

October 5, 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, Mike Galanda, Zoning Officer and Rob Koval, Street Department. Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor was absent.

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to accept the minutes from the September 8, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$54,326.00 were presented by Ms. O'Donnell, Council Secretary. A motion for approval of the monthly bills was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

### BOROUGH COORDINATOR REPORT

- Mr. Breznay shared that the 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) road paving project will be completed in 2021.

- Mr. Breznay presented a resolution to adopt the 2020 Luzerne County Hazard Mitigation Plan for natural disasters. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Menta. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

- Mr. Breznay shared that there was one bid received for the 1990 Recycling Truck that was advertised by the Borough for sale. The bid was opened & noted as received from Hospodar's, 260 Shoemaker Street in the amount of \$800.00. A \$100.00 deposit was included. A motion was made to accept the \$800.00 bid by Mr. Cwalina and was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0.

Mr. Christian questioned the status of the 2001 cruiser. Chief Kastner shared that the vehicle is being scrapped and he is in the process of obtaining a few more quotes on pricing.

-Mr. Breznay informed the Council that the 2021 budget will be ready by the end of the week. A budget work session was scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:30 pm. The budget will be reviewed with Council members during this meeting.

-Mr. Breznay shared that the 2020 LSA Grant (Casino Grants) will not be decided until November 2020 or later. Also, the 2021 LSA Grant application period is open. The Borough will be applying for funds to purchase a Street Department Dump Truck. There is an anticipated cost of \$60,000-\$80,000. Mike Zupko, Street Department Supervisor is working on quotes. Meeting will be held with Representative Kaufer & Senator Yudichak when the time comes to further discuss the 2020 LSA Grant application.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance:** Mr. Brown presented the August Finance Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$31,209.16; transfers & revenue for the month: \$161,694.46; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$96,116.74; ending checkbook balance: \$96,786.88. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$144.57; transfers and revenue for month: \$11,700.23; expenses and transfers for the month: \$11,650.01; ending checkbook balance: \$194.79. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$11,014.01; transfers and revenue for the month: \$20,952.40; expenses and transfers for the month: \$13,187.43; ending checkbook balance: \$18,778.98. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$41,366.76; transfers and revenue for the month: \$12,273.79; expenses and transfers for the month: \$31,922.43; ending checkbook balance: \$21,718.12.

**Liaison Officer:** No Report.

**Street Department:** Mr. Olejnick shared that the Street Department would like to meet with Council regarding raises, possibility of trading the garbage packer and other business. Council invites the department to attend the 10/19/20 Budget Work Session to present issues for discussion.

**Police Department:** Mr. Menta read the police report for September 2020. There was a total of 164 service calls and 2 vehicle accidents reported. Fees collected totaled \$503.96. A motion was made to place monies in the appropriate fund by Mr. Menta and was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

**Fire Department:** Mr. Cwalina reported there were 43 ambulance calls for the month of September 2020.

- Mr. Cwalina presented information on the Community Recycling Event scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2020 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The event will be held at the Luzerne County Soccer Fields on Camryn Way in Forty Fort. To participate, residents need to preregister and purchase a tag at their local municipalities. The cost for residents would be \$30.00 per car/truck/SUV and will allow one TV or computer monitor as well as unlimited number of other electronics. An additional tag will be sold for \$20.00 for additional TV or Monitor. There would be a cost to the Borough. The cost would depend on the amount of tickets sold. Swoyersville is not on the advertisement for the event at this time; however, can be added. The COG would also like a volunteer to work the event. Both Mayor Concert and Mr. Christian noted that they have received input from many residents that they would like Swoyersville to participate in the event. Mr. Cwalina made a motion for Swoyersville to participate in the event. Motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor. The event will be posted on the Borough Facebook page.

**Mayor Concert:** Mayor Concert shared that complaints continue to be received from Brook Street regarding trees that fell that have not yet been cleaned up. Rob Koval shared that the Street Department is working on it and will get to it.

