

March 2, 2020 6:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council President Keating calls the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Keating called an Executive Session at 6:31 pm. Executive Session ended at 6:55 pm.

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

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to accept the minutes from the February 3, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Christian and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 4-0 with Mr. Menta and Mr. Brown abstaining from the vote.

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to accept the minutes from the February 20, 2020 Special Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Christian and seconded by Mr. Brown. A request was made by Mr. Olejnick to correct the minutes to reflect that a motion was made by Mr. Cwalina to appoint Mr. John Menta to fill the Council Member position and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. A request was also made by Attorney Yeager to add his name as present at the meeting. Corrections were made to the minutes as requested. Vote was 5-0 with Mr. Menta abstaining from the vote.

Monthly bills totaling \$20,975.87 were presented by Council Secretary, Ms. O'Donnell and were paid on a motion made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Olejnick. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

BOROUGH COORDINATOR REPORT

- Mr. Breznay presented a Borough Council Meeting advertising issue. Council meetings were advertised; however, did not contain enough detail. Details were updated and resubmitted for advertisement and the ordinance will be also be sent.
- Mr. Breznay shared a thank you card received from the Alunni Family.
- Mr. Breznay informed the Council that a Liquid Fuels allotment was received for 2020 in the amount of \$155,095.96.
- A meeting was recently held with Representative Kaufer. There were several Council members present. Discussions were held regarding 2020 paving plans which include Slocum & Dennison Streets. Work is planned to start sometime this summer. The Block Grants & possibility of solar power for the Borough Building were also discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Brown presented the January 2020 Finance Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$72,936.94; transfers & revenue for the month: \$213,469.64; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$243,943.31; ending checkbook balance: \$42,463.27. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$108.98; transfers and revenue for month: \$8,700.10; expenses and transfers for the month: \$8,651.92; ending checkbook balance: \$157.16. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$33681.28; transfers and revenue for the month: \$47,916.11; expenses and transfers for the month: \$45,174.67; ending checkbook balance: \$36,422.72. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$23,949.11; transfers and revenue for the month: \$33,403.80; expenses and transfers for the month: \$27,707.15; ending checkbook balance: \$29,645.76.

Liaison Officer: Mr. Christian - No report.

Street Department: Mr. Olejnick – A five year agreement between the Wyoming Valley Sewer Authority and the Borough of Swoyersville for WVSA to take control of the Borough's ponding areas was received and reviewed by Attorney Yeager. The agreement will be a great cost savings move for the Borough with an annual savings being approximately \$9,300.00... The details of the agreement were presented further by Mr. Breznay. It was noted the agreement includes a stipulation that in the event the Rain Tax goes away, the agreement will also end. A motion was received from Mr. Olejnick to approve the agreement and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Police Department: Mr. Keating read the police report for February 2020 which included a breakdown of hours for Crossing Guards. There was a total of 117 service calls and 6 vehicle accidents reported. Fees collected totaled \$581.02. A motion was made to place monies in the appropriate fund by Mr. Keating and was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Fire Department: Mr. Cwalina – There were forty ambulance calls received for the month of February 2020. The West Side COG has a date set for equipment maintenance (normal maintenance for equipment purchased through West Side COG). An e-mail will be sent to Mr. Cwalina and Mr. Breznay. A date has also been set for the Equipment Rodeo. Vendors come in and provide operator training which this year will be primarily paving equipment. Kingston & Forty Fort have stated that when they are doing that, they will actually complete a road paving with crews. There is a possibility Swoyersville can get involved with that and get a small road done.

Mayor Concert: A letter from Chief Castner was presenting requesting Council to conduct a vote to fill the vacant full time position that exists within the Swoyersville Borough Police Department with Eric Bartos who is the only qualified officer on the Civil Service Commission list. A motion was made by Mr. Menta to hire Eric Bartos and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 5-0 with Mr. Christian abstaining from the vote. Eric Bartos was sworn in as a full time police officer within the Swoyersville Borough Police Department. Congratulations were extended by Council Members and Mayor Concert. Mayor Concert also thanked the Civil Service Commission for all that they do.

- Mayor Concert shared that prior to this evening's meeting, John Menta was sworn in by Magistrate Barilla and we would like to welcome him aboard.

- A letter was received from Swoyersville American Legion Baseball requesting to play baseball games at Roosevelt fields for the 2020 season. There are three teams, Prep, Youth/Junior and Senior. The season

will begin on April 15th with tryouts and conclude on August 9, 2020. A request was also made for the water to be turned in the standaround May 1, 2020. Bathrooms will also be used this season. Mayor Concert questioned if waiving the cost/fees will occur. Council agreed that fees will be waived. Mr. Cwalina noted that maintenance noted in the request letter (#3) is something that is already taken care of by the Mini Football league (Grow grass in left field)

- On Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 5pm, Mayor Concert will have the ice cream truck down at Roosevelt Field and will be giving out free ice cream to the first 100 people in celebration of the first day of Spring.

- The Mayor's third annual Bumper Bunnies will be held at the Broderick Fire Company on Slocum Street on Sunday, April 5, 2020 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. It is open to anyone who would like to participate and will be set up in a trunk or treat style. Once the children get to the last trunk, they will get a prize. Last year, the Borough donated \$150.00. Mr. Menta made a motion to donate \$150.00 to the Mayor's Bumper Bunnies event and was seconded by Mr. Cwalina.

- A thank you was extended to the Swoyersville Police Department for all their hard work painting and upgrading the building.

- In the Spring, Mayor Concert will be planting a tree in Loveland Park in memory of Ron Alunni. A tree has been donated. Council will be notified when it will be done. Mayor Concert shared that something is also be worked on for Patrolman Jones.

Attorney Yeager: No report.

Old& New Business:Mr. Christian commended Mr. Greg Griffin, Noyes Ave. who worked to have the back road cleaned up. Mayor Concert requested that Mr. Breznay forward a letter of thanks to Mr. Griffin.

- Mr. Christian followed up on the parking issue presented last month involving Grandview Drive. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to properly post the North & South side of Steeple Chase where necessary with no parking signs and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

- Mr. Christian made a motion to post No Parking sign at the roundabout at top of Steeple Chase for the timeframe 7:00 am to 12:00 on garbage pickup day which is Wednesday and for Snow Emergency. Parking in that area has created several problems with garbage pickup and snow removal. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

- Mr. Christian followed up on the water buildup issue on Birch Street discussed at a previous meeting. Mr. Amato shared that the area was looked at and the problem area will be addressed in the Spring so that the water can run off properly and not accumulate.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

- Bob Gorda, 270 Dana Street – concerned about someone dumping about 5 bags of roofing at St. Nicks Cemetery near the end of Swoyer Street. There are also two deceased animals dumped in the area. Can a no-dumping sign be placed in the area? The Street Department will remove the items dumped and Mayor Concert request that Chief Castner increase patrolling of that area. A no-dumping sign will be placed.

- Tony Zambito, Jackson Street – extended a thank you to Mr. Christian and Mr. Cwalina for attending the Rain Tax meeting that occurred about 3 weeks ago.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm. Next meeting will be held on April 6, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating
Council President