

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
May 4, 2015
7:38 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Stephen Korbel

SOLICITOR: Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Douglas Sample

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Dominic Rickert

Commissioner Mikec is acting chairman in the physical absence of Commissioner Montgomery.

Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding Ordinance No. 2556 and a question he had about permit parking.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE: Eagle Scout Andrew McKenna Cook

Commissioner Mikec presented a plaque to Andrew McKenna Cook for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout from Troop 181. Andrew stated his project involved renovating a courtyard at North Hills Middle School for the teachers and faculty to use. He directed approximately 30 high school students in the renovation. They power washed some of the benches and re-stained everything. They weeded the planting beds and then mulched everything and planted

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some shrubs. Their work was followed by a pizza party. Donations were received from some local landscaping companies.

PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS - None

OPENING OF BIDS:

2015 Parks and Ball Field Lawn Maintenance

The following bids were opened and announced:

Steel City – Bid bond attached
Fertilization and weed control - \$5,500
Aeration - \$5,000
Lime application - \$1,600
Herb Field - \$1,300

Lawn Sense – Bid bond attached
Fertilization and weed control - \$7,600
Aeration - \$9,640
Lime application - \$2,790
Herb Field - \$1,199

Bids will be tabulated and voted on at the next meeting.

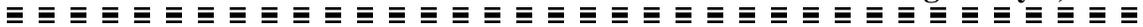
Sale of Used Vehicles

The following bids were opened and announced:

Ryan Schmidt – Certified check attached
Cobalt Car No. 38 - \$3,405.01

Grace Quality Used Cars – Cashier’s check attached

Crown Victoria Car No. 7 - \$2,555
Crown Victoria Car No. 4 - \$2,756
2011 Crown Victoria - \$2,956



Asia Motors – Certified check attached
Cobalt Car No. 38 - \$3,598
Cobalt Car No. 39 - \$3,598
Cobalt Car No. 101 - \$3,398
Crown Victoria Car No. 7 – Minimum bid not met
Crown Victoria Car No. 4 - \$2,398
2011 Crown Victoria - \$2,898

Yousef Dabbagh – Bid rejected due to inappropriate check

Erick Sokol – Cashier’s check attached
Cobalt Car No. 38 - \$3,883
Cobalt Car No. 39 - \$3,885
Cobalt Car No. 101 - \$3,836

Mazur’s Collision Center – Money order attached
Cobalt Car No. 38 - \$3,200
Cobalt Car No. 39 - \$3,200

Mark Guardino – Cashier’s check
Cobalt Car No. 38 - \$3,212
Cobalt Car No. 39 - \$3,024
Cobalt Car No. 101 - \$3,133

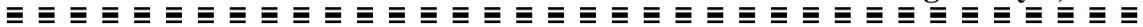
Bids will be tabulated and voted on at the next meeting.

Washing of Township Vehicles

Williams Sutherland – Bid rejected – Not submitted on proper form

Northway Car Wash – Flat fee - \$8,050 – 23 vehicles – unlimited washing

Bids will be tabulated and voted on at the next meeting.



RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

Resolution No. 2171 – 2013 & 2014 Tax Refunds – Various - \$3,727.14

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

Motion passes – 8 to 0

Resolution No. 2172 – First amendment to Resolution No. 2160, the Salary Resolution, to include the position of Director of Community Development at a salary of \$57,000 annually and the position of Chief Inspector and Building Code Official at a salary up to \$65,000.

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

No public comments for or against

Motion passes – 8 to 0

ZONING ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:

Ordinance No. 2354 – Amending the Ross Township Code of Ordinances at Chapter 27, Part 11, Planned Residential Development, Section 1106.03 and Section 1106.4.

Mr. Sample indicated this will go to the county for their review. The public hearing will be held on June 1st, and it will be adopted at the June 15th meeting. Ms. Brimmeier commented as follows:

MS. BRIMMEIER: “For the record, this would be now officially a pending ordinance.”

Ordinance No. 2355 – Amending Ross Zoning Ordinance, establishing definitions for solar photovoltaic systems, incorporating new sections to permit certain solar photovoltaic systems as accessory uses in any zoning district and by adding



provisions for the permitting of certain solar photovoltaic systems.

Mr. Sample stated this is for the grant project to add solar energy to the township facility. The public hearing will be held on June 1st, and it will be adopted at the June 15th meeting.

Upon inquiry by Commissioner DeMarco regarding the size of panels someone might want to install, Mr. Rickert indicated it would be restricted by the accessory use structures and by the ordinance. Discussion ensued regarding size.

