

**February 8, 2021 6:30 PM**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Council President Keating calls the meeting to order.

A moment of silence be held in honor of Jerry Suda who passed away recently.

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, Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor and Gene Breznay, Borough Manager.

An Executive Session was called at 6:31 pm and ended at 6:39 pm.

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to accept the minutes from the January 4, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0 in favor with Mr. Keating abstaining from the vote.

Monthly bills totaling \$35,466.65 were presented by Ms. O'Donnell, Council Secretary. A motion for approval of the monthly bills was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

### **BOROUGH COORDINATOR REPORT**

- Mr. Breznay shared the Co-Op Agreement for the 2021 Block Grant which includes \$150,000 for road improvements. A motion was made to place the paving project out for bid and to plan to open bids at the April 5, 2021 Council Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Menta and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. The vote was 6-0 in favor.
- Mr. Breznay presented to Council a summary of estimated construction costs involved with the 2021 Swoyersville Borough Park Improvements Project. The project will include placement of one (1) wheelchair swing (Noyes Ave) and 3 sets of swing sets in Borough parks. The total projected cost is \$60,676.00 which includes installation & playground mulch. A motion was requested for the Borough to submit a grant application to Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program. It is a match grant. A motion was presented by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Menta. The vote was 6-0 in favor. It is noted that the application must be submitted by the end of May 2021.
- Mr. Breznay opened the bids received on the Borough's 2001 Dodge Dump Truck. There were three (3) bids received. All three bids were presented and reviewed. Bid #1: JL Used Auto Parts, Larksville with a bid of \$1,500.00. Bid #2: Gary Kuzowski, Charlton, MA with a bid of \$3,800.00. Bid #3: Tom Greco & Assignee, Wilkes-Barre with a bid of \$5,719.00. A motion was requested to approve & accept a bid made by Tom Greco, Wilkes-Barre for \$5,719.00. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. The vote was 5-0 in favor with Mr. Christian abstaining from the vote.

- Mr. Breznay presented "The Waste Dumpster Ordinance of the Borough of Swoyersville" hereinafter referred to as the "Dumpster Ordinance" for approval. A summary of the key components of the ordinance was shared with the public at this meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the "Dumpster Ordinance" and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

- Mr. Breznay presented the "Swoyersville Borough Landlord Registration and Occupancy Ordinance" for approval. A summary of the key components of the ordinance was shared with the public at this meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the "Swoyersville Borough Landlord Registration and Occupancy Ordinance" and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance:** Mr. Brown presented the December 2020 Finance Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$112,358.42; transfers & revenue for the month: \$45,847.41; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$133,720.86; ending checkbook balance: \$24,484.97. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$93.99; transfers and revenue for month: \$85,301.02; expenses and transfers for the month: \$82,320.02; ending checkbook balance: \$3,075.63. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$19,611.35; transfers and revenue for the month: \$26,404.66; expenses and transfers for the month: \$19,099.96; ending checkbook balance: \$26,916.05. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$7,655.64; transfers and revenue for the month: \$389.74; expenses and transfers for the month: \$2,932.46; ending checkbook balance: \$5,112.92.

**Liaison Officer:** Mr. Christian – No report given at this meeting.

**Street Department:** Mr. Olejnick thanked the Street Department for the great job done with plowing the Borough Streets during the recent snowstorms!

- Mr. Olejnick shared that with noting that there is no "second in command" personnel assigned within the Street Department. With that, Mr. Olejnick motioned to promote Rob Koval to a second in command position with an increase of .50 cents per hour through June 30, 2021 and then increased to \$1.00 per hour starting with July 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

- Mr. Olejnick reported that there is another truck down within the Street Department. Two estimates were obtained for the 2005 pickup truck. Mr. Olejnick recommended that the Street Department obtain two additional estimates before moving forward. Mr. Breznay did share with Council that the Insurance Company has been notified and they are in the process of coming out to inspect the vehicle.

**Police Department:** Mr. Menta read the police report for January 2021 which included a summary of Crossing Guard hours. There was a total of 128 service calls, 4 vehicle accidents and 2 Borough ordinance violations. Fees collected totaled \$240.61. A motion was made by Mr. Menta to place monies in the appropriate fund and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

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

**Mayor Concert:** Mayor Concert presented a letter he received from Chief Kyle Castner regarding a request for a purchase of a new police cruiser due to Cruiser #3 currently showing signs of mechanical issues. The issue was reviewed and discussed by Council. Gene Breznay shared that one (1) new cruiser is being considered under an existing grant application. An answer regarding the grant status is anticipated sometime in March 2021. Council will review the issue of a new cruiser again in March 2021.

