

## FEBRUARY 17, 2020 PENN HILLS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

### Approval of Agenda Items

Mayor Calabrese called the meeting to order and announced that Resolution to reappoint Joe Tamburrino to the Zoning Hearing Board would be moved to the top of the agenda for consideration.

### Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Calabrese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Roll Call

Mayor Calabrese, Deputy Mayor Sapp and Councilors Getsy and Pecora were present. Councilman Petrucci was present via phone.

**Resolution No. 2020-010** – Mayor Calabrese called for a motion Reappointing Joe Tamburrino to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term ending 12/31/2023. Councilman Pecora made the motion. Deputy Mayor Sapp seconded the motion. The motion to approve Resolution 2020-10 was approved unanimously.

### **Special Recognition:**

Paramedics Mike Norkus and Bill Bierman were recognized for their exemplary performance. EMS Director Diane Fitzhenry addressed Council. She explained that during a fire, the paramedics offered assistance to fight the fire, and helped save the residence. She said that the Fire Marshall recommended the commendation. Mayor Calabrese and Council congratulated the paramedics and presented them with a recognition.

Penn Hills High School Student Colleen Hoolahan was recognized for achievements in swimming. Mayor Calabrese commented on her achievement and presented her with a certificate.

### **Public Comment:**

Public comment was opened. Minister Dennis, 118 McFarlane Drive, spoke regarding sewer rates. The speaker proposed alternate sewer billing methods including having volunteers do the billing. The speaker proposed a 25-28 day billing cycle.

Natalie Wissman, 315 Hamil Road, spoke regarding the billing process at Oakmont Water Authority. The speaker spoke in favor of a monthly bill, rather than a quarterly bill. The speaker spoke in favor of a longer period of time for residents to pay the bills to Oakmont.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve the January 13, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the motion. Councilman Pecora seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese requested a clarification and change in the January 13, 2020 minutes. Mayor Calabrese said that she was not offended by her personal depiction

and requested an amendment to the minutes. Mayor Calabrese called for a vote on the amended minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Approval of Expenditures**

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve expenses totaling \$3,511,559.35. Councilman Pecora made the motion. Deputy Mayor Sapp seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese called for a vote. The motion to approve the expenditures was approved unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2666** – an Ordinance of The Municipality of Penn Hills, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, No Parking in The Right of Way Area Located at the intersection of Elliott Street and Verona Road. Deputy Mayor Sapp made a motion to approve Ordinance 2666. Councilman Pecora seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment.

Tony Mangretta, 205 Freda Street addressed Council. The speaker opposed the parking restriction in front of his property.

Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council. Councilman Getsy suggested tabling the ordinance. Councilman made a motion to table Ordinance 2666. Councilman Petrucci seconded the motion to table. Deputy Mayor Sapp voted no to table the motion, Councilors Pecora, Petrucci and Getsy voted to table. Mayor Calabrese voted yes to table. The motion was tabled.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2667** – an Ordinance of The Municipality of Penn Hills, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Stop Sign located at The Corner of 357 Elias Drive facing Walpole Drive. Councilman Pecora made a motion to approve Ordinance 2667. Deputy Mayor Sapp seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese called for comments from the public. Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council. Mayor Calabrese called for a vote. The motion to approve Ordinance 2667 was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2668** – an Ordinance of the Municipality of Penn Hills, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, prohibiting graffiti as a form of vandalism and requiring the removal of graffiti and establishing penalties for the violation of the ordinance. Councilman Petrucci made the motion to approve the motion. Deputy Mayor Sapp seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment. Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council.

Councilman Getsy questioned the Ordinance and asked for an explanation. The Municipal Manager explained the ordinance. Deputy Mayor Sapp asked whether it is the property owner's responsibility to clear graffiti under the ordinance. The Municipal Manager explained that it did. Deputy Mayor Sapp asked whether it would exempt

elderly residents. The Municipal Manager said that it did not. Councilman Petrucci said that it would be up to the Code officers' discretion to enforce the ordinance. Councilman Getsy asked if his property is graffiti, whether he is responsible to remove it under the ordinance. The Municipal Manager responded in the affirmative.

Resident Felix Catlin asked for an explanation of a lien, in the ordinance. The solicitor provided the speaker with a definition and explained what a lien is.

