipality at no charge to the Municipality or residents. Residents will be charged Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) per animal when removed from cages placed on residential property per this agreement. This contract is to be in full force and effect for a period twenty-four (24 months) that is from the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017, through the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019. Murrysville has already made amendments to their 2018 Contract: Addendum to the 2018 Control Contract – Hoffman Kennels shall: Hold licensed dogs for a period of ten (10) days. All dogs are to be given food and water while in custody. If a stray unlicensed dog is found not to be in "good health" and it is determined for humane reasons it must be euthanized, the final decision to euthanize the dog must be made by a licensed veterinarian if available. The Municipality will be responsible for the reasonable cost of a veterinarian if used. The Murrysville Police Department is to be notified within twenty (24) hours when a dog is captured. Hoffman Kennels will provide a description of the dog to the Police Department. Requested amendments to Contract: All animals that have been detained should be photographed and posted on a public website of Facebook page. Hold licensed dogs for a period of ten (10) days. All dogs are to be given food and water while in custody. Hold all stray dogs, unlicensed and of good health for a period of (5) business days. Hold all stray cats of good health for a period of five (5) business days. All cats are to be given food and water while in custody. Requested amendments to contract: final decision to euthanize the animal must be made by a licensed veterinarian. Any dogs or cats requiring to be euthanized must be done so humanely by a licensed veterinarian by injection. Provide professional, courteous service. Scan for microchip identification on all dogs and cats. Allow to enter the facility without a prior appointment during these times. Requested amendments to Contract: Every opportunity to be made to place an unclaimed animal of any breed with any of the following (18) agencies: Animal Friends, Humane Animal Rescue, Humane Society of Westmoreland County, Animal Advocate Inc., Paws Across Pittsburgh, Action for Animals, Pet Friends, Angel Ridge Animal Rescue, South Hills Pet Rescue, The Foster Farm, Gentle Ben's Giant Breed Rescue, White Oak Animal Safe Haven, Animal Protectors of Allegheny Valley, Hello Bully, Biggies Bullies, The Proper Pitt Bull and Gray Paws Sanctuary. We believe these amendments will help reunite more families with their lost pets. Help install trust in the residents that if their dog or cat goes

missing, they will be able to easily find out if animal control has them so they can come claim them. Give abandoned animals a better chance at life and being adopted. Thank you.

Mayor Kuhn – Thank you. This is the packet that I have received and I don't know if you are the young lady who did the story on Mr. Slobbers.

Brittany Norris – Yes.

Mayor Kuhn – It was very well done. Very professional.

Brittany Norris – Thank you.

Mayor Kuhn – Once I received all of these I did look into the process and the comments that were made. I am going to give my list to the Manager on the things that I feel need to be addressed. First of all what exactly is the process to inform owners of lost animals. So I don't have specifics on these and that is what I am asking for. The second is if there is a window of 48 hours to claim an animal that has been picked up and the owner needs to leave a message with a call back number it could be 24 hours and this is a problem because first of all you might not realize the general public and residents might not realize who picks up the dogs. So by the time they do their research and have to leave their message on an answering machine and they have 24 hours to get back to them that is really putting a time limit on that 48 hour time span. The other was what is the reason the public can't visit the kennels during regular business hours. Now I am not saying people should be able to come in and out at their own discretion but when you have a business and deal with the public I do believe there should be a time period when the public could come in one on one. And if the kennels are not open to the public on weekends what happens if your dog is picked up Friday night. Then that means you go through Saturday and Sunday and by the time you get any information on that it is Monday and Tuesday and now that 48 hours has lapsed. Now I don't know this is why I am just saying these are just questions that I took from the information that was given to me. The Manager will have to let Mayor and Council know the answers to any questions the other Council Members might have also. But those are my concerns. But the only thing you have to remember there is a legal documented contract in place at this point in time. When he came up for the contract which all contracts are public and they are on our Agendas and they are prepared seven days in advance so you can see what is coming so that would have been great because we could have stated that we wanted these following procedures to be put into your contract so in order for us to take a contract from someone there is a lot of legal i's to dot and t's to cross so just cause has to be there and has to be proven and if they show the contract doesn't state these items then we can't come in the middle of the contract and say you have to put these in. But I do think dealing with Hoffman's as long as the Municipality has I don't see that there would be any reason that they would not be agreeable to some of the amendments that we would have to see between the Manager and the Solicitor but like I said those were my concerns that I had now I am

going to let the rest of the Council members present any concerns they have and then we will give them to the Manager and then the Manager will go through the procedures and let us know where we stand with that.

Deputy Mayor Sapp – I have several concerns and questions that I need clarification for so since we are going to submit them to our Business Manager I would like to write them down and submit them and then he can address them that way.

Mayor Kuhn – Right I think that is our starting point to make sure Mayor and Council present their concerns regarding the Contract to the Manager and then the Manager can see what he can do on a one on one basis with Hoffman's and then if that doesn't come about then we will have to see what the Solicitor says. I don't know and maybe one of the other Council people might have researched this for me has there been any I am assuming they have to be licensed and have inspections and stuff like that so I didn't know if there was any actual formal complaints from the inspectors. Have they been given any citation or warnings?

John Petrucci – No. No.

Mayor Kuhn - O.K. like I said I didn't research that part of it. John do you have that information?

