
MINUTES

JUNE 8, 2020
Regular Public Meeting

Board of Commissioners

Township of Whitehall

A. CALL TO ORDER

1) The regular Public Meeting of the Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2020 held virtually via WEBEX, with the following in attendance:

COMMISSIONERS

Philip J. Ginder, President
Joseph J. Marx, Jr., Vice President
Thomas Slonaker, Secretary
Jeffrey J. Warren
Charles G. Fisher
Randy Atiyeh
Michael D. Dee

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Michael P. Harakal, Jr., Mayor
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor
John F. Gross, Esq.,
Township Solicitor
Michael Marks, Police Chief
Frank Clark Engineer
Lee Rackus, PZ&D
Colleen L. Gober, Tax Collector
Larissa Bruder, Executive Secretary

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a note of thanks given to all serving in the Armed Forces, First Responders, Healthcare Workers, Grocery Store Workers, and Municipal Staff who are all seeing the community through this hard time.

President GINDER read the statement on fair housing as required.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner FISHER moved, seconded by Commissioner DEE to approve the Minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Public Meeting – May 11, 2020

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Motion carried.

B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Lori Ann Fehnel of 3107 N. 3rd Street questioned how she would go about obtaining a pool permit. She was advised that she could print the necessary applications off the website and mail in or drop off the paperwork.

C. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO.18-2020

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE DEFERRING THE REQUIRED INSTALLATION OF CURBING AND SIDEWALKS ALONG THE NORTH CHURCH AND SPRING STREET FRONTAGES OF LOT #1 LEHIGH COUNTY PIN #55800441862-1 FOR A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 1884 FEET; 800 FEET ALONG SPRING STREET AND 1084 ALONG N. CHURCH ST., AS REQUIRED IN CHAPTER 21, SECTION 21-16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Bill No. 18-2020 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE. Seven Commissioners were present and 6 voting “yes” and 1 voting “no” (MARX). Bill No. 18-2020 was approved.

F. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3125

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MINOR SUBDIVISION/LOT CONSOLIDATION PLAN OF HPL REALTY, LP. LOCATED ON N. CHURCH STREET, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, INDEX #1953-19. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3125 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner MARX.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3125 was approved.

G. OTHER

1. MOTION – to approve the release of escrow for completed and withdrawn projects, per Deputy Mayor MEYERS memo dated May 8, 2020.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Motion carried.

2. MOTION – to endorse and authorize the Mayor of Whitehall Township to extend the Real Estate Gross Period and the Collection of Garbage Fees to July 31, 2020.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Motion carried.

H. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Commissioner FISHER stated that even though the County is moving into the yellow phase, he encourages everyone to remain diligent in fighting the virus. He also asked the status of the Bridge Street paving. Frank CLARK advised that the contractor is mobilizing on site next week. Commission FISHER offered a suggestion for the use of CWSA solar panel offer – to possibly utilize them atop the Public Works canopy.

Commissioner DEE noted that the Whitehall Copley Hunger Initiative -Shari Noctor and other volunteers continue to do a wonderful job providing a large amount of food to the community during this crisis. In light of the 3 recent accidents in the Township, he implores people to slow down.

Commissioner WARREN noted that the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Traffic Improvement Plan for 2021-2024 is available on their website site and accepting comment until June 16th and there are projects of interest in Whitehall – Traffic Signal Upgrade from N. 6th Street to Chestnut Street. Commissioner WARREN questioned Frank Clark to explain what that entailed which is a system of traffic counters that will adjust green time based on the volume. Resurfacing of MacArthur from Grape Street to Route 329 will it address the median in front of Wawa.. Frank CLARK advised that he is trying to coordinate that with PennDOT. Commission WARREN also questioned the status of the installation of sidewalks on Mechanicsville Road. Frank CLARK noted that PennDOT is reviewing the deed language, once approved it will be good to go. He requested that asked that Frank place a call to them to insure that the install is completed before school is back in session.

Commissioner GINDER thanked Zach Herb from Integra for all his work in getting these meetings organized and running them for the Township. He also thanked the Mayor, Jack Meyers, Larissa Bruder, Attorney Gross, all the Department Heads and Staff for all their hard work and dedication in getting everything done during this unprecedented time.

Mayor HAKAKAL congratulated Commissioner ATIYEH on being named Athletic Director in Allentown School District. Mayor also thanked Treasurer GOBER who has been putting in 80 hour weeks in keeping the Tax Office running. He also thanked the Police & Fire Depts for all they do. Looking forward to the green phase and as things begin to open up, let's help the small businesses.

Treasurer GOBER thanked the Mayor for his kind words. She has taken in a lot of money and trying to get things done and thanks the public for their support and understanding.

I. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner FISHER moved, seconded by Commissioner DEE to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.