

May 4, 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. Menta, Mr. Olejnick and Mr. Keating. Also noted as present were Mayor Concert, Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor; Gene Breznay, Borough Manager, Mike Amato, Penn Eastern Engineering and Rob Koval, Street Department. Councilman Cwalina was noted as absent.

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to accept the minutes from the April 5, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$25,215.04 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. Brown. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

### BOROUGH COORDINATOR REPORT

- Mr. Breznay shared that there were four (4) bids received for the County Block Grant paving project. Mr. Amato, Penn Eastern Engineering opened and presented the following bids to Council:

- 1<sup>st</sup> bid: American Asphalt with a total bid of \$547,374.00 with a 10% bid bond & Cincinnati Insurance.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> bid: Pennsy Supply with a total bid of \$439,985.00 with a 10% bid bond & Liberty Mutual Insurance.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> bid: H & K Group with a total bid of \$492,226.99 with a 10% bid bond & Liberty Mutual Insurance.
- 4<sup>th</sup> bid: New Enterprise with a total bid of \$474,437.50 with a 10% bid bond & Liberty Mutual Insurance.

Council discussed bids and noted all as reputable services. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to award the bid to Pennsy Supply (\$439,985.00) depending on Borough funding received. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

- Mr. Breznay presented a proposed Service Agreement received from Municipal Recovery, Inc for recycling services provided to the residents of Swoyersville Borough. Pricing as of May 1, 2021 will be as follows: Single Stream = \$65.00 charge per ton and Dual Stream: Comingled plastics/tin/aluminum/with glass = \$25.00 per ton or Comingled plastics/tin/aluminum/WITHOUT glass = \$0.00 per ton. Mixed paper is \$0.00. The contract was discussed, and it was noted that the agreement was for five years (60 months). Council questioned the possibility of amending the agreement to 1 year service agreement with option to renew. Mr. Breznay will reach out to Municipal Recovery to discuss an amendment. A motion was made by Mr. Menta to approve the service agreement "pending" an amendment made decreasing the timeframe of the agreement from 5 years (60 months) to 1 year with option to renew. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0 in favor pending the requested amendment.

- Mr. Breznay shared that the State recently audited the Borough's Liquid Fuels Fund which involved a two year period (2019 & 2020) and there were no issues noted. The Borough is in full compliance with all required.

-Mark Nenichka commented that the Borough Engineer must approve the design of dugouts at Roosevelt Field to protect the liability of the Borough. Involving the Engineer was addressed by Mayor Concert during the meeting.

-Mark Nenichka questioned if the water company has improved pressure to eliminate the tank at the top of Warsaw Street? Mr. Christian shared that he spoke to the water company and was assured that they have Engineers who evaluate these types of issues and if needed, a larger tank can be evaluated.

-Ryan Binkley questioned the status on the truck purchase discussed at the last meeting. Council shared that the truck has been ordered.

-Jerome Kuczynski thanked the road crew for doing a fantastic job cleaning and keeping our streets safe during this past winter.

-Kelsey Cunningham shared that there is a deck that has been down for three plus years and is falling over into my shared driveway.

-Christine Orlandini would like to thank the Street Department for all the work they did removing the multiple bags of garbage that she needed to put out.

-Mr. Christian thanked Mike Galanda for the work done with getting a recent subdivision approved.

-Ryan Brinkley questioned if there was any word on when a repaired sewer line that was filled with gravel on Jay Street will be repaved. Council shared that it is not clear if the issue was completely resolved and that there have been discussions between the Water Company and The Sanitary Authority as to who is responsible for the issue.

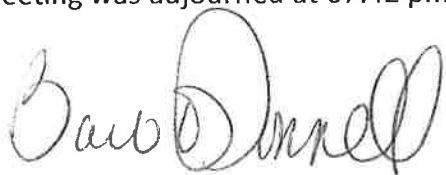
-Bill Hooper recommended Dempsey Uniform for consideration of clothing for the Street Department.

-A comment was posted requesting a 15 mile per hour speed limit sign on Tripp Street. There no cross walk at Tripp & Scott where a school bus stops. The street is very busy. Mayor Concert requested that the crosswalk painting be added to the Street Department list.

-Kelley Ceppa Conner asked if the grant application for the handicap park equipment is being held up with the other casino grants. Gene Breznay noted that the application is separate from the grants that are being held up.