John Petrucci – Well, yes I do. Brittany let me just say I agree with a lot of the amendments that you have. When you first approached me I was on a different path so I researched and did my investigation on the accusations that were made in the beginning o.k. I will read this to you and everyone to take note of it because I talked to just everybody about Mr. Hoffman. On 6/18/2018 at approximately 10:00 AM I talked to the Chief Humane Officer from Animal Friends, Cathy Heckerd about the accusations. Cathy has retired this year after 25 years. I have worked with Cathy in my career of law enforcement on animal rescues. She has worked with Hoffman's on numerous animal rescues and has never had an issue with Hoffman. Officer Heckerd said she has boarded animals with Hoffman that were rescued and he has helped them with the adoption of these rescued animals. All the accusations she heard have come from disgruntled people that were cited by Mr. Hoffman. Cathy Heckerd now works for Golden Bone on Hamilton Avenue and maybe contacted if needed for more information. I spoke to a variety of organizations in regard to these allegations about Hoffman Kennels. The Department of Agriculture oversees the dog kennels in Pennsylvania. Employed by them are the two state dog wardens. I spoke to the two of them and their response is on 8/8/2018 at approximately 9:00 A.M. I spoke with the state dog warden of Allegheny County Steve Stouer no violations have been filed with him. He has heard of the accusations but has found no evidence to substantiate the accusations. Also stated to euthanizing dogs before 48 ours would be counterproductive being that the State pays \$20 per day up to two days. On 8/9/2018 at approximately 9:00 AM I spoke to state dog warden of Westmoreland County Jerry Shepler on Hoffman Kennels. Officer Shepler informed me Hoffman Kennels passed all yearly inspections.

Inspections are done twice a year and are unannounced by Officer Shepler. A test of urine and bacteria are tested during those inspections which Hoffman Kennels passes. Officer Shepler stated that Mr. Hoffman goes to great lengths that he passes the test by grinding all the floors down and resealing them. Mr. Hoffman works with five rescue clinics and I was told they are great with animal adoptions. Only 5% or less has to be euthanized for the lack of social ability. As of this date, no charges have been filed against Hoffman Kennels and no allegations on social media can be substantiated due to the lack of evidence per Officer Shepler. All kennel inspections can be viewed by going to the PA Department of Agriculture Website and that is not just for Hoffman's that is for every kennel. The accusations were also heard by Murrysville and Plum and we already talked about that so I won't get into it. I spoke with Mike Thomas, Manager of Plum on Friday at approximately 3:00 P.M. He stated the same accusations were stated to his Council and through an investigation like mine the accusations were not substantiated. Murrysville Council President Joanne Kern stated in a news article Thursday, September 6, 2012 that the Municipality did tweak the Contract over the years requiring Hoffman to hold animals to an additional day and exhaust options in unclaimed dogs in no kill shelters before turning to euthanizing. Kerns said that she hopes to add requirements to the contract renewed later this year to include microchips that is mandatory on all animals. Kerns has also stated in the time I have been on Council I have no adverse comments on Hoffman Kennel's. I also checked with the BBB even though the business of Hoffman Kennels is not accredited they still give them an A+ rating. Spoke with the Westmoreland Humane Society on 8/13/2018 at 1:51 P.M. they have a good standing with Hoffman Kennels and no problems. Spoke with the Action for Animals, LuAnn Hutchinson on 8/13/2018 at approximately 2:00 PM. Luanne worked with Hoffman for 17 years and said he is the best at what he does. He makes sure the animals are treated humanely and adopted out as fast as possible. She is in the kennel on a regular basis and sees no problems with the facility and if we want to call her during the meeting she said you can go ahead and call her. I spoke with the Pet Friends of Irwin, Vicki Cassa on 8/13/18 at approximately 2:15 P.M. and she worked with Hoffman Kennels for twenty years and has no problems with Hoffman Kennels. She said Mr. Hoffman is a big help to her with the adoption of animals. She also said if we need her to answer any questions please call her. If you would like to contact the Department of Agriculture telephone 724-832-1073 and if you would like to talk to State Dog Warden Stouer telephone number is 412-418-2163 and if you would like to contact State Warden Shepler telephone number is 724-496-2163. Also you had mentioned this to me earlier in a meeting with you also according to State Dog Warden Stouer Sable Kennels is no longer permitted to take in strays per The Department of Agriculture. That is the end of my report.

Mayor Kuhn – Thank you. Gary do you have any comments?

Mr. Underwood - It would have been nice John if we would have had the same information so that we could of studied this ahead of time but again I am sorry to you and everybody here that we had to extend the time for you and I had no problem with

that so I am playing catch up on Council like everybody else because somebody didn't inform the rest of us. I apologize for those gentlemen as well. That is all I have to say.

Mayor Kuhn – Mark do you have any comments?

Mr. Mark Brodnicki – We have two rescue dogs at home one Pitt Bull and one Collie Mix so yes I am sympathetic to this. I see no problem to lengthen the time they are detained, checking for microchips, posting pictures on Facebook and we should look into including these amendments on our contract if not have them on a new contract when it comes up to vote. I have no problem with that at all. That is all.

Mayor Kuhn – O.K. as I said we are well aware of the concerns. I also have some of the current concerns that I am questioning to be fair I didn't send my concerns to anyone and I don't think Cathy sent her concerns to anyone. This is where we address our concerns so with that we are basically know it is in the hands of the Manager and he will take my concerns and everyone else's concerns and then all the information that John has received and then we will all instruct the Manager that we would like him to have a one on one with the Hoffman Kennel's representatives and just see if there is something we can do to make sure the bottom line is that stray dogs and cats are going to be taken care of. My family is a family of dogs. I have always had one from St. Bernard's to Miniature Poodles. And my sons and my grandchildren all have dogs. And they might not be able to speak but it is nice they have someone to speak for them. Thank you.

