

MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MEETING JUNE 22, 2021 OF THE MT. LEBANON COMMISSION

The Commission of Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania, held a virtually run Adjourned Meeting at 8 P.M., on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. Commission President Mindy Ranney called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Manager McGill called the roll. Present were Commissioners Leeann Foster, Craig Grella, Steve Silverman, and Mindy Ranney. Commissioner Andrew Flynn was not present. Also present were Assistant Manager/Planner McMeans, Police Chief Lauth, Finance Director McCreery, Public Works Director Sukal, Assistant Fire Chief Daniels, I.T. Manager Schalles, Chief Building Inspector Sarver, Library Director Vittek, and Public Information Officer Lilley. Also present were Phil Weis of the solicitor's office and Dan Deiseroth of the engineer's office.

COMMISSION/MANAGER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Manager McGill summarized the information that was reviewed during the discussion session, including review of the library strategic plan, heard a update on the deer management program, reviewed the GROW grant application, and heard information from commission liaisons on activities with various boards and authorities.

Manager McGill stated that prior to this meeting, the Commission met in executive session to receive legal advice from the solicitor on various legal issues. The Commission will go back into executive session following this meeting. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 8 p.m., to be held remotely, with the discussion session meeting starting at approximately 6:30 p.m., to be held remotely, and the executive session starting at approximately 6 p.m. Until further notice, all public Commission meetings will be held on the Zoom webinar format. To watch or participate, you may register at www.mtlebanon.org/commission.

Mr. Silverman said it saddens me to report we lost two wonderful members of our public safety team this month.

Mt. Lebanon Police Officer Jerrod Withrow, 43, died from colon cancer on June 11. Jerrod's career included law enforcement positions with the Idaho State Police, the Spokane County 911 Center and the Pittsburgh Police Department before he became a Mt. Lebanon officer in 2014. Jerrod has been a member of the South Hills Critical Incident Response Team and was recognized along with his team for their response to the Tree of Life Synagogue in October 2018. We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Lisa, their three sons, and Jerrod's entire family.

Mt. Lebanon crossing guard Kenneth Ruben died on June 7. Ken was a valued member of the crossing guard team since 2007 and worked almost every day during this difficult year. Ken was the past commander of American Legion Post #5 and Post #760. We send our deepest sympathies to his wife, Nancy, his daughter, granddaughters and extended family.

Although the Fourth of July daytime events are cancelled this year, two traditions are back. Mt. Lebanon presents the Concert in Mt. Lebanon Park, featuring The Delaneys, at 7:30 p.m. followed by the fireworks at 9:30. The rain date for the event is July 5. We'll send a LeboALERT and post on social media if the event moves to the rain date.

The 25th Annual Mt. Lebanon Police Department Classic Car Show is Sunday, July 11, beginning at 9 a.m. We will once again close the road in Uptown so owners can showcase their cars. This event includes food vendors and live music with FREE admission to the public. The proceeds from this event benefit police-youth programs.

Rising high school juniors and seniors can apply to be a Mt. Lebanon Junior Commissioner, and rising sophomores, juniors and seniors can apply to be junior board members for a variety of our municipal boards and authorities. Both positions create valuable links between students and local government. Applications for both are due to our Public Information Office on July 9. Find an application and list of qualifications at mtlebanon.org under “trending now.”

Chief Aaron Lauth thanked the community for its support of Officer Withrow while he was battling cancer, stating that it was a tough time for his family and the Mt. Lebanon police department, but the community showed a lot of support.

Chief Lauth thanked the commission for its support, the administration, including Manager McGill, Finance Director McCreery, and Human Resource Officer Cross for their assistance to his family. He also thanked the fire department and MRTSA for their assistance. He also thanked Congressman Conor Lamb who made some comments on the House floor, as well as he retrieved a flag that was flown at the Capitol, which he will present to the family. He also thanked Senator Devlin Robinson who made comments on the Senate floor. He also thanked several public service agencies, including Castle Shannon Police Department, Jefferson Hills Police Department, Brentwood Police Department, Whitehall Police Department, Peters Township Police Department, Bethel Park Police Department, and Upper St. Clair Police Department, who stepped up and patrolled Mt. Lebanon so that the officers could attend the funeral services.