-Mr. Christian complimented Mayor Concern on a great job done with the Bumper Bunny event.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 4-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 07:42 pm. Next meeting will be held on May 3, 2021 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell  
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating  
Council President

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance:** Mr. Brown presented the March 2021 Finance Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$89,669.99; transfers & revenue for the month: \$97,460.90; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$154,985.86; ending checkbook balance: \$32,144.03. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$173.27; transfers and revenue for month: \$19,900.26; expenses and transfers for the month: \$19,082.71; ending checkbook balance: \$90.82. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$26,665.86; transfers and revenue for the month: \$26,504.76; expenses and transfers for the month: \$40,975.79; ending checkbook balance: \$12,194.83. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$7,575.67; transfers and revenue for the month: \$583.38; expenses and transfers for the month: \$2,075.32; ending checkbook balance: \$6,083.73.

**Liaison Officer:** Mr. Christian presented a letter on behalf of Mike Galanda, Zoning Officer requesting approval of a subdivision for the property located at the corner of Main Street and Warsaw Street. It was noted that the Swoyersville Borough Planning Commission met on 3/29/21 to discuss the subdivision and voted to approve it. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to approve the subdivision and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

- Mr. Christian presented a letter addressed to Council from Michael Galanda, Zoning officer indicating that the Swoyersville Borough Planning Commission met on 5/3/2021 to discuss the subdivision for the property owned by Pegnatti Enterprises Inc. which is located on Church Street. The Planning Commission voted to approve the subdivision. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to approve the subdivision. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Street Department:** Mr. Olejnick shared that Dodge Pickup that was previously approved for purchase is undeliverable. With this update, there are two new bids to review for approval:

Bid #1 – Bonner Chevrolet - \$55,489.00

Bid #3 – Barber Ford - \$54,259.00

The bids were discussed by Council. It was shared that the Street Department does prefer the Chevrolet pickup. The Chevrolet does have more power which the Department feels is better for the borough needs. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to accept the Bonner Chevrolet Bid of \$55,489.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 5-0 in favor. It is noted that most of the cost will be covered from insurance reimbursement on other borough vehicles. It is estimated that the Borough will contribute approximately 20% toward the overall cost.

- Mr. Olejnick shared there are two Street Department employees who will be leaving their positions. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to accept the letter of resignation from Jeff Zupko. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. The vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to accept the letter of resignation from Dakota Denninger. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

- Mr. Olejnick made a motion to hire a full-time Street Department Laborer at \$15/hour. The motion was seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to hire a full-time Street Department Foreman, salary & benefits will be negotiable. It is noted that current department members can also apply for the position. The motion was seconded by Mr. Menta. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

- Rob Koval, Street Department presented a yard waste issue to Council. With the Department now down to 3 full time employees with the recent resignations, the Street Department is asking that yard waste collection be placed on hold until more employees are hired. Council members reviewed the issue and several alternative options were discussed. Mr. Breznay also shared that he has reached out to both Kingston and Forty Fort Boroughs to inquire as to any Street Department assistance that may exist. Mr. Keating shared that for now Council will wait to hear from Mr. Breznay regarding any assistance Kingston and or Forty Fort may be able to provide before moving forward with a decision. Until then, the Street Department will do their best to continue collecting yard waste as scheduled. Overtime hours will be permitted. Rob Koval will inform Council of department overtime needed.

Mr. Olejnick asked if the Sanitary Authority Department will be cleaning catch basins in the Borough this year. Mr. Breznay shared that they will be & Mr. Koval shared that they have done a few so far. Mr. Christian added that this should assist the Street Department with their overall workload.

- Rob Koval shared with Council that the Street Department has been notified by the water company that they can no longer fill fire truck water tankers to refill wet wells using a regular hydrant as the main purpose of the regular hydrant is for fire service use only. The water company is willing to place a Yard Hydrant down near the Number #1 Hose Company; however, the Borough would need to purchase a water meter for a one time cost of \$3,200.00. The Yard Hydrant could then be used to fill the tankers. There would not be a charge for the water. The water company would just monitor the water meter to evaluate usage. Mr. Olejnick made a motion to approve the purchase the water meter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Menta. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

- Mr. Olejnick shared that there were no applications received for the two (2) Street Department summer help positions that were advertised. Mr. Olejnick requested that two summer help positions at \$10/hr. (300 hours each) be advertised again. The motion was seconded by Mr. Menta. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Police Department:** Mr. Menta read the police report for April 2021 which included a summary of Crossing Guard hours. There was a total of 169 service calls, no vehicle accidents and 3 Borough ordinance violations. Fees collected totaled \$613.76. A motion was made by Mr. Menta to place monies in the appropriate fund and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

- Mr. Menta presented two letters of resignations from part-time officers: Eric Bartos, effective 5/1/21 due to activation & Nicholas Basov, effective 4/30/21, to pursue full time employment with another department. Mr. Menta made a motion to accept the letters of resignation for the two part-time officers. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor. Mr. Menta extended a thank you to the officers for their service to the Borough of Swoyersville.

