

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
August 15, 2016
7:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jeremy Shaffer (via telephone), Daniel L. DeMarco, Grace Stanko, David J. Mikec, Lana Mazur, Stephen Korbel (via telephone) and Jack Betkowski

ABSENT: Patrick Mullin and Richard Avon

SOLICITOR: Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq. (via telephone)

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Douglas Sample

RECORDING SECRETARY: Deborah Ann Betzler

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND BOARD LIAISON: Dominic J. Rickert

Commissioner Mikec is acting chairman.

Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

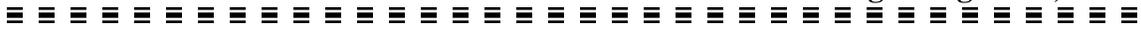
PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS - None

RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

Resolution No. 2210 – Approving the sewer planning module for the parcel of land identified as the Mannke Industries Plan North Hills Auto Mall Project (4511 Nelson Run Road).

Upon a request by Commissioner Mikec for an update on this, Mr. Rickert stated that this is the used car dealership on McKnight Road. He stated this is his sewer module, and he's also waiting on a Highway Occupancy Permit, and that's why there's been a delay. Commissioner Mikec asked if this is part of the process, and



Mr. Rickert stated it's the standard operating procedure for sewage. Mr. Sample also stated this is a requirement from DEP for the sewage.

Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Resolution No. 2211 – Vacant property acquisition and disposition known as L/B No. 430-P-60 (Huebner Drive) in accord with the Comprehensive Plan of the Municipality (Ward 3).

Motion to adopt made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Resolution No. 2212 – Suspending Enforcement and Collection of the Amusement Tax.

Commissioner Mikec asked if there was any public comment on this, and there was none.

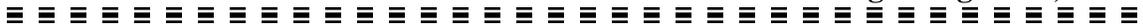
Commissioner Shaffer stated that he supports this motion. He stated that he would like to see this tax completely eliminated, but he feels that suspending it is the best step at this time. He stated he wants Ross Township to be business friendly and family friendly, and he thinks this tax goes against both of those goals.

Commissioner DeMarco stated he thinks there is a typo in Paragraph 3, that it should say "township," not "district." "The district retains the right to reinstitute said taxes after public notice."

Ms. Brimmeier responded as follows:

MS. BRIMMEIER: "Yes, Dan, that should say 'township.' I apologize for that."

Commissioner Korbel thanked the North Hills School Board for working with the commissioners in a collaborative manner to vote on



their part first to suspend this tax. He stated he also would like to have seen this tax eliminated, but he believes this is the best way to move forward. He stated he believes this tax was a hindrance to some people who may have looked at Ross Township as a location for their business, and he hopes the township will be able to attract more of these businesses in the future.

Commissioner Mikec stated that if the tax was removed altogether, it could never come back, limiting future boards. This way it will be gone, but it could be reenacted by joint maneuvering of the school district and the township.

Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner Stanko.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED - None

ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED - None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – August 1, 2016

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Stanko and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

**Motion passes – 6 to 0 with 1 abstention
Commissioner DeMarco abstaining**

PAYMENT OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.

**Motion passes – 6 to 0 with 1 abstention
Commissioner Mazur abstaining**



Dan Berty highlighted the financial reports, concluding that the revenues and expenditures are generally where they are expected to be at this point in the year.



PLANNING COMMISSION:

S-16-7 – Guy E. Buccigrossi requesting subdivision approval for a lot line revision on property located at 112 & 113 Congalton Road in an R-1 Zoning District of the 1st Ward.

Mr. Rickert read the Planning Commission recommendation as follows:

MR. RICKERT: "The Planning Commission, having reviewed this application, is of the opinion that it meets the terms as set forth in the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance and/or the Zoning Ordinance and hereby recommends approval of the above Subdivision application, with the condition that items be completed as required by the Ross Township Community Development Department."

Mr. Rickert stated that Parcel A is being created, and then Lot No. 2 is having one of the lot lines revised. He stated there is no future development for Parcel A at this time. Upon questioning by Commissioner DeMarco as to where the street is, Mr. Rickert stated it is on the right side of the sheet, and it dead ends right now where Parcel A will be.

Commissioner Mikec asked if the road is already there, and Mr. Rickert stated it is, that it's already dedicated. Mr. Rickert also stated that the right-of-way is 40 feet and they would have had to request an additional 10 feet. Mr. Rickert requested them to amend that, because all of the utilities are already within that 40-foot right-of-way.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.

