

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
November 16, 2015
7:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Grant Montgomery, David J. Mikec,
Daniel L. DeMarco, Paul Trilli, Jeremy Shaffer, John Sponcer,
Stephen Korbelt, Grace Stanko and Lana Mazur

SOLICITOR: Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Douglas Sample

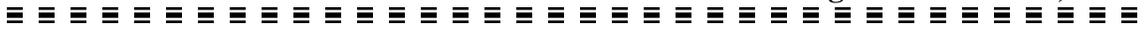
Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Joseph Zawoysky, 123 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, questioned whether the tax rate is going up or down. Commissioner Montgomery stated there is no increase. Mr. Zawoysky also asked about the sewer user fee, indicating that his last bill was up considerably. Mr. Sample stated there is no change from the township but it does reference the ALCOSAN increases. Mr. Zawoysky also questioned the justification for permit parking on Arbor Drive. Mr. Sample stated that the Traffic Advisory Board reviews each request on a case-by-case basis and works with the police department to make a recommendation to the Board.

Mark Priore, 102 Arbor Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, stated he thinks it's a really good move in the right direction to have the permit parking on Arbor Drive. He also thanked the Ross police and Commissioner DeMarco for communicating with the community and making sure that everyone knows what's going on.

PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS -- None



RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

Resolution No. 2090 – Requesting a grant in the amount of \$30,825 from the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development for the purpose of a Community Resource Improvement Project which will provide ADA-compliant access to Evergreen Community Park’s Community Facility.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Resolution No. 2191 – Authorizing the acquisition and subsequent disposition of a parcel of vacant property known as Lot and Block No. 516-A-3 (Main Boulevard in Ward 4) would be in accord with the Comprehensive Plan of the Municipality.

Commissioner Mazur stated that these are McCandless bingo lots and that you cannot build on them unless you buy a few of them.

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

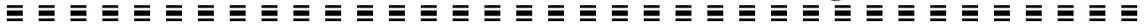
Motion passes unanimously

Resolution No. 2192 – To enter into an updated interim consent order and agreement with the Commonwealth of PA Department of Environmental Protection concerning alleged sanitary sewer overflows related to Ross’s sanitary sewer system and to authorize the proper officers of the municipality to execute an instant consent order and agreement as negotiated with the regulators.

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

Motion passes unanimously

ZONING ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED -- None



ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:

Ordinance No. 2360 – 2016 Appropriation Budget

Ordinance No. 2361 – Fixing the Tax Rate for 2016

Ordinance No. 2362 – Sewer User Fee 2016

Public hearing to be held on December 7, 2015.

ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED -- None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – October 19, 2015

Motion to approve the minutes of October 19, 2015, made by Commissioner Trilli and seconded by Commissioner Mikec.

**Motion passes 8 to 0
(Commissioner Mazur not present for vote)**

Payment of Bills and Financial Reports

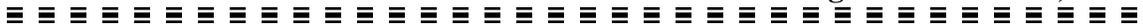
Motion to approve the Payment of Bills and Financial Reports made by Commissioner Trilli and seconded by Commissioner Mikec.

**Motion passes 8 to 0
(Commissioner Mazur not present for vote)**

PLANNING COMMISSION -- None

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

SOLICITOR’S REPORT -- None



ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board approval for Payment No. 2 from Jet Jack, Inc., in the amount of \$54,168.43 for repair work completed between September 1, 2015, and September 30, 2015, for the Ross Township 2015 Sewer Repair Contract B--Lining Repairs as required by the Consent Order.

Commissioner Stanko stated that this was approved by Gateway Engineering.

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

**Motion passes 8 to 0
(Commissioner Mazur not present for vote)**

Request Board approval for Payment No. 5 from Gurtner Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$577,975.50 for work completed on the new Public Works and Salt Storage Facility.

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

**Motion passes 8 to 0
(Commissioner Mazur not present for vote)**

Request Board motion to appoint Township Manager Douglas Sample and Finance Director Daniel Berty as Township Delegates to the A.N.T.C.C. Board.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Stanko and seconded by Commissioner Korbel

**Motion passes 8 to 0
(Commissioner Mazur not present for vote)**

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Request Board approval to reappoint Nelson H. Erb to the Planning Commission.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Stanko and seconded by all commissioners.

Motion passes unanimously

Request Board approval to reappoint Larry Naimark to the Planning Commission.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Request Board approval to reappoint Beth Schellhaas to the Zoning Hearing Board.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Request Board approval to reappoint George Tunney to the Vacancy Board.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Request Board approval to reappoint John Sponcer to the Fire Code Appeals Board.

