

November 2, 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, Gene Breznay, Borough Manager, Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor, Jeff Zupko, Street Department Supervisor and Rob Koval, Street Department. Councilman Brown was noted as absent.

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

Monthly bills totaling \$27,620.49 were presented by Ms. O'Donnell, Council Secretary. A motion for approval of the monthly bills was made by Mr. Menta and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

BOROUGH COORDINATOR REPORT

- Mr. Breznay shared that there was a transfer from the General Fund to the Refuse Fund for reimbursement for the recycling bins. The transfer involved Grant Money received which reimbursed the Borough for the cost of recycling bins. Grant reimbursement for the recycling bins is roughly \$22,000.
- Mr. Breznay presented a resolution that is being submitted for the 2021 LSA Grant which would be used for the purchase of two (2) Street Department trucks. Total cost = \$132,028.68 with 1 pickup truck being \$57,393.04 and 1 dump truck being \$74,635.64.
- Mr. Breznay shared a letter drafted by Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor to Gerard Schmidt - Project Developer, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection, Borough of Abandon Mine Reclamation. The letter responds to a written request received by the Borough of Swoyersville from Keystone Reclamation Fuel LLC. requesting an extension of the Harry E. Property Donation (7 acres) completion date. Attorney Yeager will elaborate on the details during his report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Ms. O'Donnell, Council Secretary, presented the September Finance Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$96,786.88; transfers & revenue for the month: \$161,935.72; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$131,419.86; ending checkbook balance: \$127,302.74. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$194.79; transfers and revenue for month: \$4,900.09; expenses and transfers for the month: \$4,981.76; ending checkbook balance: \$113.12. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$18,778.98; transfers and revenue for the month: \$15,729.16; expenses and transfers for the month: \$24,263.06; ending checkbook balance: \$10,245.08. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$21,718.12; transfers and revenue for the month: \$21,641.68; expenses and transfers for the month: \$21,883.20; ending checkbook balance: \$21,476.60.

Liaison Officer: No Report.

Street Department: Mr. Olejnick shared a complaint received from 2 residents of Railroad Street regarding large trees that are located on the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority property (railroad tracks). The limbs are breaking off and damaging their property. The residents have asked if anything can be done to get the Authority to remove the limbs and clean up the area. Mr. Breznay requested the street/address and shared that he will contact Redevelopment to see what can be done.

-Mr. Olejnick shared that the Street Department would like to advertise to hire a temporary worker to work 4 days a week at \$10.00 an hour. Mr. Olejnick made a motion to advertise to hire a temporary worker. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

- Mr. Olejnick requested, on behalf of the Street Department, if the number of yard waste containers resident could put out for pick up could be reduced. Council suggested that the number stay as is for the remainder of 2020. For 2021, a recommendation of decreasing the maximum number of containers to four (4) was made. Mr. Olejnick made a motion to decrease the number of yard waste containers that can be put out for pick up from six to four (4). The motion was seconded by Mr. Menta. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Police Department: Mr. Menta read the police report for October 2020. There was a total of 137 service calls, 5 vehicle accidents & 7 code enforcement complaints reported. Fees collected totaled \$405.64. A motion was made to place monies in the appropriate fund by Mr. Menta and was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Fire Department: Mr. Cwalina reported there were 45 ambulance calls for the month of October 2020.

- Mr. Cwalina made a motion for Swoyersville Borough to exit participation in the Council of Governments. Participation is not cost effective and the Borough does not use equipment available enough to warrant the Borough cost involved in participation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Menta. The vote was 4-0 in favor with Councilman Christian abstaining from the vote.

Mayor Concert: Mayor Concert shared that the Mr. & Mrs. Chervy on Kossack would like to thank the Mayor, Council & Street Department for the safety signs placed for their handicapped child. The sign has helped with slowing traffic down near their home.

- Mayor Concert thanked Ed & Mary Grebeck from 498 Slocum Street for the amazing display put out on Halloween night. Mayor Concert also thanked all who participated in trick or treating and everyone who kept Halloween alive this year in town.

