

**BOROUGH OF WHITE OAK**  
**Minutes of a Council Meeting**  
**February 17, 2020, 8:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Council President Charles Davis called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Charles Davis

**ROLL CALL:** Charles Davis requested the roll call. In attendance was:

**Elected Officials:**

Mayor Ina Marton  
Charles Davis, President  
Edward Babyak  
Louis Bender  
George Dillinger  
Julie Opferman  
George Pambacas

**Borough Staff and Professional Services:**

Patricia McGrail, Borough Solicitor  
Kenneth Hillman, Borough Engineer  
John Palyo, Borough Manager  
MaryAnn Winemiller, Admin. Asst.

**MINUTES:** George Pambacas made a motion to accept the minutes (with a correction) to of the January 20, 2020 Council meeting and the January 6, 2020 Council Swearing In / Reorganization Meeting. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Patricia McGrail announced following the Workshop meeting of February 10, 2020 and prior to the Council meeting on February 17, 2020 Council had an Executive Session to discuss personnel and pending legal matters.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Donna Priselac – 238 Chicora Street, East McKeesport, PA 15035 Volunteer at Frankie's Friends Animal Shelter, spoke on behalf of Jo Marie Piccini a White Oak Resident. Ms. Priselac presented a large stack of petitions with signatures that she had posted on change.com and urged council to consider creating a new or revised Cat Ordinance.

Dr. Becky Morrow – 730 Fifth Avenue, New Kensington, PA 15068 (Work Address) Medical Director and Lead Veterinarian Frankie's Friends Animal Shelter Dr. Morrow spoke about the TNR program (Trap, Neuter & Release) and that the problem is due to irresponsible animal owners. Dr. Morrow offered to provide assistance, support and back up materials to help White Oak Borough with the Feral Cat problem.

Rise Chontos – 723 Fallen Timber Road, Elizabeth, PA 15037 Operator of In Care of Cats, 1680 Fallen Timber Road, Elizabeth, PA 15037 Ms. Chontos spoke of a program she recommends the TNRM (Trap, Neuter, Release & Monitor) and how this program can be very beneficial with the added step of monitoring the cats after release.

Carol Whaley, Senior Director of Clinic & Community Services for Animal Friends – 308 54<sup>th</sup> Street, Pittsburgh, PA

Carol would like to offer assistance with a new Cat Ordinance in White Oak Borough and to urge lawmakers to enact subsidies for a Spray and Neuter program for the state of Pennsylvania.

Tom Cook – 1531 Kansas Avenue, White Oak, PA 15131

Mr. Cook presented various statistics on Feral Cats and stated that they are harmful to the eco system and transmit diseases.

Christy Yaskovsky – Pet Friends P.O. 484 Irwin, PA 15642 – 724-863-7722

Ms. Yaskovsky stated she would be willing to help with implementing programs in White Oak Borough.

Debbie Erman - 730 Fifth Avenue, New Kensington, PA 15068 (Work Address)

Ms. Erman is the Animal Control Officer for Frankie's Friends and stated that Audubon has a bias opinion when it comes to feral cats and the statistics presented by Mr. Cook.

Aaron Elm – 529 McCully Street, White Oak, PA 15131

Mr. Elm wanted to thank Council and the Mayor for allowing him to participate in the lawncare program in 2019 and would like Council to consider extending the contract in 2020.

Dusan Grmusa – 3150 Jacks Run Road, White Oak, PA 15131

Mr. Grmusa would like the zoning for his property changed from residential to commercial and would like the ability to raise farm animals on his property.

Mayor Ina Marton the founder of White Oak Animal Safe Haven no-kill Shelter stated she and council have received several sample ordinances and “lots of research” from Animal Friends of Pittsburgh and several other local animal shelters and from an animal rights organization based in Illinois. Council President Charles Davis stated that council will spend the coming days and weeks reviewing those samples and will consider changing the current ordinance or adopting a new one.

Mayor Marton stated the she knows there is “a feral cat problem” in White Oak but wants to make sure TNR programs are operating efficiently in the borough.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Charles Davis

No Report

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Ina Marton provided the Police Activity Report for January 2020.