- Mr. Menta presented a request on behalf of Chief Castner, to increase the part-time officer salary from the current rate of \$18.50 to \$22.50/hr. The reason for this is recent increase in part-time rates noted in neighboring jurisdictions. The police department budget was reviewed by Chief Castner and Gene Breznay and it was noted that budget goals would still be met even with an increase. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to raise the salary for part-time officers from \$18.50 to \$22.50/hr. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

- Mr. Menta presented, on behalf of Chief Castner, a request to hire Kotisha Smith as a part-time officer for the Swoyersville Police Department. Ms. Smith has current 120 training and has been subjected to a required background check which she successfully passed. Mr. Menta made a motion to allow Chief Castner to hire Ms. Smith as a part time officer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

- Mr. Menta shared that an application for a handicap parking spot was received from Katherine Leonard Nixon of 315 Kossack Street. A request was made for the Police Department to investigate if the sign would be possible at the location indicated. Chief Castner informed Council that an investigation had been done and there are two issues noted; specifically, the location requested is within an area between Jay & Sycamore that Council had previously motioned for and approved "No Parking" signs and the rules pertaining to handicap parking spots require a handicap license plate, which the resident does not have. The resident has a placard card. Council would need to revisit the "No Parking" signs approved/placed & revisit the ordinance rules pertaining to the requirement of only a handicap license plate.

Mr. Brown recommended amending the current Handicap Parking ordinance to include a placard card or handicap license to the current ordinance requirements. Mr. Olejnick made a motion to approve amending the current ordinance to include the requirement of a placard card or a handicap license plate. The motion was seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Brown also recommended that Council revisit the "No Parking" ordinance to consider an amendment. Chief Castner noted that although the "No Parking" sign placement was approved by Council, the actual ordinance did not make it back to Council for approval. Mr. Brown recommended reviewing the issue further and presenting it again at next month's meeting with a proposed amendment as appropriate.

- Mr. Menta shared that it was brought to his attention that there is a possibility that the Borough may be losing full time officers. A recommendation was made to task the Civil Service Commission to schedule a Civil Service Test so that the Borough can get a new list of qualified candidates. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to have the Civil Service Commission schedule a Civil Service Test. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Fire Department:** No report at this meeting.

**Mayor Concert:** - Mayor Concert shared the Annual Community Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2021, 9am until 2pm. Residents interested in participating can email their address to [Swoyersvillemayor@gmail.com](mailto:Swoyersvillemayor@gmail.com).

- Mayor Concert shared that the Swoyersville Kiwanis Wellness Program (blood analysis) will occur on June 5, 2021 at St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Parrish from 7:00 am to 10:00 am. The cost is \$41.00. Test is by appointment only. To make an appointment, residents can call 1-800-234-8888 to make an appointment.

- Mayor Concert shared that Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> was the opening day of Little League. There was an amazing amount of support provided by the community. It was amazing to see everyone out for the event. Mayor Concert was proud to have Matty Chervy of Kossack Street throw out the first ball for him.

- Mayor Concert reminded residents who will be voting this year that there have been some changes made regarding voting locations: Ward 1 – St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Parrish; Ward 2– Borough Building; Ward 3 – Broderick Hose Company on Slocum Street.

- Mayor Concert announced that on Sunday, June 6, 2021, the "Mayor Concert's Polka on the Corner" featuring the John Stevens Polka Band will be traveling through Swoyersville performing about 4 songs at several corners.
- Mayor Concert shared that the Andrew Barilla Jr. Park sign is almost complete. Mayor Concert thanked Representative Kaufer and Senator Yudichak who are paying for the sign.
- Mayor Concert shared that the Easter event, Bumper Bunnies, was a huge success. Thank you to all those who came out to support it. Mayor Concert noted that the check donated by the Borough for the event was not used again this year so he will be returning it.
- Mayor Concert informed Council that due to the West Side Memorial Day Parade being back on this year, there will not be a parade through Swoyersville. There will; however, be a Swoyersville parade through town on July 4, 2021 which will start at 10:00 am.
- Mayor Concert presented an email received from Cheryl Bayo, 309 Kossack Street, regarding the placement & look of the "No Parking" signs on the lawn in front of her home, a request for return of 2 parking spots directly across from 309 Kossack Street and a large truck parking at the T intersection of Durkee and Simpson, directly in front of the stop sign. The concerns were discussed. Mr. Christian and Mr. Brown will visit the location and speak to Ms. Bayo regarding the "No Parking" placement and parking. It was noted that the issue of parking at the stop sign at the "T" intersection of Durkee and Simpson has been addressed with the truck owner.
- Mayor Concert requested a status update regarding the dug out structure at the ballpark. Mr. Christian shared that John Romanchik is working with a local contractor to ensure that it is built properly. Both are volunteering their time and efforts to complete the project. Mr. Christian shared that Mr. Romanchik will need some gravel and requested that Rob Koval reach out to Mr. Romanchik to discuss.

