

June 1, 2020 6:30 PM

REGULAR MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council President Keating calls the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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 and Jeff Zupko, Street Department Supervisor. Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor was noted as absent.

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to accept the minutes from the May 4, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Mayor Concert presented a letter of recommendation submitted by Chief Castner requesting to hire John Owens to fill the current vacant full time Police Officer position within the borough. Mr. Owens is the only qualified individual on the Civil Service list and is highly qualified to fill the position. A motion was requested by Mayor Concert to hire John Owens. A motion was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Mr. John Owens was sworn into the full time Police Officer position by Mayor Concert. Congratulations were extended to Mr. Owens by Council Members.

Ms. O'Donnell, Council Secretary, presented the monthly bills totaling \$20,760.58. Mr. Keating noted that the total balance presented was different than what was outlined on the meeting agenda presented to Council Members. Further evaluation indicated that the "Present Monthly Bills for Payment" amount on the agenda was not updated with June's total. A note is made that the agenda should reflect \$20,760.58. With the change noted, a motion was made to approve the monthly bills by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

BOROUGH COORDINATOR REPORT

- Mr. Breznay presented the ordinance(s) for parking restrictions on Stock, Bond, Grandville, Diamond, Broderick, Hemlock and Steeplechase. Ordinances have been advertised. The ordinance specifics were presented for each street involved. Mr. Breznay requested a motion for final approval. A motion was made to approve by Mr. Christian and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.
- Mr. Breznay informed Council that 3,000 recycling containers will be scheduled for delivery in the next few days. The Street Department will arrange delivery to those who have a 2020 recycling sticker within one month.
- Mr. Breznay shared that the Borough Building is set to reopen on June 8, 2020 with the conditions/guidelines for reopening in place that were approved at the May 4, 2020 meeting. Conditions were reviewed again with Council.

-Mr. Breznay shared that Park Avenue has been paved. This completed the Borough's pave project from 2019.

-Mr. Breznay reported that the Water Company will pave Church Street, Avenue A and Avenue B. Other streets in Borough with gas and or water main replacements will be paved when the installation project is complete.

-Mr. Breznay presented the amended Street Department benefit package that contained updates that were approved at the last Council meeting. The benefit package section addressing work boots was amended. The package will be distributed to employees starting tomorrow Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Brown presented the April Finance Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$12,961.60; transfers & revenue for the month: \$184,683.88; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$118,646.98; ending checkbook balance: \$78,998.50. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$137.07; transfers and revenue for month: \$6,300.12; expenses and transfers for the month: \$6,295.49; ending checkbook balance: \$141.70. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$19,387.25; transfers and revenue for the month: \$18,042.07; expenses and transfers for the month: \$10,128.74; ending checkbook balance: \$27,300.58. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$3,870.75; transfers and revenue for the month: \$321.40; expenses and transfers for the month: \$3201.86; ending checkbook balance: \$990.29.

Liaison Officer: Mr. Christian - No report.

Street Department: Mr. Olejnick shared that the Street Department has requested to hire a temporary employee, Anthony Hunzer, at \$10.00/hour. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Christian. The vote was 5-1 in favor.

-Mr. Olejnick shared that the Street Department has requested a "no parking" sign from Broadway Street to the dead end. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to amend the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Police Department: Mr. Menta read the police report for May 2020. There was a total of 180 service calls and 6 vehicle accidents reported. Fees collected totaled \$325.01. A motion was made to place monies in the appropriate fund by Mr. Menta and was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Fire Department: No Report.

Mayor Concert: Mayor Concert presented a request received from Chief Castner for the hiring of Nicholas Basov as a part-time Police Officer within the Borough of Swoyersville. An application was received from Mr. Basov and an indepth background check was completed along with a review of employment history. A motion was made by Mr. Christian and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mayor Concert presented a thank you card for all those responsible for food delivery to home of Jean Butchko, Hemlock Street, Swoyersville Pa. The kindness and thoughtfulness of the community is truly appreciated.

-Mayor Concert presented the following community updates:

The borough parks are now open and ready for residents to go out and use.

The community yard sale is scheduled for June 13, 2020 from 8 am to 2 pm. Residents interested in participating can email the mayor and he will add the address to the list.

On July 4, 2020, Mayor Concert will be hosting a parade that will start at the Closed 2U Storage on Slocum Street and will end at the Borough Building. Any Swoyersville organization that would like to attend can contact Mayor Concert. Council members that would like to participate will be transported by the Bayo'slice Truck. Afterwards at 2pm, the annual Strawberry Social will be held at Barilla Park using all social distancing guidelines.

-Mayor Concert extended a thank you to the residents that run the Facebook pages Swoyersville Next Door and People Who Grew Up in Swoyersville.

-Mayor Concert shared that the Borough will be getting new police shields for our police officers. The shields had been requested by the Police Department and are being provided by the Swoyersville Kiwanis Club, the family of Andrew Jones and J & L Towing. A thank you for all was extended for keeping our officers safe.

-Mayor Concert shared that the can collection is going on. The proceeds from the collection will go toward purchasing books for all 1st graders and Kindergarten students at the Dana Street Elementary School in the fall as well as the Thanks for Veterans program in November.

-Mayor Concert shared he understands there has been an issue with his signing of Borough checks. He shared that he stepped in when there was no one within the Borough to perform the responsibility; however, feels that he should be removed from the responsibility. It was noted that Mayor Concert's support has been appreciated. Mr. Christian shared that Council would like to make sure a process is in place that is correct under Council guidelines. Mr. Menta made a motion for the checks to be signed by Mr. Breznay, Borough Manager or Council President Keating. In the absence of either the Borough Manager or Council President, signing responsibility will fall to the Council Vice President Mr. Olejnick. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mayor Concert asked if the Zoning Office will be back to normal hours along with Borough Building reopening on June 8, 2020. Mr. Breznay shared that he is not aware of what the plan is for the Zoning Office; however, will call the Zoning Officer to inquire. Mayor Concert shared that there are a lot of resident's inquiring about this.

Attorney Yeager: No report as noted as absent

Old & New Business:

-Mr. Christian asked Jeff Zupko, Street Department Supervisor if there was an update available on the Birch Street issue that was mentioned at a previous meeting. Mr. Olejnick noted that Mike Amato, Penn Eastern Engineering, was working on a design to revamp the area which has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic emergency. As soon as clearance is received, the plan will move forward. Mr. Breznay also offered that he spoke to Mr. Amato and also shared Mr. Amato is monitoring the issue and will move forward with a resolution once clearance is received to move forward.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

A question was presented from Chris Murray regarding the cutting of grass at the softball field. It was shared that the Borough is working on getting to this issue. It is noted that although the Borough is down on manpower it is being worked on. A temporary Street Department employee has been hired with this meeting.

Mr. Breznay shared the phone number for residents to call in with any questions or concerns they may have. Mr. Breznay also questioned if the hiring of a temporary Street Department employee will include the same background check & testing as occurs with others hired. Mr. Olejnick confirmed that the same requirements apply.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm. Next meeting will be held on July 6, 2020 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating
Council President