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:

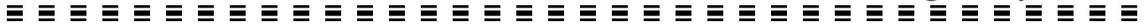
Ordinance No. 2356 – Establishing parking within the Township and setting forth the rules and regulations therefore.

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Mikec if this would set up general guidelines, Ms. Brimmeier responded as follows:

MS. BRIMMEIER: "Yes. What you've been doing in the past is if somebody would raise an issue, you've been doing it street by street. And the chief and I discussed that we thought it would be better to have a uniform policy throughout the township. And then if you have to tweak it a little bit for a particular street, you can. But this would set forth the uniform guidelines for the areas that you designate you want permit parking."

Regarding neighborhood input, Ms. Brimmeier commented as follows:

MS. BRIMMEIER: "I think it would be something if it was introduced by one of the commissioners or if you had a petition come in from the residents on a street and you would send it to your Traffic Advisory Board and let them come and give their two cents and make a recommendation to you whether it makes sense or not."



ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED:

Ordinance No. 2353 – Providing for an Amnesty Program for the payment of Delinquent Business Privilege Tax and Delinquent Mercantile Tax, pursuant to Act 511, as set forth herein.

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

Motion passes – 8 to 0

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – April 6 and 20, 2015

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

Motion passes – 8 to 0

Payment of Bills and Financial Reports

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

Motion passes – 8 to 0

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Mr. Rickert stated the Cardiff plan would be coming before the Board on May 20th.

PLANNING/ZONING REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board approval to send out TID Partnership District letter.

Mr. Rickert indicated he has received no comments on the letter, so he assumes it is okay as written. Mr. Rickert indicated a meeting needs to be scheduled.



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

Motion passes – 8 to 0

Motion to approve the job description for the Building Code Official/Chief Inspector and the job description for the Director of Community Development made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Sponcer.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

Motion to appoint Dominic Rickert to the position of Director of Community Development made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner Shaffer.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

SOLICITOR’S REPORT - None

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT - None

ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

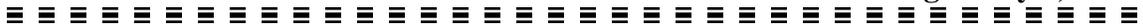
Request Board motion to have DISC Training on May 11, 2015.

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

Motion passes – 8 to 0

Request Board motion to ratify contract with Code Sys to perform Building Inspection duties.

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



Mr. Sample indicated this is for a four-month term with a 30-day out. Code Sys will be performing residential and commercial inspections for the township until a full-time inspector is appointed.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

Request Board permission for Finance Director, Dawn Lane, to attend GFOA Conference in Philadelphia, PA, May 30th to June 3, 2015, as a representative of the GFOA-PA Board. Estimated cost not to exceed \$500.00.

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

Motion passes – 8 to 0

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:

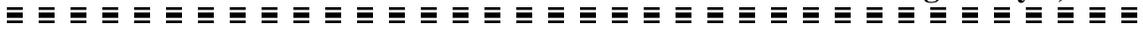
Commissioner Mikec requested Mr. Funk to have Gateway come out and look at the situation where the car went through the guiderail into a swimming pool. Mr. Funk indicated he was in touch with Gateway regarding the situation. Commissioner Mikec also indicated the committee for the construction of the new Public Works building would consist of himself, Commissioner Sponcer and Commissioner DeMarco as well as input from Mr. Funk and Mr. Sample. He also stated that Rick from Gateway volunteered his services.

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board motion to direct the Civil Service Commission to prepare a new hiring list.

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

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Shaffer regarding staffing, Chief Bellan stated by this motion the Board of Commissioners is directing Civil Service to begin the process to create an eligibility list so when it comes time to hire, there will be a list of candidates to hire from. The



staffing has been 43 officers. There is one officer retiring in August and another officer set to retire next year.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

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

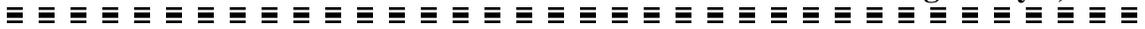
Commissioner Sponcer indicated background checks are continuing. He indicated the state is now trying to change the law so that there will be no charge to the volunteers or anyone that has to have these checks done. There are still two checks that need done through the FBI.

