

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
May 5, 2014
7:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Grant Montgomery, David J. Mikec and Junior Commissioner Stanley Marciniak, III

SOLICITOR: Bonnie Brimmeier, Esq.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Douglas Sample

Motion to appoint Commissioner DeMarco to chair the meeting made by Commissioner Shaffer and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Motion passes - 7 to 0

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS:

David Martin – Re: Business Privilege Tax

Mr. David E. Martin addressed the Board regarding the Business Privilege Tax. He indicated he is a member of Ross Economic Development, whose mission is to develop relationships with the business community so that it helps Ross Township. He indicated he had no idea there was a privilege tax or a mercantile tax. He discussed his business dealings in the township and the fact he was sued for nonpayment of taxes.

OPENING OF BIDS:

2014 Ross Township Parks and Ball Field Lawn Maintenance

Mr. Sample opened the bids as follows:

AarMark Land Management – cashier’s check included

Fertilization - \$5,509.25

Aeration and overseed - \$13,540

Lime application - \$7,952.50

Herb Field fertilization - \$1,500

Steel City – bid bond attached

Fertilization - \$5,550

Aeration and overseed - \$5,098

Lime application - \$1,600

Herb Field fertilization - \$1,500

Pittsburgh Lawn Care – cashier’s check included

Aeration and overseed - \$4,400

Lime application - \$1,300

TruGreen – bid bond attached

Fertilization - \$5,900

Aeration and overseed - \$6,200

Lime application - \$2,600

Herb Field fertilization - \$920

Lawn Sense – check enclosed

Fertilization - \$8,316

Aeration and overseed - \$10,715

Lime application - \$3,033

Herb Field fertilization - \$1,199

Motion to table for review made by Commissioner Spincer and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Washing of Township Vehicles

Mr. Sample opened one bid as follows:

Northway Car Wash - \$345 per vehicle per year – annual total of \$7,935

Motion to award the bid to Northway Car Wash made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner Korbel.

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Shaffer as to how the cost compares to last year, Mr. Sample stated he believed it was the same and that he would provide a report to Commissioner Shaffer.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE:

Eagle Scout Austin Wayne Reese

Commissioner Korbel presented a plaque to Austin Wayne Reese for attaining the highest rank in Scouting of Eagle Scout. Austin stated his project was the reconstruction of the planting bed at the Berkeley Hills Volunteer Fire Company. Austin described his project, which included mulching, painting the railroad ties and putting in new plants.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

Resolution No. 2134 – Temporary banner placements across Perry Highway and Good Lane and on McKnight Road at Siebert Road, which message reads: Ross Township Independence Day Celebration – July 6, 2014

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

Motion passes – 7 to 0

In response to a question brought up at the previous meeting regarding the banner placement for St. Sebastian's festival,

Mr. Sample indicated the township would have a banner placed for Independence Day from Siebert to McKnight and that St. Sebastian would place their banner from the Starbucks to the Post Office.

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED - None

ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED - None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to approve the minutes of April 7, 2014, made by Commissioner Sponcer and seconded by Commissioner Korbel.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Motion for the Payment of Bills and Financial Reports made by Commissioner Trilli and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Commissioner Stanko stated she would abstain from payment of the bill for Check No. 2309 due to a conflict of interest.

Motion passes – 6 to 0 with 1 abstention

PLANNING COMMISSION - None

PLANNING/ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT - None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - None

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Implementation of Bellevue Pool Rates.

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

Motion passes – 7 to 0

ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Request Board motion to award First National Bank, lowest bidder, the 2014 financing for municipal vehicles.

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

Motion passes – 7 to 0

Motion to authorize the chair to execute an engagement letter with Thomas P. McGinnis of Thomas, Thomas & Hafer, LLP, to serve as special litigation counsel to the township made by Commissioner Korbel and seconded by Commissioner Trilli.

Motion passes – 7 to 0

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:

There was no report given. Commissioner Trilli commended Mr. Funk and Public Works for taking care of a problem on Bascom and York Drive.

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Trilli stated a revised proposal for the Traffic Advisory Board was provided in the packets. He indicated if anyone had any comments to please contact him. He stated he would like to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

Commissioner DeMarco reminded everyone that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21st.

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

Commissioner Sponcer stated everyone should have received a copy of the chief's report and the association report.

MANAGER'S REPORT – None

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Mazur extended her sympathies to Commissioner Mikec on the death of his mother-in-law, Blanca Egan-Wyer. She also indicated she had a meeting with residents of the 5th Ward, along with the recreation director, regarding Sharmyn Park. Changes were proposed regarding moving the tot lot towards the shelter. It was proposed that a community vegetable/herb garden be placed in the area where the tot lot is currently located.

Commissioner Korbel stated the digital sign ordinance will be vetted by the Planning Commission at their May meeting. Then it will come before the Board of Commissioners and be voted on at the June meeting. Upon comment by Commissioner Shaffer, Commissioner Korbel suggested passing it on to the businesses after the Planning Commission has reviewed it.

Commissioner Shaffer extended his thanks to Mr. Rick Minsterman of Gateway Engineers for hosting a meeting regarding the sewer and stormwater system. He stated he asked Mr. Minsterman for some suggestions regarding stormwater runoff and possibly changing some of the ordinances with regard to new developments. Commissioner Shaffer also indicated the Run for the Rec 5K will be held on Sunday, June 8th. He also indicated he would be interested in having an advisory sidewalk committee. Commissioner Mazur stated that was already in the proposed long-term plan. Commissioner DeMarco suggested waiting for Commissioner Montgomery to return for his input on the matter.

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Shaffer, Ms. Peet indicated there has been a great response for the summer camps. They are in the process of hiring rec counselors. The deadline to apply is May 16th.

Commissioner Shaffer also stated a cleanup is underway of the triangle of property across from Hal's. He thanked Public Works for picking up the bags of garbage that were collected from the area. He also thanked Terry's Plumbing for their donation of equipment for the cleanup.

Commissioner DeMarco stated they are asking for and accepting sponsors for the Race for the Rec. He also stated a recent Supreme Court ruling has enunciated that it is not a violation of the First Amendment to

recite some type of invocation that includes a reference to religion or Christianity or God.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mr. Joe Zawoysky, 123 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, commented on the minutes posted from November and December of 2013. He also inquired about the new sewer truck and the township's contribution to Ross/West View EMS. Mr. Zawoysky mentioned a billing issue he had. Commissioner DeMarco referred Mr. Zawoysky to contact Ross/West View EMS regarding any billing questions he had. Mr. Zawoysky also inquired if commissioners are paid for meetings they do not attend. Commissioner DeMarco stated everyone is paid a stipend per year.

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

Motion passes – 7 to 0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:07 P.M.

**Douglas Sample
Manager/Secretary**

**Grant Montgomery, President
Ross Township Board of
Commissioners**

Minutes transcribed by Noreen A. Re, Court Reporter