

DECEMBER 7, 2020 6:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council President Keating calls the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Keating requests a moment of silence in honor of the recent passing of Edward Brominski, a former Mayor of Swoyersville who also served as Luzerne County Commissioner and a member of the Luzerne County Council.

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.

An Executive Session was called at 6:32 pm. The Executive Session ended at 6:42 pm.

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to accept the minutes from the November 2, 2020 & November 23, 2020 meetings. A motion was made by Mr. Menta and seconded by Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$31,797.95 were presented by Ms. O'Donnell, Council Secretary. A motion for approval of the monthly bills was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

- Mr. Keating presented the 2021 Annual Budget for approval. Highlights of the budget were shared. There are no tax or fee increases for the coming year. A motion for approval of the 2021 Budget was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

BOROUGH COORDINATOR REPORT

- Mr. Breznay requested a motion for an ordinance setting the tax rate for 2021 fiscal year at 1.55 mills. A motion was presented by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay reported that the Borough's reimbursement received for COVID-19 expenses totaled \$24,570.03

- Mr. Breznay shared that the 2020 LSA grant application (which would be used for purchase of Street Department trucks) has been submitted. 2019 LSA grants are held over for all of Luzerne applicants until 2021. Due to the Covid-19 related shutdowns and offices being closed, boroughs were asked to resubmit their application. Mr. Breznay informed Council that the 2019 application has been resubmitted as requested. Mr. Breznay also shared that Representative Kaufer indicates that he feels the 2020 and 2019 LSA Grant awards will be made at the same time, possibly in April 2021.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Brown presented the October Finance Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$127,302.74; transfers & revenue for the month: \$101,505.78; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$183,406.01; ending checkbook balance: \$45,402.51. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$113.12; transfers and revenue for month: \$5,100.10; expenses and transfers for the month: \$5,095.01; ending checkbook balance: \$118.21. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$10,245.08; transfers and revenue for the month: \$23,116.33; expenses and transfers for the month: \$11,173.30; ending checkbook balance: \$22,188.11. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$21,476.60; transfers and revenue for the month: \$16,559.47; expenses and transfers for the month: \$28,832.64; ending checkbook balance: \$9,403.43.

Liaison Officer: No report provided at this meeting.

Street Department: Mr. Olejnick requested a follow up complaints presented at the previous month's meeting regarding 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 shared that the Authority was contacted; however, a response was not yet received. Mr. Breznay will reach out again.

-Mr. Olejnick shared that the temporary Street Department employee hired in November did not show up. Mr. Olejnick shared that an employee that was off has since returned back to work so there is currently not a need for a temporary position.

- Mr. Olejnick shared that many residents have requested that the decision to decrease the maximum number of yard waste containers to four in 2021 be reinstated back to six (6). Mr. Olejnick made a motion to reinstate the number of yard waste containers that can be put out for pick up to six (6). The motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. The vote was 5-0 in favor with Councilman Christian abstaining from the vote.

Police Department: Mr. Menta read the police report for November 2020. There was a total of 154 service calls, 4 vehicle accidents & 3 code enforcement complaints reported. Fees collected totaled \$496.15. 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.

-Mr. Menta noted that one application was received for the open Crossing Guard position that was advertised. Mr. Menta motioned that Peter Eckert be hired for the open Crossing Guard position with the stipulation that all testing and background checks are completed without any issues. Mr. Brown seconded the motion with the same stipulations. Vote was 6-0.

Fire Department: Mr. Cwalina – No report given at this meeting.

Mayor Concert: Mayor Concert reported that a proposed Dumpster Permit Ordinance was provided to Attorney Yeager for review. The ordinance includes a \$25.00 fee for placement of dumpster on a roadway within the Borough. Attorney Yeager will review & present to Council at the 01/04/21 meeting.