Motion passes – 7 to 0





**PLANNING/ZONING REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT --
None**

SOLICITOR’S REPORT -- None

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Board motion for Eloise Peet to attend the Trail Design and Layout Workshop in Roanoke, West Virginia, at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Commissioner Mazur stated that last Friday was supposed to be Movies in the Park, Zootopia at Herge Park, and it was postponed due to the extreme heat and then the thunderstorm. So they are now scheduling Inside Out this coming Friday at Denny Park. She suggested everyone look at the website for any postponements.

Commissioner Mazur also stated that she put in front of the Board the legend of Indian Springs because there is a gentleman who will be working on an Eagle Scout project and will be looking to fix up Indian Springs. She will provide more information in two weeks.

Commissioner Mikec stated that about a year ago he met with a bunch of firemen who initially built the pavilion at Denny Park. He stated it is in bad repair, and they had offered to provide the labor if the township would provide the materials for the roofing. He questioned whether anything has moved on it. Eloise Peet stated the township has the master site plan now for Denny Park with moving the playground, which includes getting ADA access to and refurbishing the shelter. She stated that is a grant that she’ll write in the next DCNR grant cycle, which will be in January. She stated that \$3,000 was put into redoing the electrical panel at the pavilion last year. She also stated that the firemen need to understand that when the township accepts state grant money, the DCNR and the state are



the township’s partners, so something will have to be worked out with the firemen.

Commissioner Mikec also stated that there was a disruption in the pavement of the parking lot at Denny Park quite a few years ago, and he stated the last time he was down there it still hadn’t been fixed. Mike Funk confirmed that that is correct. Commissioner Mikec asked whether there are any plans of doing that, and Mr. Funk stated that the township can do that with the paving program this year, that there is extra to do that.

Commissioner Mazur also stated that the magazine should be at the door within the next two weeks.

ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Board Motion to approve the Five-Year Capital Improvement Fund.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Stanko and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

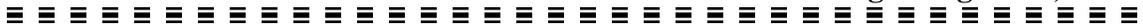
Motion to table made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Commissioner Mazur stated that this needs to be put in the next committee meeting with any changes so it doesn’t drag out. Commissioner Mikec stated that can be done.

Motions passes – 7 to 0

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mikec stated that Public Works completed the installation of a swing set replacement at Quail Park. He also stated that the paving around the new complex is complete, and four new Public Works employees have started work. Commissioner Mikec asked Mr. Funk if he can get a schedule of the county’s work on Bellevue Road. He stated they put the base course down and then just left it. Mr. Funk stated he called on Friday because he had a



resident complaining about it, and he is waiting for a call back. He stated he will call them again tomorrow. Commissioner Mikec also asked Mr. Funk to ask the county for notifications in a more timely manner. Mr. Funk stated he would.

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mazur thanked District Magistrate Rick Opiela and the Ross Police Department, Officer Michael Thomas, for a successful Crime Watch meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY/FIRE/FIRE POLICE/EMS COMMITTEE REPORT - None

MANAGER’S REPORT -- None

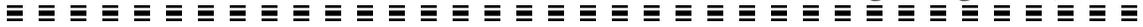
COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS:

Commissioner Korbelt reminded everybody that Friday, August 26, is Movie in the Park at Sangree Park, showing Back to the Future. It starts at dusk.

Commissioner Stanko reminded everyone that the Red Hot Cruise-In will be Sunday, August 21, from 12:00 to 4:00 at the Ross Towne Center. Commissioner Stanko also passed out a rough draft of what she and Eloise Peet are planning for the welcome party, and she invites any ideas or suggestions.

Commissioner Mikec thanked the Public Works and Recreation Departments for replacing the swing set in Quail Park. He stated he thinks the neighborhood parks really improve the quality of the neighborhoods, and he’s going to be pushing further with that amendment to the overall plan. He also stated there is a Movie in the Park at Seville Park on September 9.

Commissioner Mazur reminded everybody that the kids go back to North Hills School District starting on Monday, and they’ll be at the bus stops very early in the morning, so be very careful.



CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, stated that Resolution No. 2010 had no Ward number on it. He also discussed liability at Denny Park. He asked Mr. Sample when the Traffic Advisory Board meeting will be, and Mr. Sample responded that it will be September 13. Mr. Zawoysky also discussed stop signs, blocked intersections and asphalt work on Sixth Avenue.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:08 P.M.

**Douglas Sample
Manager/Secretary**

**By: _____
Jeremy Shaffer, President
Ross Township Board of
Commissioners**

Minutes transcribed by *Deborah Ann Betzler, Court Reporter*