

September 8, 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. Christian, Mr. Cwalina, Mr. Menta, Mr. Olejnick and Mr. Keating. Also noted as present were Mayor Concert & Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor. Noted as absence were Mr. Brown and Gene Breznay, Borough Manager

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to accept the minutes from the August 3, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$57,395.49 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 5-0 in favor.

BOROUGH COORDINATOR REPORT

- Mayor Concert presented The 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO) for the Swoyersville Borough (Non Uniform) Pension Plan & the Swoyersville Police Pension Plan as follows: Non Uniform Plan: \$17,376.00 and Police Pension Plan: \$65,059.00 with an anticipated employee contribution of \$7,700.00 for a total = \$72,759.00. For the Non Uniform Plan, money comes back from State Aid. For the Police pension, there is some reimbursement from State Aid. The State Aid does help minimize the expense for the Borough. A motion was made by Mr. Menta to approve the Swoyersville Borough (Non Uniform) Pension Plan MMO and was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 5-0. A motion was made by Mr. Menta to approve the Swoyersville Policeman Pension Plan MMO and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 4-0 with Mr. Christian abstaining from the vote.
- Mr. Keating presented the Borough Coordinator Report.
- The 2020 Community Development Block Grant is \$150,000. The engineer is preparing specs for bidding.
- Mr. Keating submitted a summary of Covid-19 related expenses for Swoyersville Borough for reimbursement. The total reimbursement sought is \$26,190.03. Mr. Keating requested a motion for approval. A motion was presented by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor.
- Mr. Keating presented the Drug Task Force Ordinance for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0 in favor.
- Mr. Keating presented the DUI Task Force Ordinance for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Ms. O'Donnell, Council Secretary, presented the July Finance Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$19,796.39; transfers & revenue for the month: \$196,130.10; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$184,717.33; ending checkbook balance: \$31,209.16. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$232.01; transfers and revenue for month: \$4,800.10; expenses and transfers for the month: \$4,887.54; ending checkbook balance: \$144.57. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$21,883.25; transfers and revenue for the month: \$26,476.04; expenses and transfers for the month: \$37,345.28; ending checkbook balance: \$11,014.01. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$1457.95; transfers and revenue for the month: \$4,012.79; expenses and transfers for the month: \$2,698.43; ending checkbook balance: \$2,772.31.

Liaison Officer: No Report.

Street Department: Mr. Olejnick shared that the department continues to be short-staffed and thanked the public for their patience. There were no applications received from the advertisement posted for 2 full-time temporary employees. Mr. Olejnick made a motion to re-advertise to fill the positions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Christian requested an update on the status of the old recycling truck. Mr. Olejnick noted that Council had made a previous motion to sell the truck; however, an estimate was not able to be obtained due to the pandemic. An advertisement has been placed to sell the truck previously. Mr. Olejnick will discuss re-advertising with Mr. Breznay.

Police Department: Mr. Menta read the police report for August 2020. There was a total of 154 service calls and 4 vehicle accidents reported. Fees collected totaled \$423.95. A motion was made to place monies in the appropriate fund by Mr. Menta and was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Fire Department: No Report.

Mayor Concert: Mayor Concert shared that the Little Library of Swoyersville will contain children books during the month of September in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness month.

-The Swoyersville Fall Festival will be held on October 17, 2020 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. The public is invited to come meet their Volunteer Fireman and Swoyersville Police Department Officers.

- Mayor Concert announced on behalf of Nancy Keating, Borough Tax Collector, that the 2020 School Tax Discount Period ends on Monday, September 28, 2020. Hours for collection during the Discount Period are Tuesdays 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm and Saturdays 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. On Monday, September 28th the tax office will be open from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Please note that the Tax Office will be CLOSED September 14th through September 19th. The Second Installment is due by Monday, October 19, 2020. When visiting the office, please remember to wear a mask and social distance.

-Mayor Concert shared an application submitted by John Everdeen, 119 Diamond Street, for placement of a handicap parking sign. Mayor Concert requested a motion approving the application pending the decision of Chief Kastner who will review the application and area. A motion was made by Mr. Menta and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 5-0.