Mayor Calabrese said there were problems with the way the ordinance was drafted, and spoke in opposition to the ordinance.

Mayor Calabrese called for a vote. Mayor Calabrese, Deputy Mayor Sapp and Councilors Pecora and Getsy voted no on the ordinance. Councilman Petrucci voted yes. The motion to approve Ordinance 2668 failed.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020 - 003** – awarding Demolition of Blighted and Condemned Structures contract to Lutterman Excavating for the amount of \$34,250. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the motion. Councilman Pecora seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment.

Minister Dennis asked how long structures must be vacant in order to be demolished. Chris Blackwell explained the demolition programs to the speaker, and how structures are selected. Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council. A vote was called. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020 – 004** – authorizing The Municipality of Penn Hills to enter into a Lease Agreement with Penn Hills Youth Football Association for the rental of Concession Stand #2 located in Turner-Friendship Park. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the Motion and Councilman Pecora seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment. Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council. A vote was called. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020 – 005** – authorizing The Municipality of Penn Hills to enter into a Lease Agreement with the Penn Hills Girls' Softball Association, for Concession Stand located at Penn Hills Park. Councilman Pecora made the motion and Deputy Mayor Sapp seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment. Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council. A vote was called. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020 – 006** – authorizing The Municipality of Penn Hills to enter into a Lease Agreement with the Penn Hills Baseball Association for Concession Stand #1 located in Turner-Friendship Park. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the motion and Councilman Pecora seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment.

Felix Catlin addressed Council. The speaker inquired as to the terms of the lease. The Municipal Manager said the terms of the leases were for 3 years.

Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council. A vote was called. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020- 007** – awarding a 3-Year Contract to ADS Environmental Services for The Maintenance, Monitoring, and Submittal of Report Data in the amount of \$127,800. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the motion to approve Resolution 2020-007 and Councilman Pecora seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment.

Karen Painter addressed council. The speaker inquired as to the purpose of the contract. The Municipal Manager and Engineer explained the purpose of the contract.

Mayor Calabrese responded that she is in no means an expert on sewage but after speaking with our engineer she will be voting yes on this Resolution and she is very excited in the direction we are taking in our sewer system. The Municipal Manager explained there is only one vendor that can perform the function.

A vote was called. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020-008** – Appointing Fire Marshall Chuck Miller as Emergency Management Coordinator for Municipality of Penn Hills. Councilman Pecora made the motion and Councilman Getsy seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment. Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council. Deputy Mayor Sapp asked the Manager who the current Coordinator is, and why a new one is needed. The Manager explained that he lacks the certifications. Deputy Mayor Sapp asked about the municipality's emergency plan and when it was last updated. The Municipal Manager said he would report back to her. A vote was called. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020-009** – Awarding the Thompson Run Heavy Cleaning & Televising Contract to State Pipe Services in the total amount of \$368,200. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the motion. Councilman Pecora seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment.

A resident at 336 Dorothy Drive addressed Council. The resident questioned whether the contract was for a sanitary sewer, or storm sewer.

Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council. A vote was called. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020-011** – Awarding a contract to Westmoreland Electrical Services for the Senior Service Center emergency generator replacement project in the amount of \$73,000. Councilman Pecora made the motion. Deputy Mayor Sapp seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment.

Resident Bill Moutz, 1335 Maple Avenue, addressed Council. The resident questioned how many bids were received for the work to be performed. The Municipal Manager said there were four proposals, and the one being voted on was the lowest.

Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council. Deputy Mayor Sapp asked about the generator project. Chris Blackwell explained the need for a new generator at the Senior Center, and the advantages of the new generator. The Municipal Manager said that using the generator at the old municipal building was also explored.

A vote was called. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020-012** – Awarding a contract to GovUnity for the redesign of the municipal website in the amount of \$12,000. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the motion. Councilman Pecora seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment.

Betty Arnt, 172 Highland Road addressed Council. The speaker asked why there was no bid tabulation. The Municipal Manager explained it was considered a professional service, and the municipality solicited proposals via an RFP. The speaker inquired whether it was the same company that worked on the library's site. The Municipal Manager said it was not. Mayor Calabrese asked about the selection process. The Municipal Manager said there were eight proposals received. The Municipal Manager explained that the list was narrowed and references were contacted, and that the vendor was also the lowest cost proposal. Mayor Calabrese asked if it was a onetime payment. The Municipal Manager explained it is a periodic payment that is paid as work is completed.

