

PENN HILLS COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 20, 2020
7:00PM

Agenda Approval

The meeting was called to order at 7PM. Mayor Calabrese welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching at home. Mayor Calabrese announced there were no changes to the agenda and called the meeting to order.

Mayor Calabrese asked that roll call be taken. Councilors Petrucci, Getsy and Pecora were present. Mayor Calabrese and Deputy Mayor Sapp were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Calabrese led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Calabrese called for an approval of the February 17, 2020 Council Meeting minutes. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the motion. Councilman Petrucci seconded the motion. Roll was called. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment at this part of the meeting because the meeting was being conducted online.

Pastor Ken Love, Faith Community Church on Davidson Road, addressed Council. The speaker spoke in favor of funding for Western Penn Hills Community Action. The speaker said the funding helped the group offer youth employment programs in Penn Hills. The speaker said he spoke on behalf of the Penn Hills Clergy Association.

Linda Theopolis, Pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church, addressed Council. The speaker advocated for funding for Western Penn Hills Community Action. The speaker said the program provided youth employment for Penn Hills young people.

Pastor Theodore Pugh, of Jerusalem Baptist Church, addressed Council. The speaker spoke in favor of funding for Western Penn Hills Community Action. The speaker said that the program has helped young people for 25 years. The speaker said the program was superb and has countless commendations and benefits many young people.

The solicitor explained that this portion of the agenda was for comment on agenda items only. The solicitor said that non-agenda items had to be signed up for in advance.

Chris Blackwell explained that their comments were related to the public hearing on the agenda. Chris Blackwell said that this comment period seemed like it was becoming the public hearing.

The solicitor said that the pastors should reserve their comments until the CDBG public hearing part of the agenda.

The Mayor again called for any public comments on the agenda items.

The Municipal Manager explained that this period was for comments related to the agenda items. Mayor Calabrese called for public comments on agenda items.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to **Ratify and Approve Expenditures**. Councilman Petrucci made a motion to ratify warrants from March 16, 2020 totaling \$1,918,796.16 and approve warrants of April 20, 2020 totaling \$3,406,796.30. Mayor Calabrese called for a second. Councilman Getsy seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Sapp asked at which point Council comments would occur relating to the prior public comments. Deputy Mayor indicated she had a comment related to Resolution 2020-13. Mayor Calabrese and the solicitor explained that Council's comments would occur at the time of each agenda item.

A roll call vote was taken to approve and ratify expenses. The motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A Public Hearing for the FY 2020 Five Year Consolidated Plan, FY 2020 Annual Action Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice was opened.

The solicitor explained that the prior comments relating to the CDBG plan would be incorporated into this hearing and that those earlier speakers did not have to speak again regarding this issue.

James Hunt, 7450 Chadwick Street, addressed Council. The speaker said he was the founder of Western Penn Hills Community Action, Inc. and over 800 people have participated in the program. The speaker thanked the municipality for its support over the years. The speaker said that the program was designed to help young people. The speaker said that young people in the program make a difference in their community by cleaning up lots. The speaker said the program gives young people encouragement and life skills to help them be productive in society.

Farren Wade, 102 Spring Grove Road, addressed Council. The speaker asked if there is funding for youth this summer, and asked what programs are in the plan for young people aged 14 to 17.

The Municipal Manager said this time was for the public to comment on the plan that has been made public. The manager said the plan was online and available in the offices, and the period was not intended to be a question and answer period.

The speaker spoke in favor of Western Penn Hills Community Action, Inc. The speaker said that many in the community were concerned about young people and that resources needed to be dedicated to youth programs. The speaker said that other

individuals were not able to participate in the public hearing, but asked her to speak in favor of the funding, on their behalf.

Jace Ransom, 500 Hamilton Drive Ext, commented on the funding for Western Penn Hills Community Action. The speaker asked that the mayor and council reconsider the planned reduction in the group's funding. The speaker said he has worked with the group and with Rev. Hunt in the program, and the program was positive. The speaker said the program has given participants skills to be better residents and citizens.

Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council. Councilman Getsy asked the length of the program. Chris Blackwell explained that the program was in place for 26 years.