Brittany Norris – Thank you.

Loretta Warren - 54 Overbrook Road – I was just concerned about how you go about getting an Occupancy Permit. I have been trying to get an Occupancy Permit for a good while now. A couple years. I know at first I was a little rough with John but then I realized that I do need an Occupancy Permit so I was trying to work with him but he goes down and talks to my tenants and stuff. I didn't know you were a loud to do that. That is my concern how you go about getting an Occupancy Permit. He talks to my tenants and tells them all different kinds of stuff. That is the only thing I was concerned about.

Mayor Kuhn – O.K. – Once Mayor and Council received your request I did look into the properties not just the one on Grandview but the other properties that you own. It was shown that you or family own property on 54 Overbrook Road and there was no Occupancy Permit on file, 8644 Pershing Street, last Occupancy Permit was 11/21/14 and never finalized, 9914 Grandview Avenue, last Occupancy Application not finalized 8-16-2017, 7289 Mt. Carmel Road last Occupancy Permit applied for 8-20-12 and not finalized and 1185 N. Wheeler Drive you purchased that February 16, 2018 and there is no Occupancy Permit on file. So to give you the information I think you are asking for when you purchase a piece of property in Penn Hills whether you are moving into it yourself, whether a family member is moving into it or whether it is a rental before

anyone can move into that property the owner has to come up to the Municipality and apply for an Occupancy Permit, is John in the audience just correct me if I am wrong John, once you apply for the Occupancy Permit then our inspectors go out and inspect the property and when they inspect the property there are certain things that need to be done for the safety and welfare and if they are not completed you will get a notice saying what needs to be done and then they give you a time period is it thirty days John?

John McCafferty – Yes thirty day.

Mayor Kuhn – So then they give you thirty days to complete the violations there are on the properties. After the 30 days and if the violations have been corrected then you receive your Occupancy Permit and then that is an open case and you are not permitted as a owner to let anyone in that property until you receive that Occupancy Permit and until you correct all the violations there are. Now I have another one here where there were four inspections scheduled to finalize the Occupancy Permit and work was not completed on all incidents so that means you applied for it our inspectors went they sent you out the violations, they re-inspected it four times and the violations were not completed so for you to get an Occupancy Permit for any property what you have to do is make sure that you apply at Code and once they do the inspection you have thirty days to correct them.

Loretta Warren – And then do you have to get another Occupancy Permit if it is not done in thirty days?

Mayor Kuhn – After the thirty days, John, do they have to reapply. This is our Code Enforcement Director, John McCafferty, and he knows the details but I just

Loretta Warren – Let me just ask one more question before he talks. Is he supposed to talk to my tenants and tell them my house ain't worth nothing and that I am going to sell my house.

Mayor Kuhn – Now he is the Director of Code and that doesn't mean he is the inspector.

Loretta Warren – On no he is my inspector. Because we filled out the 8644 Pershing Street. I didn't know your own house you needed an Occupancy Permit.

Mayor Kuhn – No

Loretta Warren – I didn't know at first. I lived at 8644 Pershing at first when he came up there.

Mayor Kuhn – O.K. well when did you move in.

Loretta Warren – When I first bought the house 8644 Pershing, I lived in that house, 9914 Grandview, I lived in that house

Mayor Kuhn – When you purchased that house originally you still have to have

Loretta Warren – I lived in it

Craig Alexander – Excuse me you can't speak over the Mayor, let her speak and then you can speak afterwards.

Loretta Warren – You are talking over me.

Craig Alexander – No, no I am just trying to get dialogue for the record.

Mayor Kuhn – Let's calm down here and take a breath. We are not having a confrontation. You came up and asked some questions and I am trying to explain the system to you. Now from what you are saying you said that you thought if you were personally moving in to your own home that you didn't need an Occupancy Permit, is that correct?

Loretta Warren – Yes.

Mayor Kuhn – It doesn't matter. If you buy a home in Penn Hills whether you are going to live in it or a family member or a tenant before it is occupied you have to have an Occupancy Permit that shows that there are railings, smoke detectors, things that make the house be safe for the welfare of whoever lives there.

Loretta Warren – O.K. I didn't know that at first. I tried to work with him and I told him I was sorry for how I acted but he is still making it unbearable for me to get it. I apologize how I acted at first. I am not going to lie I acted really rough with him but I tried to apologize and work with him but he still giving me a rough time and that is my problem.

Mayor Kuhn – Like I said he has a list of the Codes that have to be completed and if they are not completed then you are in violation. I hope that clears that up for you. Thank you so much. Thanks, John.

Loretta Warren – Yes it does.

James Beck – 230 Datura Drive – Resident going on twenty years. I have a request actually a repeat request to have the street that I live on repaved. I was here approximately a year ago and provided a petition signed by all the residents of my street. I have a copy of that petition again this year and all the residents feel the same way. The handout that I gave out includes some new pictures of the condition of the street. It did have some repaving patchwork done before I presented last year at

Council but the point of the newer pictures just shows that it hasn't held up naturally because it wasn't completely repaved. I guess the primary point I just wanted to make is in addition to the typical problems that you have with a road and the need of repaving, potholes and ruts and that sort of thing again and I think the pictures clearly show that we get this constant wash of asphalt coming down the street indicating to me that it seems to just be peeling off of the top and it just doesn't seem to ever stop even with the remedial efforts that have been made on the street so I am just here to request again if we could have the street repaved and if not to maybe find out when it might be added to the schedule. I realize there is a higher anarchy of the worst streets that get done first but I feel like it has been bad for awhile. I moved there in 1999. I don't have the exact date my memory tells me about two years in so maybe around 2001 it was repaved so going on 18 years since it has been repaved. So that is my request.