Felix Catlin addressed Council. The speaker asked whether the website vendor was linked to the Citizen Savvy application. The Municipal Manager directed the speaker to speak with the IT Director.

A vote was called. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to **Approve Penn Hills Parks and Recreation Calendar of Events for 2020**. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the motion. Councilman Pecora seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment.

Faith Milazzo, 121 Castle Drive, spoke in favor of a fall event. The speaker spoke in favor of additional events.

Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council.

Councilman Petrucci said that there is a cost to police and DPW that come with the events. Councilman Petrucci said efforts should be made to cut the overtime costs of the events. Deputy Mayor Sapp called on Recreation Director John Scaglione to address Council. John Scaglione said that Memorial Day created police overtime, but other events did not because police patrolled during their shifts. John Scaglione went through the list of planned events for 2020, and explained many of the events. Deputy Mayor Sapp asked about the camping event at the park and the Director said where it would be held. Deputy Mayor Sapp asked about the Capes and Crowns event and the

Director explained what the event is. Councilman Getsy asked the Director about the overtime cost of all the events. The Director explained the costs of the parade and who participates in it. Councilman Getsy said it is important to know the costs of all the events. The Municipal Manager explained that the programming line in the Recreation budget accounted for all the events on the list. Deputy Mayor Sapp complimented the Recreation Director on the job he performs and the events.

Resident Heather Hoolahan, 6675 Poketa Road, addressed Council. The speaker spoke in favor of recreation events and said the events positively benefited Penn Hills.

Councilman Getsy proposed looking at the entire budget and how best to spend money. Councilman Getsy said the Municipality should look at all expenses. Deputy Mayor Sapp suggested the business community could possibly support the Memorial Day Parade. Mayor Calabrese said Penn Hills needs to have recreation due to its size. Mayor Calabrese said Penn Hills offers many activities and services other communities do not provide.

A vote was called. The motion to approve the Penn Hills Parks and Recreation Calendar of Events for 2020 was unanimously approved.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to approve **Tentative Agreement with Utility Workers of America, Local 602 for January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2022**. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pecora. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment. Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council.

Mayor Calabrese said she would vote no because she thought the Municipality could get a better contract with more cost savings. A vote was called. The motion failed unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to **Appoint Rebecca Fenoglietto to the Penn Hills Personnel Board** for a term beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2021. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pecora. Mayor Calabrese asked for public comment.

Resident Felix Catlin, Datura Drive, spoke in favor of the appointment. The speaker said that the nominee was well qualified.

Mayor Calabrese invited comments from Council. Councilman Getsy said he would like to nominate Rose Petrucci to the vacancy. Mayor Calabrese explained that the motion on the table was to appoint Rebecca Fenoglietto. Mayor Calabrese said she was appointing Rebecca Fenoglietto and could only do so with the consent of Council. Councilman Getsy asked if there were nominations for the vacancy after the vote. Mayor Calabrese said there was one appointment being made but there would be another vacancy. Councilman Getsy asked whether the appointment of another person could be made through a nomination. Mayor Calabrese said that the Mayor makes appointments with the approval of Council under the Charter. Mayor Calabrese said the motion before Council was whether to approve the Mayor's appointment. Councilman Getsy asked if the second vacancy would be appointed at the meeting and whether a

nomination could be made. Mayor Calabrese said the item under consideration was to appoint one member at the meeting.

Solicitor Craig Alexander said his recollection of the home rule charter was that appointments were the mayor's to make, subject to the approval and ratification of Council. The municipal manager said his recollection was the same as the solicitor's. Mayor Calabrese said that she would discuss any candidate that Councilman Getsy would like to discuss. Councilman Getsy asked if he could make a nomination to the vacancy. Councilman Getsy asked the appropriate time to nominate a candidate. The municipal manager read from charter those sections pertaining to the mayor's appointments. Mayor Calabrese said she would take any advice from Council on nominations.

Deputy Mayor Sapp invited Rebecca Fenoglietto to introduce herself to Council. Resident Felix Catlin addressed Council. The speaker said he was appointed to the Library Board in the past. The speaker said it was his understanding was that candidates were sent to mayor and council, selected by the mayor, with the consent of council. Deputy Mayor Sapp said that is how it was presented. Mayor Calabrese said she was proud to have Rebecca Fenoglietto as an appointee and said she was very professional.