Deputy Mayor Sapp asked Chris Blackwell to explain the funding in the budget. Chris Blackwell said that in the budget, the group would not be funded. Chris Blackwell asked that the budget be approved, with the funding added in at a later date, should mayor and council want that. Chris Blackwell said that additional CDBG funds were anticipated and that funding could be allocated to the group.

An unknown speaker said that one purpose of CDBG was to benefit low to moderate income residents. The speaker said that in the plan there was very little to benefit low to moderate income residents, and asked that the funding for Western Pennsylvania Community Action's funding be restored.

The Mayor asked Chris Blackwell about the timeframe associated with the budget. Chris Blackwell said that the item could not be tabled because of timelines, but the budget could be amended in May. Chris Blackwell said that much of the additional money coming would go to mortgage assistance, but there would also be money for demolition and community activities like the funding being discussed for Western Penn Hills Community Action.

The Mayor said she was inspired by the program and wanted the funding to be restored. Chris Blackwell said that the item would be on the May agenda and more information would be given to Council before May about the program.

The Municipal Manager said that before the May meeting, additional information would be given to the Mayor and Council about the program. The Municipal Manager said that the Mayor and Council would be given information before May so they could make a decision.

The Mayor said she was inspired by the comments and said she was inclined to approve the funding.

Councilman Petrucci asked how much the program would cost. Chris Blackwell said it has been \$1 million over the life of the program, and \$22,000 in the current budget. Councilman Petrucci said the money should be included in the budget and said he favored the program.

Deputy Mayor Sapp spoke in favor of including an amendment on the May agenda in order to fund the organization.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020 – 0013**, approving a Change Order to Pampena Landscape Company William McKinley Center, Contract No. 2019-11 in the amount of \$28,964.00. Councilman Pecora made the motion. Councilman Petrucci seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for Council comment.

Councilman Petrucci said he did a site visit and said there was a significant amount of work involved with the project. He said he spoke with the manager and planning director about what the work involved. He said that the buildings were old and the municipality needed an exit strategy because of how much money was spent maintaining some of the buildings.

Deputy Mayor Sapp asked about the nature of the change order. The manager said that the change order was related to restoration of the site. The manager said it was related to paving the parking area due to the digging. The Planning Director said that after the job began, it became clear that the drainage system had to be installed much further than anticipated in order to tie into the drainage system. The Deputy Mayor said that the issue should have been discovered in the assessment. Chris Blackwell said that the contractor was following the specifications. Rick Ministerman said that during the construction, flooding occurred and it was then discovered that issue was unknown to all parties because a drain was buried, which led to the change order.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-13 was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020 – 0014**, adopting The Verona, Oakmont, Penn Hills and Plum (“VOPP”) Trail Feasibility Study for Verona Borough, Borough of Oakmont, Municipality of Penn Hills, and Plum Borough, as prepared by the VOPP Trail Feasibility Study Steering Committee with the assistance of The Environmental Planning and Design Team. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the motion. Councilman Petrucci made the second. Mayor Calabrese asked for Council comments. A roll call vote was taken. The motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-14 was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020- 0015**, approving The Acquisition and Subsequent Disposition of Vacant Property located on Harvest Drive, 0295-B-184 in accordance with The Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program and Providing Assurance that Acquisition is consistent with The Penn Hills Comprehensive Plan. Councilman Petrucci made the motion. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the second. Mayor Calabrese asked for Council comments. A roll call vote was taken. The motion to approve Resolution 2020-15 was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020-0016** – approving the Acquisition and Subsequent Disposition of Vacant Property located at 10116

Buchannon Road, 0295-M-290 in accordance with The Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program and Providing Assurance that Acquisition is consistent with the Penn Hills Comprehensive Plan. Councilman Getsy made the motion. Councilman Petrucci made the second. Mayor Calabrese invited Council comments. A roll call vote was taken. The motion to approve Resolution No 2020-16 was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020-17**, approving 2020 CCTV Contracts with State Pipe Services, Inc. in the amount of \$821,215. Councilman Pecora made the motion. Councilman Getsy made the second. Mayor Calabrese asked for Council comments.