Arrests: (7 adults / 0 juvenile)	7
Burglary	1
Criminal Mischief	1
Disorderly Conduct	1
Drug Offenses (Violation of Title 35)	2
DUI	1
Public Drunkenness	1
Summary Traffic Violations	41
Total Incidents	717

The Mayor announced the following events:

The White Oak Police Department's "Tips for Cops" event on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 to 9:00 PM at the Twin Oaks Restaurant. White Oak Officers along with Officers from surrounding Departments will be waiting on tables and giving 100% of the Tips to the Food Pantry at Sampson's Mills Church. Twin Oaks will donate 10% of every check to the Food Pantry. There will be a limited menu plus a basket auction, 50/50 Raffle and Bake Sale.

Cops and Kids Basketball Program, Wednesday's in March (4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>) at Francis McClure Gymnasium from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FINANCE:** George Dillinger presented the finance report.

George Dillinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for January 2020. Louis Bender seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

George Dillinger made a motion approving the Check Register for the month of January, which includes Electronic Fund Transfers and General Fund Checks in the following ranges (205315 to 205426) totaling \$427,196.19. Edward Babyak seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

George Dillinger made a motion authorizing the following Interfund Transfers for the month of January. Edward Babyak seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

From	To	Amount
Liquid Fuels	General Fund	23,644.53
Solid Waste	General Fund	39,525.93
Capital Projects	General Fund	4,620.25
Fire Fund	General Fund	40,905.39
Uniformed Pension	General Fund	625.35
Non-Uniformed Pension	General Fund	700.00
Post Retirement	General Fund	791.37
Total Transfers		\$110,812.82

**HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND CABLE:** George Pambacas presented the health, environment and cable report.

George Pambacas made a motion to authorize payment to Dave Collura, for Wildlife Control Services, in the amount of \$600.00 for the month of January 2020 Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

George Pambacas made a motion to satisfy the following liens as paid in full. Edward Babyak seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

<b>Lot &amp; Block</b>	<b>Lien Number</b>
<b>461-L-80</b>	<b>GD-19-003684</b>

George Pambacas announced that White Oak Clean Up Day is scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM at the Heritage Hill Park.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Julie Opferman

Julie Opferman made the following announcements:

White Oak Recreation Board Dances for Grades 5 - 8 on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 7 to 9 PM at the Francis McClure Gymnasium. Admission is \$5.00

White Oak Recreation Board Spring Craft Show on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM located at the WOAA Gymnasium

**PLANNING AND ZONING:** Edward Babyak

No Report - The monthly permit/violation report for January is available for review during normal business hours.

**PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:** Louis Bender

No Report

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Charles Davis

No Report - The monthly report for January is available for review during normal business hours.

**PERSONNEL:** Charles Davis

George Dillinger made a motion to approve a two (2) year contract for John Palyo, Borough Manager under the terms and conditions presented to Council. Lois Bender seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

**TAX COLLECTORS' REPORTS:** Charles Davis

Edward Babyak made a Motion to accept the Tax Collectors' Reports and pay the commissions and fees due. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Current Real Estate** – Real Estate Tax Collector (Lisa Pitchford) collected \$0.00 current Real Estate Tax for the collection period of January, 2020.

Commission Due	\$0.00
Costs	\$0.00
Total Due	\$0.00

**Delinquent/Liened Real Estate**

Keystone Collections Group, Delinquent/Liened Real Estate Tax Collector(s) collected \$15,065.67 plus costs in delinquent Real Estate Tax for the collection period of January 1, 2020 – January 31, 2020.

Commission Due	\$62.88
Costs	\$518.64
Total Due	\$581.52

**Earned Income Tax**

Keystone Collections Group, Current/Delinquent Earned Income Tax Collector(s) collected \$73,171.32 in current and delinquent Earned Income Tax for the collection period of January, 2020.

Commission Due	\$619.94
Costs (refunds/postage and/or costs)	\$463.27
TCC Annual Fee	\$0.00
Total Due	\$1,083.21

Berkheimer Associates, Current/Delinquent Earned Income Tax Collector(s) collected \$0.00 in current and delinquent Earned Income Tax for the collection period of January, 2020.

Commission Due	\$0.00
Costs (refunds/postage and/or costs)	\$0.00
Total Due	\$ 0.00

**Mercantile/Business Privilege and Local Service Tax**

Keystone Collections Group, Current Act 511 Tax Collector, collected \$506.64 in current Local Service Tax for the collection period of January, 2020.