Mayor Kuhn – Well thank you very much. I appreciate the photos and the comments and if I am not mistaken I know that time goes by so fast because a few years ago we were discussing this property. Now as I tell all of my residents who are tax payers and Mayor and Council are taxpayers also. Penn Hills has over how many miles of streets do we have Moe?

Moe Rayan – About 150 miles.

Mayor Kuhn – 150?

Moe Rayan – Correct.

Mayor Kuhn – Now would I like to pave every street in Penn Hills. Of course I would. When we have our budget meetings in December which are open to the public we have three and that is when all the costs and what we plan on doing for the following year is on. The first meeting is for the residents and the taxpayers to tell us what they think is necessary. Then the second meeting Council gives their opinion as well as receiving opinions from the audience. Then the third we vote on it. Now we had paid for a road paving study. Now of course if you just take it off the top, it is easy to multiply so much money per road and that is how you should be able to put in your budget to pay for it. Well that is not reality. That is just something that you do mathematically. Now I explain to people road pavement might have said we should do 2.2 million but if anyone wants to come up to the budget hearing meetings and tell Mayor and Council what it is they want us to cut from the budget to be able to do 2.2 million we are open for suggestions or what services they want cut or what revenues they want increased. The only thing that is done for the Municipality of Penn Hills is done by the taxes that we generate from our residents from our businesses and from other forms of revenue. So we only get so much revenue in so it is very difficult with the cost of living going up close to 3% every year. Everyone wants Mayor & Council to take care of everything but they don't want to have increased revenue to be available to pay for it and the last time I said this it was put in the paper that our Mayor is asking for our rubbish to be charged to our residents because of the fact unfortunately the media takes things out of text. That was

not what I was stating. I was stating that we don't put 2.2 million in the budget for roads but we put close to 3 million in for the collection of rubbish. We are one Community that is surrounded by many that pay for rubbish out of your taxes. The other Communities pay taxes and I am not talking school taxes. Our real estate taxes for the Municipality are right in line with the surrounding Communities but out of that our residents don't have to pay every month or every quarter for their rubbish. Our paramedics we pay for you to have the ambulance service and the paramedics. Surrounding Communities do not. They have that you have to pay for that service so as I said that study that we had some people just seem to zone in on the multiplication of how many roads they said you should paved but that is not the only thing that that study said. That study also took into consideration all the roads in the Municipality. What roads had to be done immediately, what roads could be done with chip and tar, what roads could be done with just filling the potholes. So basically it is not that Mayor & Council say well my cousin lives on Sycamore Drive so I am going to pave that. That is not how it goes. We had a study and when you pay for a study you need to listen to what the study gave you or else you might as well not even had to pay for the study. So basically and you can correct me Moe if I am wrong, Public Works basically goes on the roads that need to be paved from what the study presented, is that correct?

Moe Rayan – That is correct. It is taken into consideration the roads that are indicated in the study to be paved, however, the final decision is made upon the inspection after every winter. Some of those roads are in need of repairs more than others that were noted in the program. That review is completed by the Public Works folks and in addition to that is also reviewed by the Municipal Engineer. So in conjunction the two combined establish the paving list. The program is updated as we go on a yearly basis upgrading the program and identifying the roads that we completed and the roads that are potential for the following year and the list goes on.

Mayor Kuhn – But I don't want you to think that the explanation that we gave you that we aren't going to pay attention to your concerns. I am going to ask the Manager for our Public Works Director to go over and examine exactly the condition of the road and see if it is possible if there is any possible way that we can see if we can put Band-Aids on it until we actually can do the paving and if he can look into exactly when your street is listed on the pavement program to be done. O.K.

James Beck – Thank you very much.

Moe Rayan – Mayor may I add this morning we discussed this specific road at our crew leaders meeting no specific time as to when they are going to do some large patches actually they looked into an overlay but at this point an overlay is not sufficient without milling some of the large patches so they are going to work on repairing some of these patches but perhaps overlaying large ones just to make the road a little smoother. Of course we were sitting talking about paving and it was pouring down rain all day so the time frame as soon as possible that was the discussion this morning.

James Beck – Thank you.

Mayor Kuhn – Before you sit down is there anyone on Council who has anything or any comments that they would like to present? No one on Council had any comments. Mayor thanked Mr. Beck. We will get back to you with some answers. Next on the Agenda is Mark Shuster for Turnkey Taxes. I believe Mark you are going to give a presentation on how this will be beneficial to the Municipality, is that correct?

Mark Shuster – I founded a company call TurnKey Taxes and it is a web app that allows local government to increase tax revenue without raising taxes so just a little bit of a back ground I have been writing software since 1971

Craig Alexander – Mr. Shuster before you get started could you give your address for the minutes?

