

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
August 1, 2016
7:35 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jeremy Shaffer, Patrick Mullin,
Grace Stanko, David J. Mikec, Lana Mazur, Stephen Korbel, Richard
Avon and Jack Betkowski

ABSENT: Daniel L. DeMarco

SOLICITOR: Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Douglas Sample

RECORDING SECRETARY: Noreen A. Re

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

Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

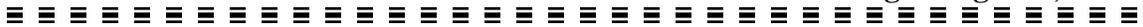
PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. David Williamson, 3212 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding the PRD issue. He stated “If you just got rid of the PRD issue, the township Zoning Ordinance is more than adequate to protect everything and anything you want.”

Irving Portnoy, Esq., 134 Berwyn Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, also spoke in support of the Board repealing Ordinance No. 2371 in regard to the PRD concept.

PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS - None

RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED - None



ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED - None

ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED:

Ordinance No. 2371 – Amending the Planning and Zoning Code of Codified Ordinances of Ross Township, Ordinance No. 2035, as amended, by repealing Part II – “Planned Residential Development.”

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

Commissioner Korbel stated he supports “allowing development to occur in the residential districts according to the Zoning Ordinance as well as commercial districts according to the Zoning Ordinance.” He also stated “The PRD gives the developers too much leeway as to how they want to proceed in a way that can be damaging to folks that are living here already.”

Motion passes – 8 to 0

Ordinance No. 2372 – Amending the Ross Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Ordinance No. 1166, as amended, by repealing references to “Planned Residential Development.”

Motion to enact made by Commissioner Korbel and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

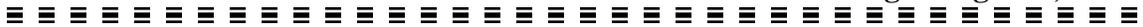
Motion passes – 8 to 0

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – July 5, 2016

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

Motion passes – 8 to 0



PAYMENT OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

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

Motion passes – 8 to 0

PLANNING COMMISSION - None

PLANNING/ZONING REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT - None

SOLICITOR’S REPORT - None

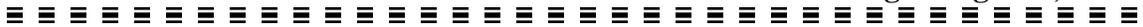
RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mazur congratulated Ms. Peet and the Recreation Department and all the counselors for a successful summer rec program. The summer movie program had approximately 85 present for the Good Dinosaur, approximately 200 for Inside Out and approximately 85 for Frozen. The next movie will be Zootopia at Herge Park on August 12th.

ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - None

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mikec stated Public Works hosted the American Public Works Association of Western Pennsylvania District at the Public Works facility last week. He stated Ross Township was asked to host next year’s conference. Commissioner Mikec stated it would be “a fantastic opportunity” to showcase the new facility. There would be no cost to the township. The conference would be the first Thursday in June 2017. Mr. Funk indicated at the conference there would be equipment demonstrations, which would be very beneficial to Public Works.



PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Motion to grant a travel request for Detective Brian Kohlhepp and Sergeant Randy McAllister to attend the 17th Annual Cold Case Homicide Investigations Conference in Annapolis, Maryland, August 15th to the 18th, with cost not to exceed \$850 made by Commissioner Avon and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

This amount has been budgeted.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

Motion to grant a travel request for Sergeant William Barrett to attend the American Polygraph Association seminar and workshop in Baltimore, Maryland, August 28th to September 2nd, with the cost not to exceed \$1,500 made by Commissioner Avon and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

This amount has been budgeted.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

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

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Mr. Sample stated in the packet was a memo from the finance director detailing the 2017 budget timetable, which they are in the process of preparing. The budget will be presented to the Board at the November 7th meeting. Mr. Sample proudly announced Ross Township is now Platinum Certified in the Pennsylvania Sustainable Communities. Ross Township is only one of four communities in the entire state that have achieved this certification. In the western half of the state it is Cranberry and Ross Township that have that honor. Mr. Sample thanked Ms. Katie Sabol, the new sustainability coordinator, for her efforts in attaining this certification for the township.



COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Mazur stated there will be a Crime Watch meeting on Thursday at the Municipal Center. District Judge Rick Opiela will be speaking on the duties of his district court and his role in criminal justice and civil litigation. The Policy Committee will be having a meeting on Monday at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center.

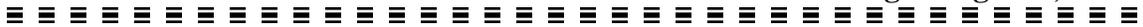
Commissioner Stanko stated there would be a car cruise on Sunday, August 21st, in the Panera shopping center.