A vote was called. The motion to appoint Rebecca Fenoglietto to the Penn Hills Personnel Board was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to appoint herself as the **delegate to the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments effective February 17, 2020**. Councilman Pecora made the motion. Deputy Mayor Sapp seconded the motion. Mayor Calabrese invited comments from the public. Mayor Calabrese invited comments from the public. A vote was called. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to **appoint Councilman John Petrucci as an alternate delegate to the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments**. Councilman Getsy made the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pecora. Mayor Calabrese invited comments from the public. Mayor Calabrese invited comments from the public. Mayor Calabrese said that she was proud to serve on the COG with Councilman Petrucci. A vote was called. The motion was approved unanimously.

The solicitor said that there is a remaining Personnel Board vacancy and that the mayor could consider any nomination that Council brings to her attention. Councilman Getsy asked when that nomination could be made. The solicitor said the mayor could discuss it at any time with council. Mayor Calabrese said she wanted a more professional process for appointments.

Mayor Calabrese invited any **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**. Councilman Getsy said he would like to talk about the Senior Center and the fire departments. The solicitor asked if Councilman Getsy was seeking action, or giving information. Mayor Calabrese said that Councilman Getsy's comments should come during the Mayor and Council Reports.

The Municipal Manager introduced an Amendment to Ordinance 2357 of 2001, providing for fines assessed due to excessive noises by animals. The manager explained that the existing ordinance required a dog to bark continuously for thirty minutes before the owner could be cited. The Municipal Manager said that the proposed amendment would allow an owner to be cited after fifteen minutes.

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

Deputy Mayor Sapp acknowledged a Local Government Academy training held at the Municipal Building the previous week. Deputy Mayor Sapp thanked the manager for helping with the event. Deputy Mayor Sapp thanked the officials that participated in the event. Deputy Mayor Sapp said that attendees of the training were very impressed with the Municipal Building. Mayor Calabrese

Councilman Getsy said there is a need to look at all lines in the budget due to the deficit. Councilman Getsy asked the Municipal Manager to address the issues. Councilman Getsy spoke about the fire department budget. Councilman Getsy said if the firemen are deleted from the budget they should know what their future is. Councilman Getsy said he did not know what the facts are. Councilman Getsy said the firemen should have an indication on what their future. The Municipal Manager said that the fire department had its budget increased in 2019, but a \$107,000 loan payment was removed in 2020. The Municipal Manager said he is working with the fire marshal on a grant for equipment and financing options. The Municipal Manager said the fire study would give an indication of capital needs, and a long term capital plan was needed. The Municipal Manager said the departments were not deleted from the budget. Councilman Getsy said the Municipality and fire departments should work out the issue.

Councilman Getsy said that the Senior Center was approached regarding a cut back in their hours, thereby making their hours part-time. Councilman Getsy said that it bothers him to cut funds and have employee's livelihoods impacted. The Municipal Manager said he was prepared to have a public discussion about it. The Municipal Manager said the adopted budget showed a certain staffing level. The Municipal Manager said that there has been an internal discussion about cost savings, and that discussion included the Director of the Senior Center and the county. Councilman Getsy said that it is common knowledge this cost saving measure was being discussed. Councilman Getsy said five employees should not bear the brunt of the cost savings.

Mayor Calabrese said that Council should be held to a time limit on their comments, as the public is. Mayor Calabrese said that she would like to keep public comment at the front of the agenda. She said she was very proud of the fact the Municipality hosted the Local Government Academy. She said that all Municipalities have challenges. Mayor Calabrese said she was misquoted in the Tribune Review and she was happy to work with Council. Mayor Calabrese said she would like to go back to two meetings a month. Mayor Calabrese said not all of Council agrees. The mayor said that there could be a second meeting regarding a public interest item. Mayor Calabrese said that she was open to suggestions from Council as far as appointees. Mayor Calabrese said that the appointments are very important and she wants to make sure we have the best candidates possible.



**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Calabrese called for a motion to adjourn. Deputy Mayor Sapp made the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Getsy. The mayor declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Andrejchak, Esq., Municipal Manager