

BOROUGH OF WHITE OAK
Minutes of April 19, 2021 7:30 PM
Council Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our meeting was held at the White Oak Community Center located at 1796 Lower Heckman Road, White Oak, PA. Public access to this meeting was granted following mask and social distancing requirements.

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Charles Davis called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Charles Davis

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

Elected Officials:

Mayor Ina Marton
Charles Davis
George Dillinger
Julie Opferman
Joseph Nagy
George Pambacas
Kenneth Robb
Lou Bender

Borough Staff and Professional Services:

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

MINUTES: Kenneth Robb made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 15, 2021 Council Meeting. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Patricia McGrail announced that prior to the Council meeting on April 19, 2021 Council had an Executive Session to discuss Personnel matters.

Prior to the Public Comments, Council President Charles Davis announced that under the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, 65 Pa.C.S. § 710.1. Public participation: The Borough of White Oak will provide an opportunity for residents and taxpayers of the Borough to make public comments. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

Councilman George Dillinger made a proposal to stop sending Friday packages out to all members of Council and the Mayor. Councilman Dillinger proposed we try sending the packages by e-mail, he feels this would be a cost saving measure for the borough. Councilwoman Julie Opferman and Council President Chuck Davis agreed to trying this new method of communication.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Charles Davis

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Ina Marton provided the Police Activity Report for March 2021.

Arrests: (9 adults / 0 juvenile)	9
Assault	3
Disorderly Conduct	1
Drug Offenses	1
Indecent Exposure	1
Public Drunkenness	1
Theft	1
Unauthorized Use of an Automobile	1
Summary of Traffic Violations	44
Total Incidents	664

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: George Dillinger

George Dillinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2021. Joseph Nagy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

George Dillinger made a motion approving the Check Register for the month of March, which includes Electronic Fund Transfers and General Fund Checks in the following ranges (206487 to 206972) totaling \$403,268.45. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

George Dillinger made a motion authorizing the following Interfund Transfers for the month of March. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

From	To	Amount
Liquid Fuels	General Fund	29,786.71
Solid Waste	General Fund	39,365.28
Post Retirement	General Fund	863.99
Capital Projects	General Fund	20,101.25
Total Transfers		\$90,117.23

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 March 2021. Joseph Nagy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

Lot & Block	Lien Number
549-N-337	GD-19-016155
551-C-139	GD-19-002263
461-P-42	GD-10-24067

Announcements:

Borough Clean Up Day has been scheduled for April 24th. Volunteers are welcome to participate. The event is from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, be at the Heritage Hill Pavilion for 9:30 AM to help prepare for the event. We will follow established COVID-19 Restrictions.

Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Collection drop off program is scheduled for Saturday, April 24th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Borough Building. You must register on line or by calling 1-866-815-0016. This is a pay as you go program and information is available on our website and at the Borough office. We will follow established COVID-19 Restrictions.

George Pambacas asked Mayor Ina Marton to read the following announcement:

The Rabies Clinic in partnership with the White Oak Animal Safe Haven is scheduled for Saturday, June 5th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Municipal Public Works Garage. Resident rate is \$5.00, proof of residency is required. Non-Resident rate is \$10.00. We will follow established COVID-19 Restrictions.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Julie Opferman

Councilwoman Julie Opferman made the following Announcements:

Rainbow VFC Cars in the Park has been scheduled for Sunday, May 16th from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM, at the Heritage Hill. The event will follow established COVID-19 Restrictions. Rain date is Sunday, May 23rd.

PLANNING AND ZONING: Joseph Nagy

The monthly permit/violation reports for March are available for review during normal business hours.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT: Louis Bender

Louis Bender made a Motion to approve the agreement between the Borough of White Oak and the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 91 for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024, and authorize the Council President and Borough Manager to execute the agreement. Joseph Nagy seconded the motion. President Charles Davis requested a Roll Call Vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes Votes: Chuck Davis, Joseph Nagy, Louis Bender

No Votes: George Pambacas, George Dillinger, Kenneth Robb

Councilwoman Julie Opferman abstained as a conflict of interest.

Motion was tied with three (3) yes votes and three (3) no votes.

Councilman George Dillinger stated that he very much supports our Police Department, however, cannot vote for this contract from a financial standpoint. He has concerns of over healthcare concessions, long term expenses and reduced vacation benefits for new hires.

Kenneth Robb agreed with George Dillinger and sited concerns over binding future Councils to additional healthcare benefits for retirees.