- Mayor Concert (along with Mr. Christian) presented several streets where residents have requested "SLOW" be stenciled. Those streets include Perrin, Milbre, Hemlock, Owen, and Hughes. In addition, the crosswalks need to be repainted onto Church Street. Council shared that a vote is not required for these requests. The Street Department will work toward accommodating all requests.

- Mayor Concert requests that during the Budget Work Session the issue of handicap & regular swings that had been previously approved for purchase be discussed. Mr. Breznay will bring information regarding cost of swings to the meeting on 10/19/20.
- Mayor Concert requests that participation in the Council of Governments also be discussed at the meeting scheduled on 10/19/20. There is a \$3,400.00 annual fee and Mayor Concert does not feel that the Borough gets their money's worth because the Borough does not use half of the equipment that is available. Also, when there is a need to use a piece of equipment the Borough cannot get it. Council agrees that this issue will be discussed further at the 10/19/20 meeting.
- Mayor Concert shared that the Fall Festival will be held on 10/17/20, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, with the first 100 children receiving a free pumpkin. The Police & Fire Department will be present for kids to meet.
- Mayor Concert reported that the Swoyersville Hose Company #1 building on Shoemaker has been sold. With the sale, Mayor Concert would like to see the property being placed back on the tax rules.
- The Swoyersville Kiwanis Club will be holding a Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 25, 2020 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Social distancing and mask rules are required. Anyone who would like to participate can contact the Kiwanis Club on Facebook.
- Mayor Concert shared a request made by Nancy Keating, Swoyersville Tax Collector regarding an evaluation of pay for the position of Tax Collector. Council invited Mrs. Keating to attend the October 19, 2020 Budget Work Session where the issue will be discussed further.

#### **Old & New Business:**

- Mr. Cwalina followed up on a question presented at the last meeting regarding the ordinance for the stop signs placed between Sycamore & Jay Street. Mr. Breznay will speak with Attorney Yeager regarding the status of the ordinance.
- Mr. Christian followed up on an issue presented by George Churvey. This issue involved difficulty with being able to turn onto the back alley that goes behind Kossack due to cars that are parked there. There is also a grate at Bernard and the alley that is caved in and making it even more difficult to turn. The Street Department is aware of it. Council requested that Chief Kastner look at the parking concern.
- Mr. Christian followed up on the issue of placing a handicap sign that was approved at last month's meeting. The sign has been purchased and the exact location to place it needs to be clarified. Mayor Concert will provide the exact address to the Street Department.
- Mr. Christian mentioned that there is a grate out in the Borough parking lot that is sunk in and needs to be repaired.
- The Street Department Clothing Allowance Comparison will be presented at the October 19, 2020 meeting for discussion. Appropriate notice was given to Dempsey by the Borough.
- Mayor Concert shared that 400 books are ready to be presented to Dana Elementary. With the proceeds from the Fall Festival, 5 more books will be able to be presented. A thank you was extended to all who participated in this project.

## MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

- Mark Nenichka – 77 Brook Street asked if a “No Parking to Corner” sign can be placed on Boback Street. There are parked cars that make it difficult to turn into Boback from Dennison. Mr. Keating requested Chief Kastner to look at the issue to determine if there are any hazards that exist.

- Mr. Breznay shared that a question was presented regarding voting locations in the Borough. Mr. Breznay shared that the only confirmed location that he is aware of is the Borough Building (2<sup>nd</sup> Ward). He is not yet aware of the other Borough locations being confirmed. Once they are confirmed, an ad will be that will list all locations where voting within the Borough will take place.

- Mayor Concert requested that all outside lights be fixed prior to Election Day. Mr. Breznay indicated that the lights will be addressed.

- The Swoyersville Sailors are requesting to use Roosevelt Field on November 14, 2020 for their Fall Festival. There will not be a bonfire. Permission was given by Council to use the field. The water will be left on (weather permitting) to use.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 07::06 pm. Next meeting will be held on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell  
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating  
Council President