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

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

- Mr. Christian requested that the catch basin between Noyes and Townsend be sprayed and serviced.
- Mr. Christian commended Sergeant Wolinsky on the great job he did recently assisting a family with a medical emergency on Dennison Street. The family requested that Mr. Christian share the outstanding job that Sergeant Wolinsky did.
- Mr. Christian commended Officer Vaow on his response to an emergency on Mary Street involving a stroke victim. The family requested that Mr. Christian share what an outstanding job the Officer did assisting the patient.
- Mr. Keating requested a motion approving the garbage sticker fee moving from \$1.75 to \$2.00, effective June 1, 2021. The increase is a result of the recent increase in Municipal Recovery, Inc. recycling services cost. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

## MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

- Loretta Raven, 66 Grandville Drive -is it possible to move the "No Parking" signs that have been placed on Steeple Drive further up the road to where the "children at play" sign is? With where they are currently placed, when vehicles park down below the road is still very narrow & it is creating an obstruction. It is difficult to come into the road, especially when weather is bad. Mr. Christian and Mr. Brown will visit the location and observe the issue.

- Ryan Binkley, 21 Clinton Street - Mr. Binkley requested an update on the Uniform issue that was discussed at the last meeting. Rob Koval shared that all employees have uniforms now; however, not all that are sent in for cleaning are being returned. Mr. Christian noted that it was agreed last month that the vendor would be given a set deadline for resolution of uniform issues which included cleaning & return of uniforms. Mr. Christian recommended that Rob Koval discuss the issue on not getting cleaned uniforms back with Mr. Breznay further and reach out again to the Vendor regarding breach of contract.

Mr. Binkley shared his concern that the Borough is having Street Department and Police Department employees leaving with resulting issues that effect Swoyersville residents (yard waste collection, etc.). Mr. Binkley requested that Borough Council consider/recognize what the cause may be behind staff leaving (if there may be an issue). Mr. Christian & Mr. Brown did provide input regarding the issue of pay & benefits being a driving force behind several of the recent resignations.

- Katherine Nixon, Kossack Street – Do the positions that are currently open include benefits? Mr. Christian shared that the Summer Help positions and the part-time positions do not have benefits. Full time positions do include benefits.

- Joyce Dombroski, Shoemaker Street – shared a concern about speeding on Shoemaker Street that occurs especially late at night. Ms. Dombroski presented a recommendation for Council to purchase stop sign with flashing red lights to place on Shoemaker (ex: Watkins & Shoemaker). The potential cost is \$13,000 each. Specifications needed could be verified with PennDOT which could result in a cheaper sign. In addition, Ms. Dombroski requested Council to consider the possibility of purchasing cross walk signs.

Ms. Dombroski feels that there is a dog problem within the department (ex: walking unleashed) and requested Council consider cracking down on this issue to ensure the safety of Swoyersville residents.

Ms. Dombroski questioned if a time clock exists within the borough. Mr. Breznay shared that a time clock is not used to which Ms. Dombroski questioned why. Mr. Christian shared that the issue of time clocks was brought up before by himself and does support it; however, it is up to Council to decide. Ms. Dombroski feels that for accountability, time clocks are necessary.

- Kelley Conner questioned if it would be more cost effective to consider a lawn center to perform grass mowing in the borough. Mr. Olejnick & Mr. Keating shared that looking at the amount of grass being mowed, it would not be cost effective to consider a lawn center.

- A question was presented as to why there are garbage bags out as early as Thursday afternoon on the corner of Oliver & Jackson. The Zoning Officer was made aware of the issue and addressed it last year. A spot was made in the back but residents are still placing them out on the corner. The bags are being ripped apart by animals and garbage is being blown down the street. Chief Castner will check with Mike Galanda, Zoning Officer before addressing the issue with the resident.

- Matt Lamoreaux asked if the pay for the part-time help could be raised higher than \$10.00. Mr. Olejnick shared that the \$10.00 per hour is for Summer Help, not part-time positions.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 07:55pm. Next meeting will be held on June 7, 2021, at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell  
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating  
Council President