Commissioner Mikec commented that he saw something in the news that indicated any volunteer fireman could jump in a fire truck and drive it. Commissioner Sponcer stated in his 41 years of involvement he had never seen that happen. Commissioner Sponcer indicated there is training involved to be a volunteer fireman. He stated having to hire firemen would be a significant hit to municipal budgets.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Regarding the vacant property program, Mr. Sample indicated the county has approved the township notifying adjacent property owners. He stated on May 20th he would present the backlog of applications that have been submitted to the township for review and approval. Mr. Sample also stated he would send out the notifications to the adjacent property owners. Commissioner Shaffer indicated he would look at the list to see if there were potential properties the township would be interested in that are adjacent to parks or in some of the greenway corridors.

Mr. Rickert commented that if property is to be divided between two property owners that they will have to subdivide the vacant property and then consolidate it into their lots simultaneously. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Mikec, Mr. Sample stated they have to be physically touching the property that is to be acquired.



Motion to advertise for the position of Building Code Official/Chief Inspector made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

Mr. Sample stated a committee needed appointed to review the applications. Commissioners Mazur, Sponcer and Stanko as well as Mr. Sample and Mr. Rickert will comprise the committee.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

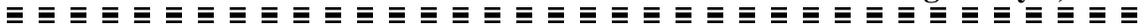
Commissioner Trilli commended the efforts of the volunteer firemen.

Commissioner DeMarco confirmed with the Board that the Northland Library representative will appear before the Board on June 15th at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner DeMarco also commented that people working at the library will also need to do background checks. He also commended the efforts of the Public Works Department regarding pothole patching. Regarding paving, Mr. Funk indicated Shields Paving was scheduled to begin paving at the end of the month.

Commissioner Stanko also commended the efforts of the volunteer firemen.

Commissioner Mazur stated this coming Saturday the Police Department will be holding a Bike Rodeo at St. Sebastian Church's upper parking lot at 10:00 a.m. She also stated each commissioner was provided with a form regarding the 4th of July/Community Day festivities. The Ross magazine should be out by the end of the month. Commissioner Mazur also stated the event held last Saturday regarding Clean-Up day was well-organized. She commended Natalie for her efforts in doing her job. The Fishing Tournament is progressing. You can go online to sign up for the Fishing Tournament as well as other township activities.

Commissioner Shaffer encouraged all the commissioners to either volunteer or participate in the Ross Township 5K/One Mile Run



to be held on Sunday morning, August 16th, at Ross Park Mall. Sponsorships can be purchased for either \$50 or \$100. There is a link on the website to register. Regarding the selling of township vehicles, he inquired as to whether advertising on eBay could be an option for obtaining a higher price. Regarding the tax refunds, Commissioner Shaffer questioned the appeals of some commercial properties and whether the township sent a solicitor to represent the township in some of the hearings. Ms. Brimmeier responded as follows:

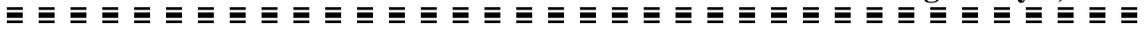
MS. BRIMMEIER: "No. The policy the township has adopted -- and it's potentially on my recommendation. When I feel comfortable that the school district's solicitor -- I don't normally advise that you spend your money, because they have more at stake. Now, I have had communities in the past where I didn't have that comfort level and I recommended that we participate. But we'll certainly do whatever you would like.

"If you would like us to start participating, we can do that or on certain ones. We did it as a cost saving measure for the township to not have a duplicate service."

Regarding the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, Commissioner Shaffer indicated there are some commercial corridors people really want sidewalks in such as Perry Highway and McKnight Road. For more of the running, walking and biking areas, the corridors tend to be along the stream valleys such as Girty's Run, Babcock Boulevard, Evergreen Road and Lowries Run. He indicated he would like to look at the vacant properties that would support these areas.

Commissioner Montgomery thanked Commissioner Mazur for all her efforts on the Recreation Committee. He also reiterated his challenge to Commissioner Korb for the 5K event in August. He also reminded the Board it was not too late to register for the Allegheny County Western Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners annual dinner meeting that will be held on May 14th.





CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding background checks, suggestions for changes on the format of the agenda, an asphalt truck the county was purchasing, the firing of Mr. Hankins and who is responsible for damage to a car from a ball coming from a baseball field.

Mr. Frank Kodrich, 109 1st Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding the deterioration of the road on 1st Avenue. He indicated Thompson Drive and Thompson Drive Extension are the same way. He discussed public safety regarding these roads.

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

Motion passes – 8 to 0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:40 P.M.

**Douglas Sample
Manager/Secretary**

**By: _____
Grant Montgomery, President
Ross Township Board of
Commissioners**

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