Louis Bender commented that officers have no increase in health benefit contributions but they pay a higher percentage to the pension plan. Also, this contract provides for salary raises of 3.0%, 3.0%, 2.5% and 2.5%, whereas the last public works contract was 3.5%, 3.5% and 3.5%. Healthcare for post-retirement benefits that most other departments have that benefit. You need competitive benefits to attract good police officers.

President Charles Davis asked for Mayor Ina Marton to break the tie vote. Mayor Marton voted yes for the contract.

The motion passed, with a three (3) yes votes and three (3) no votes and the Mayor breaking the tie for a 4 yes and 3 no vote.

Louis Bender made a motion to start the process to hire a 13th Officer. Joseph Nagy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Louis Bender made the motion to reject all proposals for Animal Control Services. Kenneth Robb seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

PUBLIC WORKS: Kenneth Robb

The monthly reports for March are available for review during normal business hours.

Kenneth Robb made a motion to approve the purchase of a Bandit 12XPC Woodchipper and Box from Stephenson Equipment, Inc. under the COSTARS Contract #4400020077 in an amount of \$ 45,994.37 and authorize the Borough Manager to execute all documents related to the purchase. George Dillinger seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

Kenneth Robb made a Motion to approve the purchase of a Ford F350 Pickup Truck with a plow from C. Harper Ford under the COSTARS Contract #13 in an amount of \$44,729.00 and authorize the Borough Manager to execute all documents related to the purchase. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

PERSONNEL: Charles Davis
No Report

TAX COLLECTORS' REPORTS: Charles Davis

George Dillinger made a motion to accept the Tax Collectors' Reports and pay the commissions and fees due. Kenneth Robb 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 March 2021.

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 \$15,663.81 plus costs in delinquent Real Estate Tax for the collection period of March 1 – March 31, 2021.

Commission Due	\$610.50	
Costs	\$2,357.87	Sheriff Sale Costs
Total Due	\$2,968.37	

Earned Income Tax

Keystone Collections Group, Current/Delinquent Earned Income Tax Collector(s) collected \$99,354.33 in current and delinquent Earned Income Tax for the collection period of March 2021.

Commission Due	\$1,442.80
Costs (refunds/postage and/or costs)	\$36.21
TCC Annual Fee	\$0.00
Total Due	\$1,479.01

Berkheimer Associates, Current/Delinquent Earned Income Tax Collector(s) Collected \$310.70 in current and delinquent Earned Income Tax for the collection period of March 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021.

Commission Due	\$4.41
Costs (refunds/postage and/or costs)	\$0.00
Total Due	\$4.41

Mercantile/Business Privilege and Local Service Tax

Keystone Collections Group, Current Act 511 Tax Collector, collected \$52.00 in current Local Service Tax for the collection period of March, 2021.

Commission Due	\$0.91
Refund	\$45.00
Costs (postage and/or costs)	\$0.00
Total Due	\$45.91

Keystone Collections Group, current Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Collector, collected \$18,328.32 in Business Privilege and \$2,079.94 in Mercantile Tax collections for the March 2021 collection period.

Commission Due	\$615.39
Costs	\$2.81
Total Due	\$618.20

Keystone Collections Group, delinquent Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Collector, collected \$ 255.00 delinquent Business Privilege Tax and \$870.31 in delinquent Mercantile Tax for the collection period of March 2021.

Commission Due	\$67.58
Costs	\$0.00
Total Due	\$67.58

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mr. Ken Hillman

Kenneth Robb made a motion to accept the Engineer's Report and pay the fees due to Senate Engineering Company for Invoices 59144 through 59147, and 59167, dated April 1, 2021, totaling \$3,787.75. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Kenneth Robb made a motion to award the Bid for the Borough Facilities Project – Contract #1 General Construction to BZ Construction in the amount of \$248,000.00 and authorize the President and Borough Manager to execute all documents pertaining to the project as recommended by our Engineer. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Kenneth Robb made a motion to award the Bid for the Borough Facilities Project – Contract #2 Roof Replacements to Tennis Roofing and Asphalt in the amount of \$434,797.00 and authorize the President and Borough Manager to execute all documents pertaining to the project as recommended by our Engineer. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Kenneth Robb made a motion to award the Bid for the Borough Facilities Project – Contract #3 HVAC & Plumbing Replacement to Reno Brothers in the amount of \$411,447.00 and authorize the President and Borough Manager to execute all documents pertaining to the project as recommended by our Engineer. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Kenneth Robb made a motion to award the Bid for the Borough Facilities Project – Contract #4 Electrical Upgrades to Merit Contracting in the amount of \$546,990.00 and authorize the President and Borough Manager to execute all documents pertaining to the project as recommended by our Engineer. George Dillinger seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Kenneth Robb made a motion to approve Pay Request #7 Final submitted by M & B Services in amount of \$53,140.17 for the Green Light Go Project as reviewed and approved by the Engineer and authorize the Borough Manager to sign the above listed request on behalf of the Borough. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Kenneth Robb made a motion to approve Pay Request #1 submitted by Eveready Contracting, LLC in amount of \$6,840.00 for the 2021 Demolition Project as reviewed and approved by the Engineer and authorize the Borough Manager to sign the above listed request on behalf of the Borough. Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