- Mayor Concert announced that the Christmas parade will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2020. Any truck participating in the parade must have a Christmas tree displayed.

- Mayor Concert shared that he feels it is time to speak to the school district about raising the rates for School Crossing Guards. The position is not easy to fill and raising the rate may be helpful in finding new candidates.

- The Swoyersville Kiwanis Club will be holding a Christmas Tree Holiday Cake Pop sale. The orders are due by November 23, 2020. Residents can contact any Kiwanis Club member to place an order. More information can be located on the Swoyersville Kiwanis Facebook site.

- Election voting will take place at the regular voting locations within the Borough. Where you vote depends on where you reside.

Attorney Yeager: Attorney Yeager shared details regarding the request to extend the completion date of the Harry E. Property Donation received from Keystone Reclamation Fuel Management LLC.

A one year extension has been requested regarding the 7 acres of property that will be deeded to Swoyersville Borough. Documents were reviewed and recommendation to Borough is to execute the letter shared earlier in the meeting and agree to the one year extension. There is no benefit to the Borough taking on 7 acres of property that has not been fully developed. The extension will not pose a great detriment to the Borough. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to agree to the one year extension. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

- Attorney Yeager shared a letter received from Edward & Jean Sartin regarding a fence put up by their neighbor. This fence concern is a zoning issue and should be brought before the Zoning Board. If there is a dispute regarding the property lines between the neighbors, they will need to employ their own personal council to address it. It would not be an issue that the Borough would become involved in. If there are concerns regarding the height or length of the fence, any correspondence should be addressed to Attorney Frank Aritz who is the solicitor for the Swoyersville Zoning Board. Mr. Christian requested that Attorney Yeager or Gene Breznay send a response letter outlining the input above.

Old & New Business:

-Mr. Keating shared a letter from Carol Wheeler indicating her resignation from the position of School Crossing Guard. Mr. Keating made a motion to advertise for a new Crossing Guard. The motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. The vote was 5-0 in favor. Mayor Concert requested that Mr. Breznay send a letter to Carol Wheeler, thanking her for her service as a School Crossing Guard

- Mayor Concert shared that residents of Lackawanna Avenue want to thank the police department for their professionalism displayed during an issue a week or two ago. They did an amazing job.

- Mr. Christian requested an update regarding an issue that was previously presented involving parking of tractor trailers. Council shared that it was addressed.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

- Mark Nenichka – 77 Brook Street asked if residents could participate in the compost site in Forty Fort.

- Beverly Thomas asked what to do with extra amounts of yard waste that do not get picked up. A suggestion was made by Council to spread out the accumulation of yard waste for pick up.

- Danielle Griffin, 46 Jay Street shared that there is a storm drain in front of her home that is caving in. The Street Department will look at it.

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- Dave Lamereaux inquired further regarding the rule for parking tractor trailers in Swoyersville. Mr. Lamereaux shared that the tractor trailer he is concerned about is now parked on the corner of Bennett & Chapel. Council noted that Bennett & Chapel St. are in Luzerne. Issue for Swoyersville was addressed.

- A question was presented regarding the date and time of the next budget planning meeting. The date is set for November 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Mr. Breznay will advertise the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 06:55 pm. Next meeting will be held on Monday, December 10, 2020 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating
Council President

November 23, 2020 6:30 PM
SPECIAL MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council President Keating calls the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Keating requested a moment of silence to acknowledge the recent passing of former Borough employee and Swoyersville resident Mike Simko.

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 were noted as absent.

Mr. Keating shared that this Special Meeting of the Swoyersville Borough Council was to vote on the hiring of temporary Street Department employee.

Mr. Olejnick made a motion to hire William Ferschke for the temporary Street Department position at \$10.00 per hour. Hiring will be contingent on all tests and background checks revealing no issues. Mr. Cwalina seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 06:40 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating
Council President