Commissioner Korbek thanked Ms. Peet and the Recreation Department for their efforts in the summer program, which his daughters have attended for the past three years and loved it. He also thanked Mr. Sample and Ms. Sabol for their efforts in getting the township Platinum Certified. Commissioner Korbek also thanked everyone who came out to Sangree Park for the Movie in the Park. He also thanked the Sugar and Spice ice cream truck for coming out. Sugar and Spice has agreed to come back on August 26th for the movie Back to the Future in Sangree Park. The Steel City Time Machine will be at the park, which is a DeLorean like the one in the movie that participants can sit in and have their picture taken.

Commissioner Korbek also congratulated Deputy District Attorney David Spurgeon, who was sworn in today as the newest member of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. He commented that he will be a great addition to the bench.

Commissioner Mullin thanked Ms. Peet, Commissioner Mazur and the Recreation Department for their efforts in Denny Park.

Commissioner Mikec inquired when some signs would be erected as a result of a traffic study that was done. Mr. Funk stated he would have them erected immediately once he received the signs. Commissioner Mikec also inquired about the group home situation on Bascom Avenue. Mr. Sample stated he reached out to the group home, and they apologized and are monitoring the situation. He hasn't received any further complaints, and he hoped the problem has resolved itself.



Commissioner Shaffer stated McCandless was looking at some sort of nuisance ordinance for a group home they were looking at. He indicated that may be something Ross Township should look into to see what McCandless does. He also stated he was pleased the PRD ordinance was eliminated. Regarding Cemetery Lane, he stated Walk-Bike Ross is very interested in sponsoring a trail and helping volunteers put the trail in on property owned by Ross Township following the completion of the Public Works complex.

Commissioner Shaffer also commented that he is a fan of zero-based budgeting. He stated another way is to start with a blank piece of paper and say what are the priorities and needs of the township. Commissioner Mazur stated fixed spending is the majority of the budget. Mr. Sample stated of the \$18 million budget, there is basically \$2.5 million to play with, which includes paving. Mr. Sample indicated that is not a lot of money, since 90 percent of the work force is union. Mr. Sample stated Commissioner Shaffer could meet with him and finance director, and they could explain where there is flexibility and where fees are fixed.

Commissioner Shaffer stated he would also like to see what the reserve is and possibly using it in a wave to get things up to a certain level. Commissioner Shaffer also commented that he was excited to see the progress at The Block at Northway. Nordstrom Rack will be opening at the end of the month on August 26th.

Commissioner Mazur commented that she wanted the sidewalk ordinance placed into committee so the matter can move forward. Commissioner Shaffer stated he would schedule a meeting with the committee. Commissioner Mazur also commented on the chicken matter that went to Magistrate Opiela. Mr. Rickert indicated the chicken owner was in compliance, and the complaint was withdrawn. She requested if anyone has any comments for the draft ordinance to please forward them to Mr. Rickert.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding signing in at the meeting. He also inquired if the township received any Act 47 funding. Mr. Sample

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stated Act 47 was for distressed communities. He also referenced permit parking, stop signs, a road issue with Sixth Avenue and a letter he sent to certain politicians regarding the Public Works building. He mentioned he thought the old Public Works building was being taken down. Commissioner Mikec corrected him and told him the building was going to be used for storage. The salt dome was demolished.

Mr. Rupert Green Northcote, 148 Mayer Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding the chicken issue. He inquired how he would go about providing information to the Board regarding the matter. Ms. Brimmeier responded as follows:

MS. BRIMMEIER: “If I could make a suggestion. I think the appropriate vehicle would be my suggestion is if you have information that you would like the Board to consider, I would suggest contacting Nick and go over it with him; and he can be the liaison with the Board. That should be good for you guys.”

Commissioner Mazur stated she would be going to view some of the places that have chickens. She advised Mr. Northcote to provide whatever information he would like to the manager, and the committee would review it and discuss it. Commissioner Mikec suggested restrictions involved with lot size.

Commissioner Korbel suggested visiting one or two locations with chickens. He also stated one of the communities he represents invited subject matter experts to come in and speak. Commissioner Betkowski was also in favor of gathering more information and hearing from subject matter experts. He also questioned the need for a specific ordinance regarding chickens. Commissioner Shaffer concurred and indicated he has scheduled some time to go and look at some locations with chicken coops.

Commissioner Mikec said the matter needs fine-tuned so that all members of Ross Township can have chickens, if they want to.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Korbel and seconded by Commissioner Mullin.



Motion passes – 8 to 0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:25 P.M.

Douglas Sample
Manager/Secretary

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

Minutes transcribed by *Noreen A. Re, Court Reporter*