
MINUTES

September 13, 2021
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, September 13, 2021 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, KCE
Lee Rackus, PZ&D
Colleen L. Gober, Tax Collector (Absent)
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.

President GINDER advised that there was an Executive Session of the Board held on August 16, 2021 and September 2nd, 2021 at the Coplay Whitehall Sewer Authority regarding legal and personnel issues.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Regular Public Meeting – August 9, 2021

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

B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

No appearances.

C. **PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES**

1. **BILL NO. 27-2021**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE DEFERRING THE REQUIRED INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS ALONG THE LEHIGH STREET FRONTAGE OF 4205 LEHIGH STREET AS REQUIRED IN CHAPTER 21, SECTION 21-16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Bill No. 27-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner DEE moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH.

Commissioner WARREN verified with Frank CLARK that 2 parcels and being made into 3 and the larger lot will be in back and two smaller parcels up front.

Seven Commissioners were present and three voting “yes” and four voting “no” (Slonaker, Warren, Marx, Ginder). Bill No. 27-2021 was denied.

*At this time, the Township’s Conflict Attorney Kevin FOGERTY explained the status of sidewalk along Mechanicsville Road (Dinbokowitz). Four deeds have been returned, unfortunately two of the deeds will not be accepted by the County Recorder of Deeds. Attorney FOGERTY will be overnighting a deed to the two people who are out of state, respectively and then it will be hand carried around to all other parties who are local. Atty FOGERTY also noted that if this plan fails, he will be filing litigation proceedings.

2. **BILL NO. 28-2021**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE ORDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AT THE WHITEHALL MUNICIPAL COMPLEX FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (ADMIN)

President GINDER read Bill No. 28-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FISHER.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 28-2021 was approved.

3. **BILL NO. 29-2021**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE DEFERRING THE REQUIRED INSTALLATION OF CURBING AND SIDEWALKS ALONG THE MACARTHUR ROAD AND

SPRING MILL ROAD FRONTAGES OF 4124 and 4128 SPRING MILL ROAD AS REQUIRED IN CHAPTER 21, SECTION 21-16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Bill No. 29-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by President GINDER.

Discussion ensued as to what the site will look like and if what is being proposed would be sufficient. President GINDER noted that it is not customary to vote on a deferral such as this without seeing a site plan. President GINDER withdrew his second and Commissioner SLONAKER withdrew his motion as well

No action was taken on Bill 29-2021.

4. BILL NO. 30-2021 (FIRST HEARING)

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 27 (ZONING) OF THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE OF 1989 BY ADDING CONDITIONAL AND PERMITTED USES IN THE C-2, REGIONAL/COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, INCLUDING THE USE OF COORDINATED COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT, TO SECTION 27-80.D AND PROVIDING CRITERIA FOR THE COORDINATED COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT USE IN SECTION 27-80.G; ADDING ADDITIONAL PERMITTED USES TO SECTION 27-80A; ADDING DEFINITIONS OF WORDS TO SECTION 27-94A. (PLANNING)

No action was taken on Bill 30-2021.

E. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3166

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAN OF 4205 LEHIGH STREET. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3166 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3166 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3168

TITLE: A RESOLUTION PERMITTING THE DISPOSAL OF THE 1990 MACK CF FIRE APPARATUS BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIP CODE AND TOWNSHIP ORDINANCES. (ADMIN)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3168 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner WARREN.

Fire Chief NELSON explained that this retired engine is being donated to Shinebone Valley Volunteer Fire Dept in Delta, Alabama. This department lost all their firefighting equipment to a severe hurricane. Chief NELSON noted that this piece of equipment is in good condition and was utilized for parades and felt it would be put to much better use in Alabama. He credited Asst. Chief Gregg RICE of Fullerton Fire Co. for coordination of this donation.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3168 was approved.

F. OTHER

1. MOTION – to appoint Richard BENTZ from an alternate to a regular member on the Civil Service Commission to complete the term vacated by Donald Hayn, term to expire December 31, 2021.

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

2. MOTION – to designate Friday, October 29, 2021, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, as the official Trick or Treat night in Whitehall Township with a rain date of Saturday, October 30, 2021.

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

G. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Commissioner DEE gave an update on the Hunger Initiatives numbers: 146 households were served with 121 being Whitehall residents and 25 from Coplay and registered 44 new households and gave kudos to the volunteers involved. He noted that the Barkley Jersey Retirement during the High School Football game was a great event and well attended. Lastly, in remembrance of the 20th Anniversary of 911, he gave many thanks to the brave members of the FDNY and our local fire and police departments and EMS for putting their life on the line everyday to protect us.

Commissioner WARREN reiterated Commissioner DEE’s sentiments about 911 and the volunteers. He also wanted to recognize the efforts by Michele Dragovits and the Recreation Dept on coordinating the Halloween Parade that will be taking place on October 7th.

Commissioner FISHER also reiterated the sentiments of 911 and thanked all volunteers for keeping us safe. He also urged anyone who has not yet been vaccinated to please do

so. He thanked the Environmental Committee for the hard work planting paw paw trees in the Parkway. He confirmed with the Mayor that we are moving forward with electric vehicle grant.

Commissioner ATIYEH noted his thanks for the first responders and reflecting on their heroism. He also noted that September is suicide prevention month, please reach out to anyone who you think may be in need.

Commissioner MARX questioned an issue that came up at a recent emergency management meeting regarding utilizing a public works garage for a new vehicle. The Mayor will get an answer for them.

Commissioner SLONAKER in remembrance of 911, he gave his thanks to all the volunteers .

President GINDER asked that the status of the Lehigh Avenue repairs. Frank CLARK noted that Scheuermann Excavating has been given the go ahead and is still trying urging UGI to get their work done. President GINDER noted the absence of the Treasurer and that the Board has not been given financials for August from the Treasurer and no reports for the deposit accounts. President Ginder asked the status of the NBMA privately owned hydrants. The Mayor spoke with NBMA but has not received numbers back yet. Chief NELSON advised that WTA has provided a list of approximately 100 and the fire inspector is working through that list making sure they are active and working property. Chief Nelson is working w/NBMA on a list as well. President GINDER stated his appreciation of the Armed Forces as they are volunteers and they put their lives in harms way as well.

Mayor HARAKAL noted that Allison Frantz, Coordinator, Suicide Prevention Coalition of Lehigh County offered thanks that the Township for acknowledging September as suicide awareness/prevention month and as she was in attendance she reiterated same to the Board. He also read a proclamation regarding same. The Mayor met with PennDOT representatives regarding an IRT amended grant application. He also met representatives of Whitehall Mall and possible future development of that site. Staff attended HUD training which now completes the 5 year requirement. He and Chief Nelson are working Catasauqua Borough on a joint grant application w/Whitehall, Catasauqua and North Catasauqua Fire Depts. The Mayor met with Rick Lutes, Manager of Home Depot who is trying to mitigate litter in that area. New receptables were placed in the parking lot and along parkway. Interviewing process is progressing for the open Maintenance Man II position. The Mayor noted the 75th anniversary of Veterans of Foreign Wars and gave thanks to all hardworking serving veterans.

H. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner FISHER moved, seconded by Commissioner WARREN to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.