Mayor Calabrese asked for Gateway to give additional details on the item. Rick Ministerman said this was part of Penn Hills Operations and Maintenance Plan. He said that the obligation was on televising significant sewers and was required every 5 years. Smaller sewer lines were required to be televised and cleaned every 10 years. He said this contract reflected more quantity which is why the contract was more expensive.

A roll call vote was taken. Approval of Resolution 2020-17 was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020-18** – Ratify Resolution 2020-18, designating Scott Andrejchak as agent of the Municipality of Penn Hills, for purposes of obtaining financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the motion. Councilman Petrucci made the second. Mayor Calabrese asked for Council comments

A roll call vote was taken. Resolution 2020-18 was approved unanimously.

The Manager explained that the resolution was already approved by council and this was ratification.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020-19** – authorizing the submission of the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Councilman Petrucci made the motion. Councilman Pecora made the second. Mayor Calabrese asked for Council comments

A roll call vote was taken. Resolution 2020-19 was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020-20** – approving the Community Development Block Grant program Consolidated Plan for FY 2020-2024, Action Plan for FY 2020 and the Home Program. Councilman Getsy made the motion. Councilman Petrucci made the second. Mayor Calabrese asked for Council comments. Councilman Getsy said that when these items go to HUD they are reviewed.

A roll call vote was taken. Resolution 2020-20 was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020-21**, awarding the Lime Hollow Sanitary Sewer Upsizing Phase II Project to Merante Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$480,060. Councilman Pecora made the motion. Councilman Petrucci seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for Council comments.

Councilman Petrucci asked for additional information on the item. Rick Ministerman explained it was a grant funded project to upsize sewer lines on Lime Hollow Road. He said the project was to upsize to 15 inch line from 10-12 inch line along the road. He explained the work was permitted and approved by DEP. He said that a PennDOT project also coincides with this project that related to roadway stabilization. Rick said it would be at least a month before the project would begin.

Deputy Mayor Sapp asked for detail regarding the \$8,000 alternative bid. Rick Ministerman said that the \$8,000 related to traffic control, if the road was not closed by PennDOT during the municipality's work. He said the \$8,000 was the price of traffic control should the municipality have to close the road.

Councilman Getsy said Lime Hollow was closed and asked about that work. The municipal manager said that the closure was related to PennDOT work on that road and Verona Roads, due to the July 2019 rains and landslides. The manager explained that our work would coincide with some of PennDOT's work.

The manager and engineer shared additional information about work on Verona Road that could impact Penn Hills sewer lines.

A roll call vote was taken. Resolution 2020-21 was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to **Approve Eligibility List for Sergeant and Lieutenant Levels**. Deputy Mayor Sapp made a motion for approval. Councilman Petrucci seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for Council comments.

Councilman Getsy asked for information about the list.

Chief Howard Burton said the list was to replace vacancies.

A roll call vote was called. The motion to approve the Eligibility List for Sergeants and Lieutenant Levels was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese asked for **Items for Consideration**. Councilman Getsy asked for a policy on whether litter pick up was acceptable during the quarantine, and whether the DPW would pick up the bags. The manager said that litter pick up was allowed and that DPW would pick up bags if the state and county were not providing that service.

Deputy Mayor said she wanted to recognize the first responders during the COVID-19 crisis. She asked at the electronic sign say thank you to first responders. She asked

that all people do what they can to thank first responders. Deputy Mayor Sapp also recognized the 90th birthday of Turner's Dairy.

Mayor Calabrese asked for **Council Reports.**

Councilman Petrucci thanked first responders and thanked Dr. David Brock for a food distribution program. He said that anyone wanted to learn more about the food program could email him. He also recognized Kuhn's Auto Body for their Easter event.

Deputy Mayor Sapp said that Penn Hills School District was operating a food program. She said there was also a Friday food program. She also wanted residents to know about the EOC for information relating to COVID-19.

Mayor Calabrese acknowledged the first responders and the EOC staff. She acknowledged the EMS Director and Fire Marshall and all the first responders who were working during the crisis. The Municipal Manager thanked the Mayor for supporting the staff, and acknowledged the IT Director for making sure the virtual meeting went well.

Mayor Calabrese called for an **adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM