

Oakmont Borough Council
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Minutes of the Regular Meeting
2011

(Final)

January 10,

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of Oakmont Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Favó in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 767 Fifth Street, Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All those who were present and able stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Donovan, Milberger, Ride, Saxon, Scott, Vagley and President Favó; Solicitor Shoop; Mayor Fescemyer; Chief DiSanti; Borough Manager Jamison and Assistant Borough Secretary Jensen

Visitors: George Coulter, George Guido, Paul Jenkins, Les Leasure, Jerry Monaco, Bill Peoples, Summer Tissue and Holly Usher

REGISTERED COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No one was registered to speak that evening.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No one present in the audience spoke at that time.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OBC Goals - President Favó said a copy of Borough Council's goals, drawn up at the beginning of 2010, had been given to all members for review and reflection. He instructed Council to email the Borough Manager if there were any items they felt should be moved forward.

President Favó said he would like to see more resurfacing work completed on the Boulevard, to begin upgrading Borough curbs using in-house labor and equipment, and to appoint a full Emergency Management team, including a Coordinator, in 2011.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Favó said he and the Borough Manager would begin meetings with Code Enforcement Officer Ed Crates on a bi-weekly basis in 2011.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Shoop had nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to read that evening.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

DROP Pension – Mr. Jamison said there would be a meeting to discuss the DROP Pension proposal on January 20. He explained that the DROP Pension would allow an employee to continue working while drawing on their pension. The employee no longer has to pay into the pension, but he or she must begin drawing their pension out. Mr. Jamison said Council was still looking at this proposal for the benefits and drawbacks.

ARB & Delaware Construction – Mr. Jamison reported that the concrete had been poured, but that contractor Pampena would have to wait for better weather to begin laying down the brick on the Boulevard. He had looked into placing a metal plate across the construction excavation so that normal traffic patterns could resume, but the cost of renting a metal plate was too high. For now, the site will remain *as is* until work can resume with better weather.

Energy Audit Clarification – Mr. Jamison said he had called the County to get clarification on the resolution Council was being asked to adopt with regard to the County's energy audit performed on the Municipal Building. Mr. Jamison said the resolution did not require the Borough to do anything. Allegheny County will advise us of what *could* be done to improve our energy efficiency and the approximate costs for doing it. "We can pick what we want to do," said Mr. Jamison.

One easy, inexpensive action the Borough can take in the near future is to change out existing light fixtures for more energy efficient ones, suggested Mr. Jamison.

MAYOR'S REPORT

10th Street Traffic Congestion – Mayor Fescemyer referred Council to the last pages of Chief DiSanti's December 2010 Police Report for their findings on the traffic situation around Tenth Street Elementary School. He said he and the Chief planned to meet with the School District about this, too.

Monthly Police Report - At Mayor Fescemyer's request, Police Chief DiSanti reviewed portions of his December 2010 Police Report for those present.

Monthly OVFD Report - Fire Chief Bill Peoples reported on the Fire Department's activities for December 2010.

Fire Alarms & Construction – Chief Peoples complained that the Fire Department was getting many false fire alarm calls because due to building construction. Contractors were inadvertently setting off alarms systems. Chief Peoples felt it was the Borough's responsibility to do something about this.

Ms. Vagley suggested to Ms. Saxon that she include something in the Borough's page of the Chamber of Commerce community newsletter about this. Ms. Saxon agreed to do this.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no Minutes to approve that evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Financial Committee

Warrants – Vice President Ride moved to approve the Warrant List for December 2010, dated January 10, 2011, showing the following expenditures:

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Amount</i>
General Fund	\$202,162.49
Boulevard Project Fund	\$5,511.62
Kerr Museum Fund	\$9,135.11
Library Fund	\$39,040.48
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$39,855.22
Sewer Fund	\$57,446.74
Sewer Deposit Fund	\$373.29
Capital Fund (Parks)	\$12,365.74
Capital Fund (Roads)	\$49,536.48
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ -0-
Operating Reserve Fund	\$ -0-

Mr. Milberger seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

2011 Non-Union Wages/Salaries – Vice President Ride offered a motion to approve all non-union employees' salaries for the Year 2011.

Mr. Donovan seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

Amend Manager's Employment Contract – Ms. Ride offered a motion to approve an amendment to the Borough Manager's employment contract with regard to a pay increase and a relocation allotment, approved in Executive Session.

Council Member Vagley seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

Bond Refinance – Vice President Ride recommended allowing Boenning & Scattergood to begin bond refinancing procedures, since doing so at the current interest rates would allow the Borough to recoup \$150,000. She reminded all that a resolution had been adopted last month authorizing the bond refinance if interest rates allowed the Borough to make \$125,000.

To complete the transaction, the Borough will still have to get their Standard & Poor's credit rating, which will probably take about two weeks, be good for 90 days, and cost approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000.

Council agreed to move ahead with the bond refinancing.

Conflict Resolution Seminar – Ms. Ride mentioned that she had received a flyer from the Local Government Academy announcing a half-day seminar next week for municipal legislators on conflict resolution. She said she

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thought this would be a good seminar for Council members to attend, and that she intended to attend the seminar, herself.

Public Safety Committee

10th Street Traffic 30-Day Trial – Council Member Scott motion to conduct a 30-day trial to improve traffic flow at the intersection of Tenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

President Favio said it might be a good idea to wait until the Mayor and Chief had talked to School District officials before initiating the trial.

Mr. Scott agreed, as did the rest of Council, and withdrew his motion.

Ms. Vagley noted that the Chief’s plan was recommending that all drop-offs on Pennsylvania Avenue be prohibited during the opening and closing of school. She felt it would be difficult to get parents to do this since it had always been permitted before. Chief DiSanti noted that there would be no place for them to turn. Ms. Vagley said she still did not feel this needed to be a part of the solution.

Planning and Economic Development Committee

Ms. Vagley had nothing to report that evening.

Public Works Committee

Ordinance No. O1-2011, Amending Sewer Use Ordinance to increase penalty fee – Mr. Milberger offered Ordinance No. O1-2011, and moved that it be placed on First Reading, an ordinance of the Borough of Oakmont, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing Chapter 157 of *The Code of the Borough of Oakmont*, known as “The Sewer Use Ordinance” of the Borough of Oakmont, approved the 14th day of January 1985, and as of record in Ordinance Book Volume 21, Page 176, of said Borough, so as to provide for an increase in the late payment penalty.

Ms. Vagley seconded the motion, explaining that the reason for the increase was to make a small adjustment for those who delay in settling their sewage bills.

Mr. Donovan	Yes	Ms. Saxon	Yes
President Favio	Yes	Mr. Scott	Yes
Mr. Milberger	Yes	Ms. Vagley	Yes
Vice President Ride	Yes		

Mr. Milberger read the ordinance in its entirety.

President Favio declared the ordinance passed on First Reading, noting that the Ordinance would be on the Regular Meeting Agenda in February for Second and Third Readings, and final passage.

Kacin Bond Release No. 2 – Council Member Milberger moved to approve a second partial release of the A. Richard Kacin, Inc. Completion Bond in the

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amount of \$763,510.00, per the January 3, 2011 recommendation of the Borough Engineer.

Ms. Vagley seconded the motion.

Borough Manager Jamison said these monies represented the completion of all road paving, installation of storm sewers, and some landscaping at the Edgewater development. He said Kacin would be applying for building permits shortly.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

Communication & Code Committee

Community Newsletter Postage – Ms. Saxon explained that the Chamber of Commerce had recently pursued 501(C)3 non-profit status, and as such, would now be able to do newsletter mailings at a much lower cost.

With this in mind, Ms. Saxon offered a motion to authorize the contribution of \$161.00 per month, from January 2011 through December 2011, to the Oakmont Community Foundation, to cover one-half the expense of postage for the Oakmont Chamber of Commerce's monthly community newsletter.

Mr. Milberger seconded the motion.

Ms. Vagley said she felt it was important to support this publication since it was a vehicle to disseminate Borough news to the community at no cost to the Borough excepting the voluntary contribution towards postage.

The motion passed 7 to 0.

Merchants Street Parking Committee – Council Member Saxon noted that Oakmont Deli owner Dan McCurdy had suggested last month that a committee be formed to include Business District merchants for the purpose of dealing with changing traffic patterns that will inevitably result from on-going construction projects along the Business District.

Ms. Saxon identified herself as the Borough Council representative on this committee, and said she would be calling the Chamber office soon to discuss setting up this committee further. President Favo thanked Ms. Saxon for her willingness to serve in this capacity. Mayor Fescemyer offered the Police Department's assistance, too, if needed, on this committee.

Community Newsletter Deadline – Ms. Saxon reported that the newsletter deadline was this Wednesday, and reminded Messrs. Donovan and Favo that she was waiting for information from them for her article. Both agreed to get this information to her quickly.

Legal, Zoning & Land Use Committee

Mr. Donovan had nothing to report that evening.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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False Fire Alarms – Fire Chief Bill Peoples said that many merchants’ contractors were also forgetting to dismantle their automatic alarms during renovation or construction projects. He asked that this, too, be included in the community newsletter.

“Plum-Oakmont Patch” – Holly Usher, editor of the online newsletter “The Plum-Oakmont Patch,” said she wanted Council to be aware of this new online news source and encouraged each of them to contact her with Borough news. Noting that the online address was Plum-oakmont@patch.com, Ms. Usher said the newsletter maintained “professional journalism” and was owned by AOL, who has been establishing these kinds of local online newsletters all over the country.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS – President Favo referred those present to the list of public meetings itemized in the Agenda, noting that dates were correct as of publication of the Agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Proposed Stop Sign @ 8th & Pennsylvania – Noting that Chief DiSanti’s comments on the Tenth Street traffic problems included a suggestion that a stop sign be erected at Eighth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, President Favo noted that this idea had not been discussed with Council yet.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct that evening, Mr. Milberger offered a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Scott seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

L. C. Jensen
Assistant Borough Secretary