

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

Council Vice President Joseph Olejnick called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call was taken, those present included Mr. Cwalina, Mr. Menta and Mr. Olejnick. Also noted as present were Mayor Concert and Gene Breznay, Borough Manager. Council President Mr. Keating, Councilman Brown, Councilman Christian and Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor was noted as absence. Without a quorum in place, the meeting could not progress. This meeting will be re-scheduled to Tuesday, July 14, 2020 @ 06:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating
Council President

JULY 14, 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, and Mr. Keating. Also noted as present were Mayor Concert, Gene Breznay, Borough Manager and Mr. Galanda, Zoning Officer. Vice President Olejnick and Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor were noted as absent.

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to accept the minutes from the June 1, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$26,316.08 had been previously approved as paid.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

- Mr. Breznay shared that the 3,000 recycling containers are still being delivered to residents. The process is time consuming so residents are asked to be patient. Bins are being delivered by streets alphabetically. The Street Department is currently at Slocum Street. 1 bin is being provided per recycling sticker sold.
- Mr. Breznay informed Council that the 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will be \$150,000 for the Borough. Streets submitted for consideration are Maltby, Laverick, Bohac, Talcott and Bigelow.
- Mr. Breznay shared that Luzerne County is proposing to extend the Face Period due date for Real Estate Taxes until December 31, 2020 in light of the ongoing pandemic. The County has requested Council's input regarding Swoyersville Borough. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to approve extending the Face Period for Real Estate Taxes for Swoyersville Residents to the end of the year. Motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Mr. Breznay will share Council's vote with County Representatives. Mr. Keating question if a resolution would be required with an extension of the due date. Mr. Breznay shared it would once the Borough receives notification that the extension was approved by Luzerne County.
- Mr. Breznay shared that Wyoming Valley Sewer Authority ponding basin projects have been put on hold until 2021. It was noted that Slocum Street will be added in 2021.

Finance: Mr. Brown presented the May Finance Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$78,998.50; transfers & revenue for the month: \$333,453.55; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$289,778.41; ending checkbook balance: \$122,673.64. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$141.70; transfers and revenue for month: \$4,500.11; expenses and transfers for the month: \$4,467.15; ending checkbook balance: \$174.66. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$27,300.58; transfers and revenue for the month: \$19,064.67; expenses and transfers for the month: \$9,743.67; ending checkbook balance: \$36,621.58. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$990.09; transfers and revenue for the month: \$3,119.56; expenses and transfers for the month: \$2,651.90; ending checkbook balance: \$1,457.75.

Liaison Officer: Mr. Christian presented a letter received from Michael Galanda, Zoning Officer requesting approval of a minor subdivision of properties owned by Frank & Patricia Yamrick, R. 1109 Main Street, Swoyersville and Rutkowski Real Estate LLC, 324 Dennison Street, Swoyersville. The property is located behind Main Street and adjacent to Dennison Street. The Swoyersville Planning Commission met on 6/24/20 and approved the subdivision. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to approve the subdivision. Motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Street Department: Mr. Olejnick. Absent. No Report.

Police Department: Mr. Menta read the police report for June 2020. There were 12 hours reported for Crossing Guards. There were a total of 180 service calls and 2 vehicle accidents reported. Fees collected totaled \$260.87. A motion was made to place monies in the appropriate fund by Mr. Menta and was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Fire Department: Mr. Cwalina shared that there were 53 Ambulance calls reported for June 2020. It was noted that the Fire Department and the West Side COG will not start meeting again until September.

Mayor Concert: Mayor Concert reported that the overgrowth on Brown Street has been addressed and is being taken care of.

-Mayor Concert reported that the can dumpster behind the Borough Building is now locked because there has been trash thrown into the dumpster. Bags/cans can still be placed behind the dumpster.

-Mayor Concert extended a thank you to Maggie (Swoyersville Borough Office) and Gene Breznay who have been very busy addressing each of the 3,000 recycling bins that are being distributed to Swoyersville residents who have purchased a recycling sticker. It is a big project and they are doing a great job!

-The Cub Scouts have requested permission to use the Roosevelt Field for their day camp on August 10, 2020 to August 20, 2020 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. There will be approximately 70 people attending and they will be following all CDC recommendations and will sanitize. They do have a million dollar insurance policy. Mr. Christian motioned to approve the use of Roosevelt Field for the Cub Scouts Day Camp for the days requested at no charge. Motion was seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

-Mayor Concert reported that the pothole at the top of Slocum Street has been repaired temporarily. Mr. Breznay added that the Gas Company was contacted and that there are plans to perform permanent restoration at a future date.