Mr. Shuster – TurnKey Taxes, 100 Global View Drive, Suite 100, Warrendale, PA 15086 – So I spent a whole life time in operations and writing custom software to augment things like sales, billing and accounts receivable basically finding money and making sure that nothing slips through the cracks. In 2012 the Act 32 I was asked to come and save a company called Central Tax Bureau they were struggling horribly and after the first quarter I was working there for two years to try and save them but unfortunately I got there about ten years too late. Rather than go back into the Corporate world I built TurnKey. TurnKey and what it does is it finds money for local governments by comparing data sets. So in the corporate or personal world the reason why not so much money slips through the cracks because there is one system of record and that system of record is the credit bureaus and you can't buy a house or a car or get credit cards or student loans or anything else if they are pinging this data base which automatically updates your finances but in local government what happens if somebody moves into Penn Hills the first thing they do is go to the post office because they want their mail and they will go to Comcast because they want their toys and then to the water company, Duquesne Light, the solid waste company and then they go to their landlord. They probably even update their Giant Eagle and library card. Everybody knows that they are in Penn Hills except the people who need their tax money to fund the Community so that is the niche that I have developed and it is a process that I have perfected over the last few years and begin with the properties because it is a step, it builds a foundation and you have one account and one number. On top of that what we do over time is we load in all the apartments because there is money in the apartments. I just heard the Occupancy Permits, the building permits, who is moving in and out and if that stuff is not monitored you are losing a lot of money. So when I bill the apartments we want to get that data perfect because when the data is perfect the dollars will take care of themselves. So if 100 Main Street is a 16 unit apartment building, I want to know if it is numbered one through 16, A through L or 101 through 116 and once we have that it is something that can be used by you, it can be used by the Finance Director, used by the Code Enforcement Department and building inspection. But the more eyes that are on this data and again it is on your desk top.

But the more people looking at this the less chance it has falling through the cracks. Then once you have the properties billed every property in Penn Hills has a classification. Is it retail, is it industrial, is it commercial, is it apartments and Allegheny County uses a very very defined set of classifications so what we would do is start looking at those. Get the apartments loaded in there and then we can look at the businesses but what we want to get to is how many properties and how many businesses and how many individual tax payers you have today because the most important thing to monitor is the count. If that number ever goes down by one you are asking why, what happened to them? I want to ask everybody how many businesses do you think you have in Penn Hills?

Mayor Kuhn – I didn't know we were taking a test.

Mr. Shuster – Again this something nobody knows, is what constitutes a business. I was working at a Giant Eagle in Homestead and there were six businesses in there. Landlords are businesses, contractors are businesses, and so what we do is we start focusing on the counts. Where do you get that information? And then finally when you are free you can start looking at earned income tax which besides property tax earned income tax and I know you have a good collector, however, what Act 32 did was to put the accuracy back on the National employers. The McDonalds, the Wal-Mart's, the Alcoa's. So if somebody moves to Penn Hills and they put Pittsburgh, PA 15235 on the job application then maybe some HR person back in Seattle at Starbucks headquarters saying I wonder if that money should go to Penn Hills instead of Pittsburgh. So again the longer you use it the money will find you. Last year it was my second full year of putting together my team and I deposited over five million dollars in the bank accounts of my clients. These are cities like Scranton, Johnstown, Jeanette, Leetsdale, Carnegie and other Communities around here and all I do is focus on the data and help you build better processes and if you use it the system works. What I have done to price it. I have zero upfront cost and a small monthly subscription fee and it is \$300.00 a month and what I do with that is all the software and there is no limit on licenses but I withhold that until I put money into your bank account. There is zero upfront cost and after that it is based on performance. So I will only take a percentage of what I identify, collect and deposit.

Mayor Kuhn – We did receive your information that you had forwarded to Mayor and Council that TurnKey provides clouds, software and data mining that identifies, collects and deposits revenue that have fallen through the cracks. Council is always looking for ways to bring in additional revenue Number One and Number Two we also as a priority try to make sure that we have tried every avenue to bring in tax revenue of any kind that some people are just not paying because then that is very unfair to my residents every month, every quarter, every year pay what they should. That being said Council votes for tax collection services but our vote is based on the information that we receive by the Manager and my Financial Director. In my opinion there is no one on my Council that know what my Financial Director knows that is why he signed an agreement he won't retire until I tell him he is a loud to. But what I think we are not

accountants and we don't know the ins and the outs and does it sound like a good situation yes but as far as the Mayor is concerned you need to convince my Finance Director more so than you do Mayor and Council because of the fact I go by his expertise as to whether a program is workable and is able to do all that it says it does. I think you should give a summary of your services to the Manager and he will forward it to my Finance Director and being he has so much time on his hands, I will have him look over it and ask him to give Mayor and Council a brief synopsis of what his opinion is. O.K.?

Mr. Shuster – If I can help, I will. I am not here to sell, I hate salespeople, but I can tell you

Mayor Kuhn – Like I said it looks good but I am not the expert. Thank you so much.

## **EXPENDITURES**

Mr. Brodnicki made a Motion to approve the **Expenditures of August 6, 2018**, Journal Vouchers, 1 - \$636,525.01, C.D. Requisitions 0 - \$0.00, Master 41107 -41273 - \$1,121,965.47 - Total \$1,758,490.48.

Mr. Underwood seconded the Motion.

Mayor Kuhn abstained on Check No. 41193 to Don Kuhn Auto Body for \$200.00 and yes on all others.

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

Mayor Kuhn – Do I have a Motion for Expenditures of August 13, 2018?

Mr. Brodnicki made a Motion to approve **Expenditures of August 13, 2018** – Journal Vouchers – 0 - \$0.00, C.D. Requisitions 17 - \$35,557.35, Master 41274 – 41358 - \$641,314.47 making a grand total of \$676,871.82.

Mr. Underwood seconded the Motion.