- Mayor Concert presented a concern voiced by a resident of 106 Staple Drive regarding the "No Parking" sign that had been placed near her driveway. The resident shared that the placement interferes with her ability to move in and out of her driveway safely. Chief Castner reported to Council that he was aware of the complaint and did investigate the issue. His investigation revealed that there was no impediment resulting because of where the "No Parking" sign was located. It was recommended that the Borough Manager send the resident a letter sharing the findings.

**Attorney Yeager:** Attorney Yeager: No report presented at this meeting.

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

- Mr. Christian shared a concern voiced by Larry DeLong, Sidney Street. Mr. DeLong would like to see a "Slow, Children at Play" signs near 53 Sidney Street and midblock on Grace Street between Watkins and Sidney Street. The Street Department will look at both areas and place the request on the Department's to do list.

- Mr. Christian shared that he was contacted by Trooper Ethan Wensel, a former Swoyersville Police Officer who wanted to bring Council's attention to a fantastic job Policeman Wolinsky did when responding to his In-Law's house on Simpson Street recently. During a medical emergency, Officer Wolinsky was more than compassionate with them. Trooper Wensel also praised the Kingston Ambulance Department for their tremendous care and quick response.

- Mr. Christian requested a motion to extend the Swoyersville Borough employee hours to 8:30 am to 4:30 pm with a half hour lunch and two (2) fifteen (15) minute breaks. A motion was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 5-1 in favor with Mr. Olejnick voting no.

## **MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC**

- Georgette Ferkel, Snow Street, shared a "good job" and "thank you" for the Street Department's recent plowing of Borough streets.

- Dave Lamereaux, commented on inspection of houses. Mr. Christian suggested that if Mr. Lamereaux has concerns regarding an inspection that he should contact the Police Department if the Code Enforcement Officer or Zoning Officer is not present.

- Dave Hampton, inquired as to why residents cannot put out cardboard boxes for recycling pick up when we now have a truck to pack & crush them. Residents should not have to flattening and tie them for pick up. Rob Koval shared that the Packer is not used for cardboard boxes. When dropping off at the recycling center, recyclable items go in one area and broken down cardboard goes into another. Council shared that using duct tape is acceptable if a resident is unable to tie the flattened boxes. It is noted that pizza boxes are not considered a recyclable item.

- Dave Lamereaux, would like to know why the Police do not give reports every time they go to a call. Clarification of question is needed to address properly. Mr. Christian did share that the option of placing UCR information on the website as other towns do is something that the Police Department could consider.
- Kathy Breznay, shared her thought that having to pick up individual cardboard boxes would take longer to move along and get things completed.
- Russ Jones, shared his thought that broadcasting the meeting has been better each time; however, if a Borough Official is going to speak, they should use a microphone.
- John Michael shared a comment regarding a \$5.00 an hour raise approved for a Street Department Employee. Council noted that reference to a \$5.00 amount is incorrect. The employee received a promotion within the department in addition to obtaining his CDL license over a year ago. It was also shared that the Borough has not increased fees or taxes for this year resulting in no spending increase for residents.
- Cheryl Koval asked if Tripp Street could get a "Slow" sign. Corner of Scott and Tripp is busy with lots of kids and bikes. Council recommends a "Slow" stencil and a cross walk stencil as reminded by Mayor Concert.
- Don Saltz asked if the softball field get "No Dogs Allowed" signs back up to stop the gentleman that brings his dog and does not clean up after him. The Mayor has noted that he received multiple complaints regarding the gentleman stopping every morning with his dog and leaving a mess behind. Residents are encouraged to call police when they see this activity so police can investigate and follow up.
- John Sambo asked how many hours does a business have to clear snow off their walkway? Mayor Concert shared that it was within 24 hours after snow ends.
- Several comments were made by residents surrounding speeding and cars going through stop signs within the Borough. It was noted that the Police Department is out patrolling throughout the Borough.
- Ellen Davis asked if there is an ordinance to address cats with the Borough. There is no Borough ordinance regarding cats.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 07:35 pm. Next meeting will be held on March 1, 2021 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell  
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating  
Council President