

**March 1, 2021 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. 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 and Jeff Zupko, Street Department Supervisor.

An Executive Session was called at 6:32 pm and ended at 6:47pm.

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to accept the minutes from the February 8, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$31,047.12 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 6-0 in favor.

### **BOROUGH COORDINATOR REPORT**

- Mr. Breznay presented to Council three (3) resolutions for approval, 2 of which are resubmissions for the Casino Grants which were held over from the previous year & a half. The State has indicated that they need to be under a year old.

1. Resolution #2-2021 – is for the two police interceptor vehicles. The total cost of the project is \$148,577. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to pass the resolution and the motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

2. Resolution #3-2021 – is for the backhoe. The total cost of the project is \$131,022. Mr. Christian requested to review the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to pass the resolution and the motion was seconded by Mr. Menta. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

3. Resolution #4-2021 – is for submission to the Department of Community & Economic Development Authority. The total cost of the project is \$60,676 to be used for an ADA wheelchair swing & platform and 3 new sets of swings in Swoyersville Borough Parks. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to pass the resolution and the motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

- Mr. Breznay shared a letter from the Swoyersville American Legion Baseball Organization. A request is being made to play baseball at the Roosevelt Field. Due to recent rule changes, there will now be three teams for the 2021 season. The three teams are Prep League (Ages 13 & 14), Youth/Junior League (Ages 15 & 16) and Senior (Ages 17-19). The season will begin on April 15, 2021 (Tryouts) and conclude on August 9, 2021). The organization will be hosting games and practices at Roosevelt and will provide a schedule when they become available. The stands will be used with water turn on requested for May 1, 2021. There will be some regular field maintenance planned in the spring such as additional dirt, repairing

the mound, and planting grass. The organization would also like to partner with the borough for some longer-term projects for the field such as simple ground level dugouts, lighting, and new & expanding fencing. Mr. Keating requested a motion (for now) allowing the Swoyersville American Legion Baseball Organization to use the field along with performing regular field maintenance to include seating, additional dirt & repair mound along with moving the girls' softball dugout to Roosevelt Field. (dug out is not being used). A motion was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Menta. The vote was 6-0. Mr. Christian noted that there are no other teams requesting use of the field at this time. The fee for playing will remain the same as it did with the prior season played.

- Mr. Breznay shared that about a year & a half ago there was a subdivision submitted by the Borough for Avenue C. (land between Church & Hemlock Street) where a block of land was divided into 4 sections. Everything was moving forward until one of the residents decided to sell their house. There are still residents in that area that are still interested in the subdivision and between the house being put up for sale and the pandemic, the issue has been placed on hold. Mr. Breznay inquired if Council was still interested in proceeding with the subdivision. Plot plans would need to be redone with Mr. Amato involved. Council advised to move forward and contact Mr. Amato. Council will then look further at the issue and proceed from there.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance:** Mr. Brown presented the January 2021 Finance Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$24,484.97; transfers & revenue for the month: \$85,360.68; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$88,678.50; ending checkbook balance: \$21,167.15. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$3,075.63; transfers and revenue for month: \$14,800.36; expenses and transfers for the month: \$17,675.72; ending checkbook balance: \$200.27. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$26,916.05; transfers and revenue for the month: \$39,212.14; expenses and transfers for the month: \$10,432.60; ending checkbook balance: \$55,695.59. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$5,112.92; transfers and revenue for the month: \$7,798.67; expenses and transfers for the month: \$3,634.68; ending checkbook balance: \$9,276.91.

**Liaison Officer:** Mr. Christian presented a motion to open the Borough Building for the Planning and Zoning Commission to meet following the same procedures as Council Meetings with Facebook live streaming. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Christian shared with Council that Mr. Galanda (Zoning Officer) should have an ID badge and a vehicle decal which will assist with identifying him as Swoyersville Zoning Officer. Mr. Christian motioned that Mr. Galanda be provided a vehicle decal and a badge. The motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Christian provided an update regarding a property across the street from the Borough Building. The property on Steeple Chase Drive/Main Street has been evaluated and the owner is cleaning up the property. Owner was advised by Mr. Galanda that shed on the property had to be moved 10 feet away from the building, which he has done.