Deputy Mayor Sapp – I just wanted to note that we should have said Journal Vouchers should have been set at zero he went straight into CD Requisitions at 17.

Mayor Kuhn – So noted. Do we just correct that?

Craig Alexander – So that would be included in your Motion.

Mr. Brodnicki – Correct.

Deputy Mayor Sapp – Thank you.

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

Mayor Kuhn – I am sorry because we did have the fact that I did amend the Agenda so do I have a Motion to approve the Minutes of July 16, 2018?

### **MINUTES:**

Mr. Underwood made a Motion to approve the **Minutes of July 16, 2018** Council Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Brodnicki seconded the Motion.

There being no further discussion the Motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Brodnicki made a Motion to approve **Resolution No. 2018-037** – approving The Acquisition and Subsequent Disposition of Vacant Property located at Brushton Avenue, 0173-L-00207-0000-00 in accordance with The Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program and providing assurance that acquisition is consistent with the Penn Hills Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Petrucci seconded the Motion.

Deputy Mayor Sapp – I have a question. I just need clarification. I did not realize that Chris was not here so maybe our Business Manager could help me. Is this just a lot or is this just actually, as I reading through it I was not clear on exactly what it is.

Moe Rayan – It is a vacant property.

Deputy Mayor Sapp – O.K. vacant property not vacant lot, is that correct?

Mayor Kuhn – I think what Deputy Mayor Sapp wants to know is in the description it says Allegheny County Vacant Property does she mean is the property vacant of any structure or is the structure vacant?

Moe Rayan – Vacant Lot.

Craig Alexander – It is almost always a vacant lot with regard of the Vacant Property Recovery Program. It is always a vacant lot.

Deputy Mayor Sapp – Oh o.k. Thank you. It was just a lot in the notes here and it was just not clear to me. Thank you for that clarification.

Mayor Kuhn – For those in the audience who might not be familiar with this program what it is the Allegheny County has a Vacant Property Recovery Program that we are able to participate in and the program has been very successful. There have been 25 single family lots and 2 single family structures that have been processed since the program began in 2008 and that totals 14 properties that have been successfully resold and when they have been resold that means not only is that a plus for that Community but we also have a property that is back on the tax roll. So this is a win win program.

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

Mayor Kuhn – Do I have Motion to Ratify the Agreement by and between The Penn Hills School District and the Municipality of Penn Hills.

Mr. Brodnicki made a Motion to Ratify this memorandum of Understanding, this Agreement by and between the Penn Hills School District having its principal offices at 260 Aster Street, Penn Hills, County of Allegheny and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, hereinafter referred as to “PHSD” and the MUNICIPALITY OF PENN HILLS, having its principal offices at 102 Duff Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, County of Allegheny and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, hereinafter referred to as “Penn Hills”.

Mr. Petrucci seconded the Motion.

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

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

None.

### **INTRODUCTION FOR ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, ETC.**

Mr. Petrucci – Last time we were in session we talked about the Fireworks Ordinance. Do we have a status on that at this time?

Mayor Kuhn – I don’t know Moe if you could tell us where we are on that I mean I know what Mr. Petrucci is referring to is the Municipality permits fireworks on the Fourth of July but unfortunately we have people putting them off all summer long and I know that we had discussed having an Ordinance that there would be John when a time when it could be put on and when it could stop and the date that is only for July 4<sup>th</sup>. Is that correct, John?

John Petrucci – Well yes that is part of it. That is what we discussed at the last meeting. Another issue we might want to discuss in length we do not have a Noise Ordinance and I believe Moe had told me at one point that it might have been in the

Codified Ordinances under a different heading. I checked today and I couldn't find it. If we do maybe we should have the Noise Ordinance amended to read a specific or wherever it is at so let me rephrase that wherever the Ordinance is that we could use as a Noise Ordinance we need to put a specific time on it for example loud music 11:00 at night it stops. Right now I spoke with a couple of the Police Officers they don't have the Noise Ordinance but they are using Disorderly House Ordinance and they said a Noise Ordinance would really help specifically when it spells out a time – what time we stop.

Moe Rayan – I believe Chris Blackwell was searching both items to either combine them in the existing Ordinance or amending the existing Ordinance to reflect both time frames for fireworks and for noise abatement.

Mr. Petrucci – That is fine. That will be great.

Mayor Kuhn – So Moe you will be looking into further verbiage for the Noise Ordinance, is that correct?

Moe Rayan – The existing, correct. Not me personally, Chris Blackwell. We will get status from him.

Mayor Kuhn – Thanks. I will be presenting at the September 2018 Council Meeting an Ordinance to form an Economic Development Committee. Number of board members will be seven, under the Charter Council may establish by Ordinance Boards, Commissions, and Authorities to act in an advisory capacity. Persons appointed per charter shall be residents of the Municipality. No one person shall serve on more than one Board, Commission or Authority. The Board terms shall be 3 members to serve a three year term, three members to serve a two year term and one member to serve a one year term. There after appointments shall be for a three year term. Members of the Community Development Board shall receive no compensation. If a Board or a Commission is abolished, powers and duties transfer to Council. Rules governing Economic Development Board Members are to promote Penn Hills in a positive fashion through marketing procedures in an attempt to revitalize current businesses, attract new businesses and show Penn Hills at its best present positive reasons to bring new businesses into Penn Hills and keep those that are presently here. The Board is an Advisory Board to Mayor and Council. The Board will have no authority in the Planning Department with the Planning Director or any Municipal Staff Members. Any and all contacts shall be presented to Mayor and Council. No contact with Municipal Employees. Any questions or information is to go through the Manager's office. Anyone interested in serving on the Board please forward your resumes to the Manager's office. As I said appointments to the Board will be made at September's Council Meeting. I have already received several resumes and it is always so nice for the Board to realize how many talented people we have in The Municipality of Penn Hills. I have forwarded my resumes to the Council for their comments and if I receive any further ones I will do the same.