Chief Lauth stated that during the services, we received assistance from North Fayette Township Police Department, Findley Township Police Department, Moon Township Police Department, the City of Pittsburgh Police Department, the State Police, County Police, The Greater Pittsburgh Police Emerald Society Pipes and Drum Band, and Mt. Lebanon resident and bugler Randy Hask.

Chief Lauth also thanked the Shepherd family who offered the officers a place to wind down after the funeral in order to celebrate Jerrod’s life together.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD JUNE 8, 2021

Ms. Foster moved and Mr. Grella seconded to approve the minutes. The vote was called. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON A CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST FOR THE
EXPANSION OF THE PLATFORM TENNIS WARMING HUT AT MAIN PARK**

Mr. Grella said Mt. Lebanon Municipality owns the warming hut associated with the existing platform tennis courts in Main Park. The Mt. Lebanon Platform Tennis Association (MLPTA) is proposing to renovate the existing warming hut with the addition of a second story, bathrooms, and outdoor seating deck. The platform tennis hut is located in Main Park which is part of the OS-A Open Space Active zoning district. Facilities incidental to the operation of public recreational uses are a conditional use in the OS-A District.

The Planning Board recommended approval of the conditional use request on May 18, 2021. The Planning Board also granted preliminary approval to the Site Plan on May 18, 2021.

The conditional use request was introduced at the commission meeting on May 25, 2021.

Ms. Ranney declared the public hearing opened.

Dan Caste, board member on Mt. Lebanon Platform Tennis Association, thanked the commissioners for providing water, sewage, and the structure necessary for this project. He spoke about the history of platform tennis, indicating that it started in the 70s. He stated that over the past 45 years, Mt. Lebanon Platform Tennis has grown into the largest platform tennis organization in Western Pennsylvania, with 18 teams. He noted that residents not competing on teams participate as well.

He stated that over the years, MLPTA has had a cooperative relationship with Mt. Lebanon, adding that the MLPTA contributed \$75,000 in 2004 for the construction of two new courts, and \$100,000 in 2015, for the replacement of two failing courts.

He said that platform tennis is played during the fall and winter months; a league season is typically from October through March. The game is played in all weather conditions, including rain, snow, and freezing temperatures.

The original warming hut was built by the MLPTA at no cost to the municipality in 1995. The hut was modestly renovated in 2012 with no cost to the municipality. He illustrated pictures of the current hut, noting the construction is block with siding. He stated that while the hut has served its purpose over the years, it meets only the most basic needs. It does not have restroom facilities, a permanent heat source, running water, it's not handicapped accessible, and it's significantly undersized. He noted that the MLPTA has \$130,000 in the bank, with numerous pledged donations from local businesses.

He stated that they have worked with WTW Architects to design a hut that will bring the structure up to current standards to meet all building codes, be handicapped accessible, and become the facility that will make Mt. Lebanon proud. He reviewed the project, illustrated several designs, and discussed the conditional use.

Mr. Silverman stated that this was a very thorough presentation. He asked Assistant Manager/Planner McMeans if the Planning Board had any concerns with this project.

Mr. McMeans said the Planning Board granted preliminary approval in May, and last week recommended final approval. He stated that the Planning Board has no concerns with this project.

Mr. Grella stated that he has spoken with many residents who play platform tennis, and they are in support of this project. He noted that he supports the project, and the MLPTA has been a great partner to the municipality.

Because there were no further comments, Ms. Ranney declared the public hearing closed.

