

April 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.

A moment of silence was held in honor of victims of the coronavirus and in remembrance of Joe "Moe" Marcin who passed away recently. Mr. Marcin was a former Council President, council member and tax collector for Swoyersville Borough.

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 Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor.

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to accept the minutes from the March 2, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$22,847.64 were presented to council via email prior to meeting and were noted as paid.

**BOROUGH COORDINATOR REPORT**

- Mr. Breznay shared a letter from the American Legion Baseball notifying the borough that the 2020 season has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Mr. Breznay informed the Council that a fully executed contract for recycling grant to purchase 3,000 recycling bins has been received. The bins will be ordered within the next few weeks.
- Mr. Breznay informed the Council that the LSA (Casino Grant) awards have been postponed until May or June at the earliest. Representative Kaufer's office will advise the Borough when an award decision is made.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance:** Mr. Brown presented the February Finance Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$42,463.27; transfers & revenue for the month: \$156,370.61; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$100,744.96; ending checkbook balance: \$98,088.92. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$157.16; transfers and revenue for month: \$17,700.23; expenses and transfers for the month: \$17,788.39; ending checkbook balance: \$69.00. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$36,422.72; transfers and revenue for the month: \$19,009.88; expenses and transfers for the month: \$39,894.58; ending checkbook balance: \$15,538.02. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$29,645.76; transfers and revenue for the month: \$2,021.35; expenses and transfers for the month: \$22,796.36; ending checkbook balance: \$8,870.75.

**Liaison Officer:** Mr. Christian - No report.

**Street Department:** Mr. Olejnick— A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to hire temporary street help. The motion was seconded by Mr. Menta. An advertisement will be published requesting applications to be submitted before the May council meeting. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

- A request was presented on behalf of Jeff Zupko, Street Dept. Supervisor, for no parking signs to be placed on this side of Diamond Street to the border of Luzerne. The ordinance would need to be amended. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to amend the ordinance and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-A request was also presented on behalf of Jeff Zupko, Street Dept. Supervisor, for a No Parking Sign to be placed near the top of Broderick Street. Parking has created difficulty for garbage trucks and fire trucks to get through. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to amend the ordinance and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

- The Street Department has requested to purchase street signs in bulk which would cost approximately \$4,500.00. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to purchase the signs in bulk and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

**Police Department:** Mr. Keating read the police report for March 2020 which included a breakdown of hours for Crossing Guards. There was a total of 137 service calls and 1 vehicle accident reported. Fees collected totaled \$411.47. 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— West Side COG & Fire Department meeting is suspended until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Mayor Concert:** Mayor Concert shared that taxes could be mailed into Nancy Keating at 675 Main Street, Swoyersville or there is also a drop off box located at 15 Beech Street, Swoyersville. Please do not send cash.

- Mayor Concert thanked the Street Department for work done these past few weeks throughout this pandemic emergency. Mayor Concert also thanked the Fire Department and Police Department for transporting the Easter Bunny through Swoyersville and for helping to celebrate Birthdays throughout the Borough.

- With parks being temporarily closed through the Borough, Mayor Concert shared places that the community can visit which included Kirby Park, Francis Slocum Park, the Back Mountain Trail and the Seven Tubs Nature Area.

-The Swoyersville Community Yard Sale is scheduled for June 6, 2020; however, if the Governor extends the stay at home order the Yard Sale will be moved to another date.

- Garbage stickers can be purchased at Swoyersville Six Pack on the back road, Hospodar's Auto Service on Shoemaker and Gerritys in Luzerne and Wyoming.

**Attorney Yeager:** No report.

**Old& New Business:**

- Mr. Keating presented to council a resignation letter from Eric Bartos who is resigning from his full time police officer position effective April 19, 2020. A motion was made by Mr. Keating to accept the resignation and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 6-0 in favor.
- Mr. Keating presented to council a resignation letter from Tim McCue who is resigning from his part-time police officer position. A motion made by Mr. Keating to accept the resignation and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

**An Executive Session was called at 6:41pm and ended at 7:05 pm.**

Mr. Olejnick made a motion to promote Rob Koval, giving him the raise that was discussed. Motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Mr. Olejnick made a motion to advertise to hire summer help so the positions could be filled at the next meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 6-0.

Mr. Keating made a motion to open the police contract to make some changes for changes/adjustments for starting policeman and to extend the contract to 2024. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0.

Mr. Menta made a motion to open a Civil Service Commission Test as the Borough will be down one full time police beginning 4/19/20 and there are currently no qualifying names on the list. Motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor. The test opportunity will be advertised in the newspaper.

## MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Keating thanked everyone for the patience with this "Live" Facebook meeting. It is an innovation for the Borough. The phone number (570-288-6581) was provided for viewers to contact the Borough with questions.

- Renee Edwards – Will Church Street be paved? Mr. Breznay shared that Church Street will be paved; however, work is halted due to the pandemic emergency. There will be some restorations done first with trenches and cuts in the road. The overlay will occur later sometime mid-summer.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Christian and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm. Next meeting will be held on May 4, 2020 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell  
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating  
Council President