## **REPORTS FROM MAYOR, COUNCIL AND MANAGER**

Deputy Mayor Sapp – I would just like to give a report to the audience about our tour that we hosted with The County of Allegheny, Rich Fitzgerald, our County Executor and his Staff. I would just like to let you know that County Executor Rich Fitzgerald came out with his Staff and Mayor and Council along with Moe. We went on a tour and just showed them some areas of interest in Penn Hills and what we would like the County to help us with and I would like to report that The County Executor was very impressed with Penn Hills and there was a lot of Penn Hills that he just wasn't aware of. On that tour he and his Staff were both very impressed so as residents and business owners here we should be very proud to be here in Penn Hills. Also it looked very nice down at the BP at the end of Rodi Road and the entrance of the Comfort Inn. They came out and cleaned it up as they said they would and it looks very nice and I would like to say we need to stay on them about keeping it that way because that is the gateway into Penn Hills and now when you come into Penn Hills it is so clean and neat down there and it looks good so just wanted to let you know about the tour and that the County Executor and his Staff were very impressed with Penn Hills as you should be as well. Also they were very envious of our New Government Center so we definitely should take pride in our Government Center as well. So the tour was very good and I am looking for some new things between Penn Hills and the County Executor's Office. Thank you.

Mayor Kuhn – Thank you Deputy Mayor Sapp.

Mr. Underwood – Along with what Deputy Mayor Sapp has said and we witnessed the BP Gas Station on Rodi Road and that was on a Thursday and that following Monday there were four New Jersey barriers blocking the entrance to the old gas station. So that was the quick turnaround from the County and Rich Fitzgerald and his organization so that is proof that they do want to work with us. I just wanted to make sure everybody on Council heard that and knew that and witnessed it because I drive down Rodi Road many times. That is it. Thank you.

John Petrucci – Well my laundry list for this evening will start with yes it was a very positive meeting on July 19, 2018 with Executor Fitzgerald and the Economic Development Team. That property they looked at was the old Atlas Cement Plant and the property owned by U.S. Steel. My thoughts on that and I gave Mr. Fitzgerald my thoughts on it was that with the ramp coming off the parkway down by Thompson Run Road it would be a perfect spot for a casino. It would be easy access from Monroeville, Pitcairn, Murrysville everything and it would be a perfect spot. It is funny the day after I said that they put a casino in the BonTon out in Westmoreland County and now I hear they are going to put a casino in Beaver so hopefully maybe that idea I threw out there it will come to light somewhere down the line. I would like to commend the Penn Hills Arts Council for another great festival at the Library on 7/20 and 7/21 that was put on by the Penn Hills Arts and Music Festival. On July 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 in the morning I had attended a meeting at the Mount Hope Church about the closing of the YMCA. I guess

we all know what is going on there roughly they are saying that the CEO was there for the YMCA. The Downtown YMCA a couple of the different things that were the cause of them closing some of these facilities where there was a million dollars a year for a lease and the Penn Hills location was approximately scheduled for \$200,000.00 worth of renovations within the next ten years and Planet fitness didn't help us they lost \$200,000 so there was a bunch of different things that caused them to close the YMCA and I believe that the Corporate America is making a big mistake buy there is nothing we can do about it. The only thing that shed a little bit of light on this Pastor Lance if that name rings a bell to you is very interested in purchasing that facility and keeping the integrity of that building as it is now with the track and the weight lifting equipment and the programs. Actually he wants to add more programs to the facility which would be great. Let's just keep our fingers crossed that Pastor Lance and his congregation can purchase that property. Some questions have been made to me in reference of the Police Monument. We are working on the Police Monument. We met with the electrician and we met with several of the contractors that are going to donate their time and effort into moving the monument itself and Lampus is going to donate all the blocks for the pathway going up there so that is something that we are working on and getting done. Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. I attended the Summer Fest, John Scaglione and his staff did a wonderful job and it was a very nice event. Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission wanted me to read something for you. The Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission is planning to have a front yard tree project every Spring and Fall to help reduce the significant tree loss that has happened here in Penn Hills. The past Spring we had a successful project on Veronica Drive where they planted thirty six trees and fenced them from the deer all for free. It was a great success although over ambitious since it took us two very long days to plant the trees. We have decided to scale back and plant ten to fifteen trees on one or two blocks. For our Fall Project we have selected the 400 block of Springdale Drive.

Mayor Kuhn – Yes I received my letter.