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE (BILL NO. 4-21)
MODIFYING PROCEDURES FOR PARTICIPATION
IN COMMISSION MEETINGS BY TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Mr. Silverman said the Administrative Code establishes requirements for Commission meetings. Commissioners have established rules for meeting by means of telecommunication devices. The Commission now wishes to modify those rules in light of its recent experience to allow greater use of telecommunications devices.

This ordinance was introduced May 25, 2021, and a public hearing was held June 8, 2021.

Mr. Silverman moved and Mr. Grella seconded to enact Ordinance (Bill No. 4-21). The vote was called. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-8-21 AND RESOLUTION
NO. R-9-21 FOR AN ALLEGHENY COUNTY SANITARY AUTHORITY
(ALCOSAN) GREEN REVITALIZATION OF OUR WATERWAYS (GROW)
PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION FOR AN EISENHOWER
DRIVE SEWER LINING AND CEDAR BOULEVARD SEWER LINING PROJECT**

Ms. Foster said an application for an Allegheny County Sanitary Authority Green Revitalization of Our Waterways (GROW) Program grant application has been prepared for the following projects:

- Eisenhower Drive – This sewer lining project includes the internal CIPP manhole to manhole lining of approximately 2,000 total linear feet of sanitary sewers, an allowance for tap connection repair lining, and 7 manhole rehabilitation and 16 frame and lid replacements along Eisenhower Drive.
- Cedar Boulevard – This sewer lining project includes the internal CIPP manhole to manhole lining of approximately 1,400 total linear feet of sanitary sewers, an allowance for tap connection repair lining, and 8 manhole rehabilitation and 11 manhole frame and lid replacements along Cedar Boulevard.

The GROW grant program will reimburse the Municipality for eligible design and construction costs, as determined by ALCOSAN. If awarded, the Municipality can expect a minimum reimbursement amount of 15% of the total eligible design and construction costs.

The grant requires a commitment from the Municipality and adoption of a standard resolution. Ms. Foster moved and Mr. Grella seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-8-21 and Resolution No. R-9-21, approving the submission of the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority Green Revitalization of Our Waterways Program Grant Application and associated resolution of municipal commitment. The vote was called. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO EXECUTE A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION
FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE
OFFICER FOR THE MOUNT LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Mr. Grella said at the request of the School District, in 2018 the Municipality and the School District executed an agreement under which the Municipality provided a Police Officer to serve as a full-time officer to the School District to act as the School Resource Officer (SRO).

The current agreement will expire on June 30, 2021, and the parties wish to extend the agreement to continue the current terms, conditions and services of the SRO for an additional one-year term expiring June 30, 2022.

Mr. Grella moved and Ms. Foster seconded to authorize the proper official to execute a one-year extension for the assignment of a School Resource Officer for the Mount Lebanon School District.

Mr. Grella asked Chief Lauth if the program has met his expectations.

Chief Lauth said for the past three years that an officer has been the SRO, it has exceeded his expectations. The goal of the program has always been about building relationships, specifically with the students, staff and parents in the school, and Officer Brian Henley has done an exceptional job in doing this, adding that he was a very experienced officer when he went into the position, and he built relationships immediately. Officer Henley has become a great resource for the people at the school. Chief Lauth noted that a focus group was held at the school regarding this position, and every comment was positive about the program and Officer Henley's performance. Chief Lauth stated his only disappointment is that this agreement is only a one-year extension and not more.

The vote was called. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION OF AN APPOINTMENT TO THE
PARKS ADVISORY BOARD TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM**

Mr. Silverman moved and Mr. Grella seconded to appoint Dhanya Elias of Fieldbrook Drive to fill an unexpired term ending March 31, 2023. The vote was called. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF THE EXPENDITURE

LIST FOR MAY TOTALING \$4,642,571.44

Ms. Foster moved and Mr. Grella seconded to approve the expenditure list for May totaling \$4,642,571.44. The vote was called. The motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mr. Grella asked that the reports be received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.