Commission Due	\$8.86
Refund	\$0.00
Costs (postage and/or costs)	\$0.25
Total Due	\$9.11

Keystone Collections Group, current Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Collector, collected \$772.59 in Business Privilege and \$5.00 in Mercantile Tax collections for the January 2020 collection period.

Commission Due	\$23.32
Costs	\$0.00
Total Due	\$23.32

Keystone Collections Group, delinquent Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Collector, collected \$777.82 in delinquent Business Privilege Tax and \$0.00 in delinquent Mercantile Tax for the collection period of January 1, 2020 – January 31, 2020.

Commission Due	\$46.66
Costs	\$0.00
Total Due	\$46.66

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Mr. Ken Hillman

Councilman George Dillinger asked if the following motions would be voted on separately, Council President Charles Davis stated that the following motions would be voted on separately.

Edward Babyak made a motion to accept the Engineer’s Report and pay the fees due to Senate Engineering Company for Invoice #56683, dated January 22, 2020, Invoice 566894, dated January 25, 2020, Invoices 56722 & 56723, dated January 31, 2020 and Invoices 56812 through 56816, dated January 31, 2020 with a grand total of \$ 16,030.06. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

George Dillinger made a motion to award the Bid for the CITF Lincoln Way Improvements Project to Costa Contracting in the amount of \$48,325.00 and authorize the President and Borough Manager to execute all documents pertaining to the project as recommended by our Engineer, contingent upon the approval from the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development. Edward Babyak seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

Edward Babyak made a motion to award the Bid for the 2020 Borough Street Paving Program to Tresco Paving Corporation in the amount of \$581,005.00 for the base bid and add Alternate #1 in an amount of \$179,455.00 for a total cost of \$760,460.00 and authorize the President and Borough Manager to execute all documents pertaining to the project as recommended by our Engineer. Louis Bender seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

Councilman George Dillinger had some questions concerning how to pay for these services and the other paving that needs to be done in the borough and we should look at sources of funding including a bond issue.

Ken Hillman, Borough Engineer stated that borough roads have not been paved in fifteen (15) years leading to multiple paving projects needing to be completed over the next several years. Councilman George Dillinger stated that we can not pay cash for all of these projects.

George Pambacas made a motion to approve invoice #9883 dated January 29, 2020 in the amount of \$ 29,651.00 payable to Insight Pipe Contracting, LLC for services related to the Cypress to Lincoln Way Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Project, pending final approval from the Engineer that will include the necessary close out documents and CCTV video reports. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

George Dillinger made a motion to approve invoice #4-19090 dated February 7, 2020 in the amount of \$ 3,625.00 payable to GeoMechanics, Inc. for services related to the Center Street Extension project. (This was reviewed and approved by the Engineer.) Louis Bender seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

Julie Opferman made a motion to award the Bid for the Fuel Pumps Project to Total Tank Works, LLC in the amount of \$45,000.00 and authorize the President and Borough Manager to execute all documents pertaining to the project as recommended by our Engineer. Edward Babyak seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Patricia McGrail presented the Report in Executive Session

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:** Patricia McGrail

**Resolution #2020-09**

George Dillinger made a motion to adopt a Resolution of Council of the Borough of White Oak authorizing the appropriate signatories as President, Vice President, President Pro-Tem, Chair of Finance Committee and Borough Manager on our S & T Bank Account ending in 7079. Edward Babyak seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

**Ordinance #2020-10**

Louis Bender made a motion to adopt an Ordinance of the Borough of White Oak, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, establishing the salaries, fees and commissions to be paid to officers, providing for job classifications, and rates of compensation to be paid to the employees of said Borough. Edward Babyak seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

**Resolution #2020-11**

Julie Opferman made a motion to adopt a Resolution of Council of the Borough of White Oak authorizing the filing of a \$ 150,000 grant request under the GEDF Program through the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County and approving the appropriate signatories for all grant documents for the Center Street Landslide Remediation Project. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- March 9, 2020, 6:45 PM – Council Workshop Meeting (Open to the Public)
- March 16, 2020, 6:45 PM – Council Workshop Meeting (Open to the Public)
  - 8:00 PM – Council Meeting (Open to the Public)

**ADJOURNMENT:** Louis Bender made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

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John Palyo  
Borough Manager, Secretary & Treasurer

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Date Approved by Council