

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
January 5, 2015
7:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Junior Councilperson Jake Stanton

SOLICITOR: Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Douglas Sample

Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS - None

RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

Resolution No. 2159 – Fee Resolution

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

**Motion passes – 8 to 0 to 1
Commissioner Mazur abstaining**

Resolution No. 2160 – 2015 Administrative Salary Resolution

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

Motion passes unanimously

Resolution No. 2161 – Temporary banner placement across from 950 Perry Highway (Route 19) which message reads: “Glen Montessori School 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner – Sunday, March 1, 2015 – 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.”

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

Motion passes unanimously

Resolution No. 2162 – Temporary banner placement at the intersection of Route 19 and Three Degree Road which message reads: “St. Teresa of Avila School Open House and Open Registration Period – Sunday, January 25, 2015”

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

Motion passes unanimously

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED - None

ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED:

Ordinance No. 2345 – Repealing Ordinance No. 1854 which established a handicapped parking space at 711 Ravenswood Avenue

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

Motion passes unanimously

Ordinance No. 2348 – Sewer Use Fee

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

Commissioner Shaffer indicated he would vote no due to the fact that he felt that his ward was subsidizing other wards. Commissioner Montgomery stated that was true for everyone across the board.

**Motion passes – 8 to 1
Commissioner Shaffer voting in the negative**

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – November 17, 2014, and December 1, 2014

**Motion to approve made by Commissioner DeMarco and
seconded by Commissioner Mikec.**

**Motion passes – 8 to 0 to 1
Commissioner Sponcer abstaining with regard to
December 1, 2014**

Payment of Bills and Financial Reports

**Motion to approve made by Commissioner DeMarco and
seconded by Commissioner Mikec.**

**Motion passes – 7 to 0 to 2
Commissioners Mazur and Sponcer abstaining**

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Mikec that even if you weren't at the meeting you can vote to approve the minutes, Ms. Brimmeier responded as follows:

MS. BRIMMEIER: "That is correct. You are permitted to vote if you feel comfortable that you talked them over or you feel comfortable with what is represented in the minutes is your understanding of what happened. You don't have to abstain, but you may abstain."

PLANNING COMMISSION - None

PLANNING/ZONING REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Motion to direct the manager to advertise vacancies on the Zoning Hearing Board made by Commissioner Korbelt and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.

Motion passes unanimously

Commissioner Korbelt mentioned later this month that he and Commissioner Mazur and Commissioner Trilli will be meeting with Mr. Rickert to discuss some suggested revisions to the Zoning Ordinance that he has come across. They will report at one of the committee meetings in the next month or so to the Board.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - None

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mazur reported that the Evergreen Park and the Herge Park plans will be reviewed at the next meeting. She also reported that the arrival of Santa to the Community Center with the reindeer was a huge success. She thanked everyone that was involved.

ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board motion to hire three (3) Public Works laborers.

Motion to approve the hiring of Michael Boylan, John Connors and Andrew Fodor, based on successful completion of the background check, drug test and physical, made by Commissioner Stanko and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Motion passes unanimously

Request Board approval for Pay Application Request No. 5 and Final from State Pipe Services, Inc., in the amount of \$80,229.86 for repair work completed between October 4 and October 23, 2014, for the Ross Township 2014 Sewer Repair Contract A -Excavation Repairs as required by the Consent Order.

Commissioner Stanko stated this has been approved by Gateway Engineers.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Request Board approval for Pay Application Request No. 5 and Final dated December 8, 2014, from Shields Asphalt Paving, Inc., in the amount of \$57,482.84 for paving and road work completed between September 4, 2014, and December 4, 2014, for the 2014 Road Program.

Commissioner Stanko stated this has been approved by Gateway Engineers.

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

Motion passes unanimously

Motion to accept the township insurer's settlement in Civil Action No. 14-633 in the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Motion passes unanimously

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mikec thanked the applicants for the Public Works positions.

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Trilli stated the Traffic Advisory Board will be meeting next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center.

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

Commissioner Sponcer stated the chiefs will be meeting on January 21st.

MANAGER'S REPORT - None

JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON REPORT - None

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Trilli commended Public Works for their efforts on Saturday morning.

Commissioner DeMarco commented that it was impressive that the event at the Community Center with Santa was booked.

Commissioner Stanko thanked everyone involved with the lunch with Santa.

Commissioner Mikec stated there was a meeting held with several members of the North Hills School Board on December 4th. In attendance were Commissioners Mikec, Korbelt and Sponcer. Commissioner Mikec indicated they had somewhat of a contract until January 16th for the entity that's interested in the Seville property to make their assessment and decision and that then the school board would have to do the same. He indicated it was not "a done deal." He stated they discussed the matter and alternatives.

Commissioner Mazur wished everyone a Happy New Year. She stated she was "looking forward to a great year with wonderful people to make us move forward."

Commissioner Korbelt reiterated Commissioner Trilli's comments regarding Public Works' pretreatment of the roads on Saturday. He stated he has a neighbor who is a policeman in Hampton who complimented Ross Township's approach. He also commented that he was pleased with the results of the meeting with the representatives from the school board. The school board is basically weighing their options as Pressley Ridge does its due diligence on the elementary school. The district is bound by its contract until January 16th. The school board is not able to entertain any other options with the property until then. Commissioner Korbelt indicated

they are amenable perhaps to exploring other alternatives for the property once that date expires. He indicated they are willing to keep communication open with the Board “into what they intend to do with that property considering the zoning issues that Commissioner Mikec brought up, etcetera.” Commissioner Korbelt stated Mr. Wielgus has stated he would keep Commissioner Korbelt and the Board informed on the matter.

Commissioner Shaffer indicated he had about 12 people express interest in the bike and pedestrian committee following an article appearing in the McKnight Journal. He stated he would provide a list at the next meeting of everyone that has applied. The Evergreen Park Plan is moving forward. Phase 1 will include an access road, additional parking and an ability to get access back further behind the pavilion and also trail improvements. Commissioner Shaffer also mentioned in the magazine there was reference to creating a fundraiser of people who want to donate to buy pavers to help create a new walkway from the existing parking lot back by the garage to the pavilion that would help fund new playground equipment. A meeting was scheduled for Sunday, the 11th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Community Center to update the public regarding what’s going on with the parks.

Commissioner Montgomery also stated he was excited for 2015 and was looking forward to the new year.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS:

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding bicycles on McKnight Road and how old someone would have to be to ride on the road. Commissioner Shaffer stated they would be under their parents’ supervision.

Mr. Zawoysky also discussed the township website, his inquiries regarding Commissioner Montgomery’s military service, meeting minutes, Right-To-Know requests he has submitted, hospitalization, speed bumps, the fact Mr. O’Brien filed a lawsuit, the use of the manager’s vehicle and paper he saw in the recycle bin.

Mr. Bill Grady, 276 Kinvara Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board and praised the Police Department, the Fire Department and EMS.

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

Motion passes unanimously

**MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:56 P.M.
NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN**

**Douglas Sample
Manager/Secretary**

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

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