- Mayor Concert reported that the front (left side of building) wall of the Borough Building is crumbling and requested a repair. Council agreed that a bid for repairs is need. A request will be put out for a bid.
- Mayor Concert shared with Council a request for the Borough Manager/Council Member/Street Department Supervisor to conduct a needs assessment involving all Borough property so that when Grants become available a list will be available of items to consider.
- Mayor Concert thanked all who participated in the Christmas parade held on Saturday, December 5, 2020.
- Mayor Concert shared a resident on Kossack Street requested permission to place a "clean up waste" sign for people who walk dogs in the area. Placing a sign in the resident's yard near the sidewalk was agreed upon as acceptable by Council.
- Mayor Concert extended a thank you to General Mills for items donated to his food drive. Bags were made and distributed to those in need. Mayor Concert will send General Mills a thank you letter.
- Mayor Concert questioned the possibility of shutting down the Borough Building due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. A concern was noted regarding the upcoming 2021 recycling sticker sale and the increased traffic within the Borough Building that will result. Mr. Breznay shared that boxes had been received and will be placed outside of the building for residents to drop of payment for purchase of the 2021 recycling stickers if they so choose to purchase them at the Borough Building. Mr. Olejnick will speak to Jeff Zupko regarding putting the boxes up. More information regarding the boxes will be placed on the Swoyersville Borough website for residents.

Attorney Yeager:No report given at this meeting.

Old & New Business:

- Mr. Christian shared that lunch was provided to Gregg Griffin & the volunteer crew from the New Roots Recovery Center who worked hard assisting with cleaning the streets of the Borough. The crew recently cleaned up roadways from Slocum Street to Dennison Street. A motion was requested to reimburse the cost of the lunch which is \$115.05. Mr. Cwalina motioned to approve the cost. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. The vote was 6-0 in favor. Council shared their appreciation for the clean-up.
- Mr. Christian shared that Art Stewart volunteers a lot of time with the Borough and Fire Police service. Mr. Christian motioned that a \$100 donation be sent to Art Stewart for all the services he has provided through 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. The vote was 6-0 in favor
- Chief Castner presented an issue with police cruiser #2. There has been a transmission issue identified. Information regarding diagnosis and repair costs from several establishments was presented for Council to review. Council discussed options surrounding repair, purchase of a new vehicle or leasing a new vehicle. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to enter a lease agreement for a new vehicle. The motion was seconded by Mr. Menta. The cost involved was noted to be \$43,972.00 with a five year lease term at 1.9%.
- Mr. Keating presented the issue of needing a COVID-19 Leave Policy for the Borough. A work session is planned for December 14, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Council will discuss the issue and develop a policy for implementation within the Borough.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

- Dave Lamoreaux commented on the Borough Zoning Officer position. Council provided education regarding certification and shared the restrictions presented by COVID-19 related shutdowns that have temporarily prevented certification completion. Dave Lamoreaux again inquired about the rule for parking tractor trailers in Swoyersville. Chief Castner noted that the tractor trailer currently parked on Chapel Street is legal as the street is a State Road.
- George Chervy shared that American Water is raising it rates. It is noted that Kossack Street is on old lines. Can the rest of the lines in Swoyersville be upgraded? Mr. Breznay will send a letter inquiring if any plans are in place for upgrading.
- Tom Williams commented on the Christmas Parade, noting how great it was for the Mayor and participants to hold it.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 07:15 pm. Next meeting will be held on January 4, 2021 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating
Council President

DECEMBER 21, 2020 6:00 PM
SPECIAL 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 Gene Breznay, Borough Manager and Jeff Zupko, Street Department Supervisor. Mayor Concert 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 purchase of a new Street Department Truck & Backhoe.

Council discussed repair, new purchase and leasing estimates that were received for the Street Department truck. All options were considered. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to purchase a new vehicle from Barber Ford for the estimate cost of \$77,077.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Council discussed the purchase of a Backhoe and considered all options. A motion was made by Mr. Cwalina opting to lease a new Backhoe. The motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 06:20 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating
Council President