-Mayor Concert presented the issue of Kossack & Jay Street. There have been concerns raised by residents regarding speeding on Kossick and recent accidents that have occurred at that intersection. Council discussed options to increase safety at the intersection. Council requested Sgt. Joshua Wolinsky (who was present at the meeting) to discuss the issue further with Police Chief Kyle Castner and present a recommendation to the Council for consideration. Mr. Christian asked if a plan/recommendation could be presented at the August meeting.

-Mayor Concert shared that residents are complaining that increased speeding has begun with Church Street now paved and a request has been made for a stop sign to be placed at Church Street and Avenue B. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to place a stop sign and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0. A resolution will be presented at the next meeting

-Mayor Concert presented a letter from the Swoyersville Kiwanis Club. Scholarship awards will be given out again this year with proceeds from the Scholarship Open Golf Tournament. The Kiwanis club is asking Council to consider a sponsorship. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to approve a Platinum Sponsorship (\$150.00). Motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 5-0.

-Mayor Concert informed Council that the Borough Tax Collector will be re-opening her office next month to the public and an inquiry regarding a plexiglass guard has been presented. Mr. Breznay shared that the issue has already been addressed and the guard will be in place in time for when the office re-opens.

-Mayor Concert requested that a hand sanitizing station be placed in the lobby of the Borough Building for the public to use coming in and also leaving. Mr. Breznay reported that sanitizer is available and a stand will be obtained.

Attorney Yeager: Absent. No report.

Old & New Business:

-Mr. Christian, on behalf of Council Members, offered condolences to Mayor Concert on the recent passing of his mother.

-Mr. Christian reported there is a storm grate located on Talcott Street that is sunken in and in need of repair. Mr. Christian will reach out to Jeff Zupko, Street Supervisor regarding having it fixed.

-Mr. Christian shared a request from a Swoyersville resident regarding the possibility of a handicap swing being placed in the borough parks. There are currently no handicap swings available for her disabled child to play in. Mr. Breznay will evaluate cost involved & funds available and will also speak to Kingston Borough regarding their experience with placing a handicap swing in their park, which has since been removed. There may be a possibility that the Kingston Borough would still have the swing.

-Mayor Concert shared that in addition to supporting the need for a handicap swing, Mayor Concert would also like Council also consider purchasing an extra set of regular size swings (not baby seats) for each park. Mr. Christian made a motion to purchase 3 sets of regular size swings. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 5-0.

-Mr. Breznay shared that he received a request from some residents to place a "Watch Children" sign in the Hazel & Watkins Street areas. Also, looking at other areas through the Borough would be something to consider. The Borough does have signs available to use. Mr. Breznay will speak to Jeff Zupko, Street Supervisor about sign placement.

-Mr. Breznay updated the Council on road salt purchase for this year. The Borough is obligated to purchase at least 400 ton of road salt at \$79.00 a ton. The Borough can go over the amount by 40% or under the amount by 40%. With this year, there is not a large amount to purchase (about 98 tons) which has to be completed by the end of July 2020. The purchase is planned for this week.

-Mayor Concert shared that residents should make sure that yard waste containers are not real heavy as it creates a difficulty for Borough workers when picking them up.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

-A comment was presented via Face Book to place a handicap swing at Slocum Street Park or Noyes Avenue Park.

-Residents are asking about having another Community Yard Sale. Mayor Concert will take a look at the possibility.

-A question was presented by David Lamoreaux of Jackson Street regarding what was being done with 2 abandoned houses; one on Tenor and one on Chestnut. Mr. Galanda, Zoning Officer shared that one on Tenor has been addressed. There are a few in the Borough that are being addressed.

-Mark from 77 Brook Street asked if Brook Street can be added to the paving list. Mr. Breznay shared that he is not sure if Brook Street qualifies but will look at the map.

-Mayor Concert shared that Kevin's Automotive Repair is donating \$100.00 and Kevin (Owner) will match that donation for the purchase of a handicap swing. A thank you was extended by Council for the generous donation.

-Ellen Davis asked if someone could run a business out of their home if it is not commercially zoned. Mr. Galanda shared that it is possible. Mr. Breznay further shared that the Zoning Officer should be contacted because depending on the type of business, it may have to be presented in front of the Zoning Board. Mr. Galanda can be reached at 570-288-7591 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Mayor Concert further shared that this issue surrounds the type of signage put out by residents for a business that is not zoned. Mr. Galanda shared that there is an ordinance that allows a laminated one foot square sign without having a commercially zoned business.

-A question was presented inquiring if a metal grill could be put out for metal collection without a sticker. Mr. Breznay responded with yes.

An Executive Session was called at 7:18 pm and ended at 7:25 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 07:26 pm. Next meeting will be held on August 3, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating
Council President