John Petrucci – Which is the block right off of Lime Hollow. Take a drive down this street and you will see that there are very few trees or landscaping in the front yards of this well maintained street. After choosing this location it is the street that Mayor Kuhn resides. Mayor Kuhn always speaks positively about the Shade Tree Commission and we so hope she is pleased that we have chosen her street. So that would be very nice. On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, let me back this up, on July 10<sup>th</sup> I was listening to the Larry Richards Show and Congressman Rothfus was on and he spoke of Penn Hills as a qualified opportunity zone. I don't know if too many of you are familiar with this so I wasn't so I put a call in to him and the Mayor and I met with him for an explanation of what he was talking about and what they are talking about. I will read you this. A Federal Tax Bill passed at the end of 2017 enables the Governor to certain census tracks opportunity zones investments made by the individuals through special funds in these zones is allowed to defer a limited federal tax based on capital gains. The Governor was given the opportunity to designate up to twenty five percent of the census tracks that either have poverty rates or at least twenty percent or medium family

incomes of no more than 80 percent of the state wide or metropolitan area family income. There are nearly 1200 eligible census tracks and the governor designated 300 tracks based on economic data. Recommendations from local partners and likely hood of private sector investment in the tracks. Now it was explained to the Mayor & I that if you take your money and invest it with your broker in the next two years you are going to be able to invest this money with this organization and here is the nice part of it. If you invest \$10,000 you only pay taxes when you remove it under \$10,000 not on the amount that it grew. So if it grew up to \$10,000 you are not paying it on the \$20,000 you are only paying it on the \$10,000 and that money will be put into a fund and it will come in to our Community to aid in some of the Economic Development of the Community. I am understanding that the same way you are Mayor?

Mayor Kuhn – Yes first of all for those who are interested the contact with Congressman Rothfus was with Councilman Petrucci. Now when Councilman Petrucci first came on Council he was not well versed on the procedures of how things were run so Mayor and Council explained to John on that one Council person cannot negotiate or have private meetings and what have you or anything of that sort has to be done by the Manager and the Council person or the Mayor because of the fact that as Mayor I am in charge of governing the Municipality so that being said when Mr. Petrucci has something that he has been working on the contacts me to make sure of the procedures that he is to follow. So we only can have two Council people because otherwise it is a quorum. It was a very positive meeting with the Congressman. He was very interested in Penn Hills. He gave us a lot of information and he also gave us a lot of hope that Penn Hills will be looked at. That is the biggest thing that Mayor and Council are trying to do. We promote Penn Hills in a positive way. That is our job and that is what we do and we work hard at it. I will say this that when the Congressman was here and we took a tour of the building he was just in amazement. No I didn't take the tour by myself nor did Councilman Petrucci, the Manager took us through the tour and he was just as amazed at the wonderful facility that we have and as I tell everyone those who want to be negative to Penn Hills just take a look at what we have projected. We have a beautiful Library, we have a wonderful Public Works Garage and now we have a Municipal Complex everyone in Allegheny County if not the State would be envious of and it really is promoting Penn Hills because of the fact when you go through the building no one can say Penn Hills is on the down slope. To have a building of this magnitude and have the firemen, the Police Department and the Paramedics that shows what Penn Hills is and what we can do and our voice will be heard. Just as the gentleman said a picture says a million words well so does this building, our Library and everything else that Penn Hills represents. But I didn't mean to cut into you John but I just needed to make sure that everyone is aware of the situations and how it comes about so go ahead.

John Petrucci – No that is no problem Mayor. If anybody is interested in this you can get the information from his aide and his name is Sam and his telephone number 412-889-0259 and look for that with your local broker in the next two years. That is all I have for you this evening.

Mayor Kuhn – O.K. First of all I also want to make a comment on the tour that we had with the County Executor Rich Fitzgerald and his Economic Development Members. We did receive a letter after the tour that I will read. Thank you for taking part in our municipal tour and showing us just a little bit of what makes Penn Hills special. We appreciate the change in the Agenda so we had a better idea of what you were interested in talking with us about as well as the tour of your new Municipal Complex. My staff now has envy. Both the US Steel and concrete site are substantial properties with great opportunity if a better access came provided to the site. We will certainly share those concerns with the District 11 Engineer with Penn Dot. We would encourage you to do the same so naturally Mayor and Council have made the Manager aware that this was the beginning of having a relationship and we want to make sure that we don't drop the ball and we do go forward with these contacts that we have now received. We will continue working with potential demolition of the existing structures and can pursue the opportunities to transfer the property into an important portal to Penn Hills for those traveling Rodi Road. We didn't have to say anything when the tour went down to the BP former BP Gas Station and the County said what disarray it was in they were really embarrassed and apologetic to us and they ratified the situation immediately and they also now are looking into having some type of something that could go in there because when we come into Penn Hills we see this boarded up facility and then a small token from our visit I have enclosed our photo. It is very nice. I think it is our first professional photo in our building and it shows all of Mayor & Council, our Staff, the Executive and all of his Staff. The only thing I was a little upset was I told Councilman Petrucci he can no longer sit next to me in photos because I look like I am three feet tall. The other thing is everyone knows some negative remarks regarding our media but I am big enough that I can say when they do something nice and I will give them credit for. In the Progress there was an article in about a Penn Hills Police Officer that talks about a dangerous rescue and they acknowledged our K-9 Police Officer Jason Bonace and also our Traffic Safety Director, Officer Mike Lape in regards to the accident that took place and it was a very nice half page article on the work both the Officers did in the recovery and also acknowledging our K-9 dog Kenzo so I thought that was very nice when positive things are said in the media regarding Penn Hills and I also like when our Police Officers get the recognition they deserve. I think that was all that I had. So with that we are going to have an Executive Session regarding Personnel Matters and I am going to add Real Estate so with that do I have a Motion to adjourn?

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Deputy Mayor Sapp made a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Underwood seconded the Motion.

Mayor Kuhn - Meeting is adjourned. Once again I thank everyone for coming and this is where we get our information.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

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DATE

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MAUREEN M. SORCE  
MANAGER'S SECRETARY