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

Motion passes unanimously

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Request Board approval to reappoint William Linkenheimer to the Fire Code Appeals Board.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Request Board approval to reappoint William Grady to the Girty’s Run Joint Sewer Authority.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Request Board approval to appoint Dr. David Barkovich to the EMS Board, which is a five-year appointment.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Commissioner Mazur stated that there is going to be an opening for the Zoning Hearing Board and that Jason Pirring is the alternate.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mazur stated that December 5 and 6 is the Ross Township Community Craft Show from 9:00 to 4:00. She also stated that anyone wanting a phone call from the North Pole needs to fill out the form and that the calls will be made December 9, 10 and 11. Commissioner Mazur also stated that the annual kids’ Christmas party will be December 12 from 11:00 to 2:00, and there is still time to sign up. Santa Claus and the reindeer will be there. She also stated that if anyone has any corrections for the magazine, they should get them to Ms. Peet by tomorrow.



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mikec stated the salt dome is completed and they're currently preparing for winter on all the trucks, et cetera.

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board motion for the following recommendations made by the Traffic Advisory Board: 1) Request to install a stop sign at Laurelwood Drive at the intersection with Ennerdale Lane; 2) Request to install a stop sign at Oesterle Lane at the intersection with Mt. Troy Extension; 3) Request to install a stop sign at Russell Road at the intersection with Thompson Run Road; 4) Request to implement permit parking on Arbor Drive.

Motion for approval made by Commissioner Trilli and seconded by Commissioner Korbel.

Motion passes unanimously

Commissioner Trilli stated that there will be a roving DUI Task Force between Ross and West View on December 4, and he also stated there will be a Traffic Advisory Board meeting next Monday at 7:00.

PUBLIC SAFETY/FIRE/FIRE POLICE/EMS COMMITTEE REPORT:

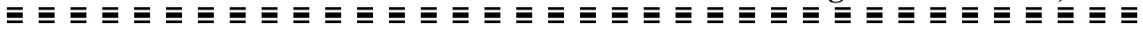
Commissioner Spincer reported progress.

MANAGER'S REPORT -- None

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Korbel wished everybody a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Shaffer stated the regular Walk/Bike Ross meetings for November and December will be combined into one meeting on Wednesday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m.



Commissioner Trilli stated that this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. he is meeting with residents interested in Denny Park.

Commissioner Stanko also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Mikec stated he had the pleasure of spending his weekend in meetings for the Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners, and they set their priority list for the legislature for 2016. Some things discussed were public safety, pension reform, binding arbitration reform, Act 111, tax exempt entities for nonprofits, infrastructure funding for water/sewer and water upgrade funding. He stated another thing that came up was seeking to make a change in the advertising requirements for the communities and to be able to do that on local websites, et cetera. He stated all those bills have made some progress through the legislature and they're trying to push those forward.

Commissioner Mikec also stated he met with a group tonight on clean air. There are concerns with clean air in Ross Township; and it comes down to source control, mainly of Neville Island Coke Works. They are having a meeting Thursday, November 19, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Presbyterian Church in Ben Avon. He stated he received a packet from them, and he's going to do research before he presents it to the Board. He stated Emsworth and Bellevue passed ordinances requiring Allegheny County to enforce their clean air laws that are already on the books. He said he will update this in the coming meetings.

Commissioner Mikec also asked Mr. Sample to copy and distribute to the Board a paper on what the Child Protection Services Law means to the Board. He received it from Charles Means, the solicitor of the Allegheny County and Western Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, questioned what percentage Ross Township gets for property title transfers. Commissioner Shaffer stated he believes it's a half

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percent. Mr. Zawoysky stated that Wendy's sold their \$1.7 million property to Wendy's for \$1 and questioned whether that is legitimate. Commissioner Montgomery stated it happens all the time, that parents can give property to their children for \$1.

Ms. Brimmeier stated as follows:

MS. BRIMMEIER: "The law provides, Joe, if I may, there are certain transfers that are exempt from the transfer tax, regardless of how much is paid for it. So you have those. And then you have certain transfers that are not exempt. And if they put it, for example, for a dollar and it is not an exempt transfer, they have to file paperwork that shows what the value of the property was and pay the transfer."

Mr. Zawoysky questioned whether the sidewalk ordinance was passed at the Ross Economic Development meeting a couple weeks ago. He also stated Bellevue has signs that no skateboards or bicycles are allowed on the sidewalks.

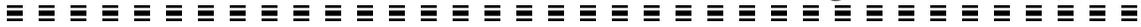
Mr. Zawoysky stated that the utilities did some work on Fifth Avenue and repaved it. He stated they did a great job.

Mr. Zawoysky also talked about the IRS telephone scam and a telephone call incident.

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

Motion passes unanimously

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:52 P.M.



Douglas Sample
Manager/Secretary

David J. Mikec, Vice President
Ross Township Board of
Commissioners

Minutes prepared by *Deborah Betzler, Court Reporter*