**Street Department:** Mr. Olejnick presented three (3) bids that were received to replace the Street Department pick up truck. #1 bid: Bonner Chevrolet for \$55,489.00; #2 bid: Barber Ford for \$ 54,680.00; #3 bid: Ferrario Auto Team for \$50,020.00. Mr. Menta made a motion to purchase the Dodge from

Ferrario Auto Team. A discussion regarding borough costs was initiated by Mr. Keating. With approximately \$42,000.00 from insurance & the sale of an older truck, the approximate cost to the Borough would be approximately \$8,000. Delivery is not expected for 10 to 15 weeks. Motion was then seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

**Police Department:** Mr. Menta read the police report for February 2021 which included a summary of Crossing Guard hours. There was a total of 167 service calls, 7 vehicle accidents and 7 Borough ordinance violations. Fees collected totaled \$172.31. A motion was made by Mr. Menta to place monies in the appropriate fund and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

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

**Mayor Concert:** Mayor Concert shared a letter from the Swoyersville Kiwanis Club. Due to the pandemic, much of the club fundraising has come to a halt. The club is asking for permission to use the Roosevelt Field (Tripp & Church Street) to conduct a Sundae Fundraiser on July 25, 2021 with the proceeds benefiting the Ronald McDonald House. Council questioned if the fundraiser would interfere with the Baseball Games. It was suggested that the Kiwanis Club reach out to the Swoyersville American Legion Baseball Organization to check the availability of the date. Mr. Christian made a motion to approve the request to use Roosevelt Field if it does not interfere with a scheduled baseball game. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

- Mayor Concert shared that his Bumper Bunnies event will be held on March 27, 2021 from 2pm-4pm at the Roosevelt Field. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to donate \$150.00 to the Bumper Bunnies event. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. The vote was 6-0. The donation will be used to purchase candy.

- Mayor Concert shared that he will be hosting the annual Memorial Day Parade on Memorial Day starting at 10:00 am. Council members were invited to attend.

-Mayor Concert thanked Barb O'Donnell, Council Secretary for the great work done with maintaining Borough Council Minutes.

-Mayor Concert shared that Tuesday, March 2, 2021 is Read Across America Day and he would like to thank all those who have donated toward his book program. Tomorrow morning, book bags and books are going to be donated to the Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade students at the Dana Elementary School. Mayor Concert shared that if there are any shut ins or children who may not be able to get out please email him and a book will be mailed out.

-Mayor Concert shared his opinion that the price of the recycling sticker should remain the same and an extra charge should not be charged if purchased after deadline. It was noted by council that the extra charge (established by an ordinance) is only applied for a current resident who does not purchase the sticker by the required deadline. It is not charged to those who may become new residents after the deadline. A new resident is only charged the \$25.00 fee.

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

**Old & New Business:**

- Mr. Christian made a motion to post monthly UCR information on the Borough's website. The motion was seconded by Mr. Menta. The vote was 6-0.
- Mr. Christian requested a clarification of the fee that will be charged to the Swoyersville American Legion Baseball Organization for the season. Mr. Breznay shared that the motion referenced the same fee as the previous season played would apply. Mr. Breznay will review what the prior fee and the issue will be revisited at the April meeting if necessary.
- Mayor Concert shared that he posted on his website that the American Legion Baseball team is looking for suggestions for a new nickname. Anyone who has a suggestion, please feel free to post on the website.
- Mr. Breznay presented a recap of items presented at the beginning of the meeting when there was a loss of sound experienced.

## MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

- Several comments were received regarding loss of sound and what was discussed. Mr. Breznay did provide a recap of items discussed after sound was again working. Mr. Christian shared that once the Council became aware of the loss of sound, the meeting did stop and restarted when sound was confirmed.
- Several comments were received regarding the cost of a recycling sticker and issue surrounding an extra charge. It was noted by Council that the charge is only charged for current residents who miss the purchase deadline. New residents are only charged the \$25.00 fee.
- Ryan Binkley questioned where & what do monthly penalty fees go toward. Council shared that the monies are placed in the Recycling and Refuge Fund.
- Kathy Breznay presented a suggestion that a flat fee might be fairer to the Baseball teams playing at Roosevelt Field.
- Russ Jones shared that the minutes from December 2020 are not posted on the website. Mr. Breznay shared that they were verified as being on the website as of this morning. A few additional residents are having difficulty not being able to see the minutes from December 2020.
- Dave Hampton questioned when Borough Council meetings will again be open to the public. Mr. Keating addressed the question and shared that he would really like to open for April but does not feel that will happen. Once vaccinations increase and the County begins to loosen up on restrictions, reopening to the public will occur. Mr. Breznay is actively checking any requirement changes regarding public meetings being able to open.
- George Churvey shared that he has water that lays in front of his driveway when it rains and would like someone to look at it. Jeff Zupko, Street Department Supervisor shared that they look at the issue.

- Mayor Concert asked for an update on the water issue on Birch Street. A temporary fix was completed; however, a permanent fix when Asphalt starts up again.

-Kathy Breznay questioned when the meetings are again opened to the public will it be limited seating with a first come first serve basis. Council indicated it would be both.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 07:46 pm. Next meeting will be held on April 5, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Barb O'Donnell  
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating  
Council President

