

FEBRUARY 3, 2020 6:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council President Keating calls the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A moment of silence was observed for the recent passing of Council member Ron Alunni.

Roll Call was taken, those present included Mr. Christian, Mr. Olejnick, Mr. Keating, and Mr. Cwalina. Also present were Mayor Concert, Gene Breznay, Borough Manager and Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor. Councilman Brown, Mike Amato, Penn Eastern Engineering, Mike Galanda, Zoning Officer and Jeff Zupko, Street Commissioner were noted as absent.

Mr. Keating called an Executive Session at 6:32 pm. Executive Session ended at 06:50.

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to accept the minutes from the January 6, 2020 meeting. Motion made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$39,907.10 were presented by Council Secretary, Ms. O'Donnell and were paid on a motion made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Christian. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

BOROUGH COORDINATOR REPORT

- Mr. Breznay shared that two trees at Slocum Street playground are rotted and will need to be cut down. A motion was requested for Asplundh to perform the service. It is noted that Asplundh will complete the service for free. A motion was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

- Mr. Breznay shared that \$100,000 was transferred to the General Fund to pay for the remainder of the Borough's Street Paving Project. There is no negative impact on the Borough's finances with the transfer.

- Mr. Keating requested an update from a recent meeting with Senator Yudichak. Mr. Breznay shared that Senator Yudichak offered support for the Borough's efforts for the Casino Grants.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Keating presented the December 2019 Finance Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$139,858.98; transfers & revenue for the month: \$20,859.01; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$87,781.05; ending checkbook balance: \$72,936.94. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$32.25; transfers and revenue for month: \$9,400.15; expenses and transfers for the month: \$9,323.42; ending checkbook balance: \$108.98. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$27,268.96; transfers and revenue for the month: \$15,133.88; expenses and transfers for the month: \$8,721.56; ending checkbook balance: \$33,681.28. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$27,762.23; transfers and revenue for the month: \$3,133.87; expenses and transfers for the month: \$3,946.99; ending checkbook balance: \$23,949.11.

Liaison Officer: Mr. Christian - No report.

Street Department: Mr. Olejnick – No report.

Police Department: Mr. Keating read the police report for January 2020 which included a breakdown of hours for Crossing Guards. There was a total of 137 service calls and 5 vehicle accidents reported. Fees collected totaled \$362.92. A motion was made to place monies in the appropriate fund by Mr. Keating and was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Fire Department: Mr. Cwalina clarified that the Broderick #2 station is not closed. The Borough gives \$20,000 to each Fire Department annually & for this year Broderick elected not to solicit the residents of Swoyersville for donations. Maltby Fire Station has sent out donation mailers to residents.

- Mr. Cwalina shared that Representative Kaufer attended the last meeting of the Westside COG and along with Senator Yudichak is supportive of the grants that the Westside COG has asked for. With equipment that the COG is asking for, all planned road paving will be secured. With the grant, some smaller departments volunteered to share equipment (Kingston, Exeter, Forty Fort). A question was presented regarding how insurance would work if an employee of Swoyersville goes to another town to assist & experiences an injury. Mr. Cwalina noted that employees are covered under their own municipality and there would not be an insurance issue.

Mayor Concert: Mayor Concert again recognized the passing of Ron Alunni who served on the Swoyersville Council for more than 40 years representing the 3rd Ward as Council President. On behalf of the Borough, condolences are extended to the Alunni family.

- Swoyersville Kiwanis Club is collecting applications for Hero Banners. Time is running out so if anyone is interested in an application, they can see Mayor Concert or contact any Kiwanis member.

- On 1/23/20, Mayor Concert met with Senator Yudichak, Dan Meuser, and Matt Cartwright about the Culm Bank and they are trying to get approval for the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act amendment passed which would clear the way for more funding to get rid of the banks. Mayor Concert recommends that a letter be sent to each of them asking for support of the amendment.

- Mayor Concert shared a request from Chief Castner for Andrew Labar to be able to attend a training course in June 2020. The course is NCSAP: Commercial Truck Inspection Certification. The course is 180 hours long and will provide the certification to inspect all types of commercial trucks that travel our Borough's roadways for safety. Chief Castner believes that this training will improve the safety of our residents and the Borough itself. The training is free; however, location of class is in Harrisburg, PA which would require accommodations, so approval is also needed for the cost beyond the \$300.00 allotted contract fund. Council recommends that the request be tabled until confirmation of acceptance into the class is received and cost totals can be submitted.

- Mayor Concert recognized an amazing story about a young Swoyersville resident, Quinn Crispell, that was published on the front page of the Times Leader. Ms. Crispell is a 16 year old Wyoming Valley West honor student who volunteers as an acolyte and lector at her church. Ms. Crispell, who also has Down's Syndrome, stands out as a runner and is a member of the school's Cross Country Team. Her hard work and perseverance are truly inspirational.