Old & New Business:

-Mr. Christian shared a thank you to Ray Leary for the suggestion brought forward last month for SLOW stencil wording to be placed on Kossack and Church Streets. Both streets have had the SLOW wording stenciled as part of an attempt to address speeding reported by residents.

-Mr. Christian shared an update request made by Maggie Gillof 64 Birch Street as to where things are at with the water issue noted on Birch. Council shared that at last month's meeting it was report that Mike Amato, Penn Eastern Engineering, plans to piggyback the repair with grant work that is planned.

-Mayor Concert presented a concern regarding a resident on Simpson Street who is placing large amounts of items out for Street Department pickup. The items block the sidewalks and has created safety concerns for residents that walk in that area. At times, many items are not bundled and there have been times where no stickers were used. Assistance has been provided with moving items and with purchase of stickers; however, there is a continual placement of large amounts of items on an ongoing basis. With no success by Street Department, Police, family and Bureau of Aging attempts to assist the resident with understanding the rules and concerns that exist, Council feels that the next step is to follow with the borough process of official notification of pending citation, starting with a 10 day warning letter.

-Mr. Christian presented a concern shared by residents near the top of Warsaw street. Residents are asking about the tar machine and some street service that is needed. Rob Koval, Street Department shared that with the Street Department currently being short-staffed, there is need to focus on priorities. Once things get caught up, the issue will be looked at and addressed.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

Via Phone Calls or Comments on Facebook Live Feed

- Ed Feist, 283 Kossack Street questioned if there was a decision made regarding the intersection of Jay and Kossack Street. Input was as follows: "No Parking" signs placed between Sycamore and Jay Street was approved at last month's meeting.
- Bill Shepherd, 20 Poland Street inquired as to when the storm drain in front of his resident was going to be fixed. It was noted by Council that as of this meeting, the grate is done. Paving stills needs to occur.
- Chris Southworth, 118 Noyes Ave, presented a concern regarding the issue of five homes around her residence that do not follow the borough's fire pit rules. Ms. Southworth shared she has presented this at previous meetings. Council has indicated that if the burning is occurring within the timeframe allotted by the ordinance, there is nothing Council can do. Attorney Yeager shared that if the resident believes there is a violation, they can call 911 and the Police & Fire Department will respond and if a violation exists, a citation can be issued.
- Jean Davis, 604 Church Street questioned when the tree at Church Street, Avenue C & Hemlock Street is going to be removed. Council shared that the tree is in the process of being removed.
- Walter Myslinski, 469 Church Street, is concerned about speeding between Tripp and Dana Street. He is requesting that a SLOW sign be painted onto the road. Council recommended the Street Department to place the SLOW sign.
- Esperanza Williams questioned if she could have chickens in the Borough. Chickens are not permitted within the Borough.
- Larry DeLong, 201 Warsaw Street, is concerned about trailer that is parked across from his residence that is without a tire. He is also concerned that if a vehicle parked across from the parked trailer, cars and emergency vehicles cannot get through. Kyle Kastner, Chief of Police, will look at the issue. Mr. DeLong is also requesting that parking issues be addressed on Warsaw when the Music Box is holding events.
- It is also noted that at the top Warsaw, residents have removed the no parking sign from the pole. Kyle Kastner, Chief of Police, will also look at the issue.
- Mary Lou Pechal is inquiring when the tree that fell recently during a storm will be picked up from Brook Street. Rob Koval, Street Department, noted that the tree is off the road and will be addressed when the staffing issue has improved.
- Adam Sebolka shared that there is broken glass at the top of Shoemaker outside the Borough Building. Thank you was extended by Council for the notification.

- John Williams Michaels, would like to know if political signs with profanity can be addressed. Attorney Yeager shared that the signs are free speech.
- Mohammad Reza Lotfipour questioned what the firework law is for the Borough. The policy/ordinance will be reposted on the Borough website.
- Mr. Christian shared that the owners of a property on Slocum Street that has been deemed not habitable have been notified in writing by Kenneth Shefler, PA State Code Enforcement Officer.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 07:04 pm. Next meeting will be held on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating
Council President