George Dillinger commented that Motions as presented on the agenda numbered 2, 3, 4, & 5 are all related to the Borough's Bond Issue.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Ms. Patricia L. McGrail

George Dillinger made a motion to accept the Solicitor's Report and pay the fees due to McGrail & Associates, LLC for Invoices #36880 through #36885 and #36887 through #368952 dated April 8, 2021 totaling \$4,270.00. Kenneth Robb seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES: Ms. Patricia L. McGrail

*Due to Grant Application Deadlines: Council voted to approve the following Resolutions and ratify the actions at tonight's Council meeting. Council Members in attendance at the Workshop meeting was Charles Davis, Lou Bender, Julie Opferman, Joseph Nagy, Kenneth Robb, and George Pambacas. Kenneth Robb made a motion to adopt Resolutions #2021-08; #2021-09; and #2021-10 as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Opferman. It was unanimously approved.

Council to Ratify the following actions for Resolutions #2021-08; #2021-09; and #2021-10.

George Dillinger made a motion to ratify the following Resolutions #2021-08, #2021-09, #2021-10. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

***RESOLUTION #2021-08**

To Authorizing the filing of a \$ 150,000 grant request under the Community Partnerships Program through the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and approving the Borough Manager as appropriate signatory for the electronic grant documents for the Heritage Hill Park Playground Rehabilitation Project. (This is a 50%/50% matching grant.)

***RESOLUTION #2021-09**

To Authorizing the filing of a \$ 50,000 grant request under the Act 152 Demolition Fund Program through the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development and approving the Steel Rivers COG as appropriate signatory on behalf of the Borough of White Oak for all grant documents for the White Oak Act 152 2021 Demolition Project.

***RESOLUTION #2021-10**

To adopt the Demolition Slums and Blight Resolution declaring the following properties of 603 Osborne Street 460-G-376, 610 Osborne Street 460-G-391, 2717 Laurel Lane 649-G-77, 2736 Laurel Lane 649-L-382, and 3203 Muse Lane 648-M-328 as blighted properties under the Act 152 Demolition Fund Program through the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development for the White Oak Act 152 2021 Demolition Project.

RESOLUTION #2021-11

Kenneth Robb made a motion to Approve that the acquisition and subsequent disposition of numerous parcels of vacant property known as block and lot number 550-P-198 would be in accord with the comprehensive plan of the municipality. (This project is in cooperation with the County of Allegheny and the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County through the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program). Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION #2021-12

Julie Opferman made a motion to adopt the Allegheny County 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan of the Borough of White Oak, and the respective officials and agencies identified in the implementation strategy of the Allegheny County 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan are hereby directed to implement the recommended activities assigned to them. Kenneth Robb seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman George Pambacas stated the Pool Passes will go on pre-sale in early May.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Ina Marton said that in speaking with Police Chief Mark Sargent he had explored our options for a new Police Vehicle, he felt our best choice at this time would be a White Marked SUV.

George Pambacas made a motion to purchase a new White marked SUV Police Vehicle. Kenneth Robb seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(Meetings are subject to change due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, please check or website for any updates.)

- **May 10, 2021, 6:45 PM – Council Workshop Meeting (Open to the Public)**
- **May 17, 2021, 6:45 PM – Council Workshop Meeting (Open to the Public)**
 - **7:30 PM – Council Meeting (Open to the Public)**

ADJOURNMENT: Kenneth Robb made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 P.M. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

John Palyo

John Palyo
Borough Manager, Secretary & Treasurer

Date Approved by Council