- Mr. Concert received, from the United States Airforce, an American flag certified as flown from the Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait aboard the C138 Hercules and the C17A Globe Master 3rd during combat missions over the skies of Kuwait, Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. This flag is presented by Sergeant Paul T. Pasick, Jr. of Swoyersville to the residents & staff of the Swoyersville Borough. The certificate is signed and will be placed in the Swoyersville Borough display case.

Attorney Yeager: No report.

Old& New Business: Mr. Christian provided an update regarding the Birch Street issue presented at last month's meeting. Mike Amato did review the issue; however, they have not been able to touch base yet regarding the findings. Mr. Christian also shared that he spoke to Mr. Morgan from Highway Safety and was informed that in order to get funding for aggressive driving, the Borough needs to start participating in DUI checkpoints. Participation is free and Mr. Christian recommends that it is something that the Borough begins to look at. Attorney Yeager did advise that if conducting a DUI checkpoint, the Borough needs to make sure things are set up and done correctly with coordination of the court and police chief.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

- Joe Ruscavage – Does Swoyersville need to pass an ordinance regarding the roaming commercial truck inspection? A recommendation was made to Chief Castner to investigate the requirement.

- Diane Sabolchick, 9 White Street – concerned about plowing of White Street not being done. It was shared that there was a new employee on the day plowing was not done and he was not aware of the need to plow the dirt end of White Street. Ms. Sabolchick thanked Mr. Christian for his assistance with getting the issue addressed. Mr. Christian shared that moving forward it will not be a problem.

- Tony Zambito, Jackson Street – attended Luzerne County Council meeting on the Storm Water Issue. Would the Swoyersville Borough Council be willing to send a letter to the Luzerne County Council to show support the efforts to address the Storm Water Issue. Mr. Keating shared that a letter can be sent.

-Ed Connor, 86 Grandville Drive – here on behalf of residents of Grandville Drive regarding a concern over the parking that is going up Steeplechase. Over the past few months there are a few parked vehicles that obstruct the view coming down the hill and create obstruction for easy access going up and down the hill as it is narrow. What can be done to alleviate the parking concern? Mr. Keating asked Chief Castner to review the issue and observe how cars are parking in the area presented before determining if a no parking sign is warranted. Mr. Christian questioned if an ordinance would need to be put in place if a parking sign would be approved? Attorney Yeager shared that there is not a need. A no parking near corner sign could be used.

- Joe Atherhold – Grandville Drive – is there more paving to be done this year? Paving has been completed for this year.

- Frank Leonard – 296 Shoemaker Street – Understands issue on Steeplechase. There is also an issue at top where people have their cars parked over on the side instead of their driveways. This makes it difficult for Borough Trucks plowing to get around and it results in snow being left behind. If these residents would park in their driveway it would be easier for workers to plow and sand appropriately. There are also complaints that drivers are hitting trees that are hanging out over the street. Residents are yelling at Borough workers that their trees are being ruined. Mr. Keating share that if a resident's tree grows over the street and they are damaged by trucks hitting the tree, it is the resident's responsibility. Borough workers are not responsible. Mr. Christian also shared that he has received complaints regarding excessive garbage buildup on Steeplechase. Mayor Christian shared that Mike Galanda is aware of the issue.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 4-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm. Next meeting will be held on March 2, 2020 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating
Council President

FEBRUARY 20, 2020 6:00 PM
SPECIAL MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council President Mr. Keating calls the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken, those present: Mr. Christian, Mr. Brown, Mr. Olejnick, Mr. Keating and Mr. Cwalina. Also present was Mayor Concert and Gene Breznay, Borough Manager.

* 3/200 = Also present Attorney Yeager BCP

The purpose of the meeting this evening is to assign a replacement for the Council position formerly held by Mr. Ron Alunni. Letters of interest & resumes were submitted by Mrs. Tara Priest-Rhodes, Mr. Dave Zasada, Mr. Tony Zambito and Mr. John Menta. Each applicant was given the opportunity to present their interest in being appointed to the position and share their resumes/qualifications. Questions were presented by Council Members. Mr. Christian, on behalf of the Borough Council members, thanked all applicants for their interest and for all that each applicant has done within and for the community of Swoyersville.

An Executive Session was called by Mr. Keating at 6:13 pm. Executive Session ended at 6:25 pm.

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to fill the Council Member position. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to appoint Mr. John Menta and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 4-0 in favor with Mr. Christian abstaining from the vote.

* 3-2-20 = Motion made by Mr. Cwalina & seconded by Mr. Olejnick BCP

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating
Council President