

APRIL 4, 2022 6:30 PM

## REGULAR MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council President Keating calls the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Concert requested a moment of silence for Larksville firefighter, Jeffrey Williams, who recently passed away while on duty. Mr. Williams served as Chief Engineer with 34 years of service.

Roll Call was taken, those present included Mr. Christian, Mr. Cwalina, Mr. Keating, Mr. Lamereaux and Mr. Olejnick. Also noted as present were Mayor Concert, Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor; Gene Breznay, Borough Manager; Dave Hampton, Street Department; Kyle Shefler, Zoning Officer and Kyle Castner, Chief of Police. Councilman Brown was noted to arrive at 6:35 pm.

A motion was requested by Mr. Keating to accept the minutes from the March 7, 2022 Regular meeting and the March 21, 2022 Special meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Mr. Brown was not present for this vote.

Monthly bills totaling \$21,181.94 were presented by Ms. O'Donnell, Council Secretary. Mr. Olejnick requested follow up to his question from last month's meeting surrounding a single stream expense when Council had agreed that separating garbage & recyclables was needed. A review of previous minutes had been requested. Ms. O'Donnell reported that previous minutes showed separation of garbage & recyclables was discussed at the 1/3/22 meeting & Council agreed that it must occur. The minutes also showed a Street Department staffing shortage & residence confusion over proper recycling presented challenges to the process. Council did approve overtime as needed for the Street Department.

Mr. Olejnick asked Dave Hampton, Street Commissioner to work on getting the separation process in place as soon as possible as the cost saving for the Borough is tremendous. Residents will also continue to be informed on how to properly recycle. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to approve the monthly bills and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Mr. Brown was not present for this vote.

### BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

-Mr. Breznay – No report for this meeting

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance:** Mr. Lamereaux presented the February 2022 Finance Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$34,944.70; transfers & revenue for the month: \$205,939.13; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$150,481.03; ending checkbook balance: \$90,402.80. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$178.47; transfers and revenue for month: \$35,000.67; expenses and transfers for the month: \$34,601.62; ending checkbook balance: \$577.52. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$25,226.60; transfers and revenue for the month: \$41,127.85; expenses and transfers for the month: \$14,590.18; ending checkbook balance: \$51,764.27. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$10,419.49; transfers and revenue for the month: \$4,309.91; expenses and transfers for the month: \$4,133.50; ending checkbook balance: \$10,595.90.

-Mr. Lamereaux shared that a 30' wide section of property from Chestnut to Slocum Street has been donated by the Barilla family. Questions were presented as to what can be done with the property. Mr. Olejnick recommended that Mike Amato, Borough Engineer, look at the property. Mike Hampton, Street Commissioner, will have the Street Department clean up the property.

-Mr. Lamereaux suggested that a policy be developed to provide timely responses to written complaints filed by a resident. Mr. Christian shared that he and Mr. Cwalina will work together to draft a policy addressing response time for written complaints.

**Liaison Officer:** Mr. Christian recommended the purchase of body cams for Police Officers using funding through the American Rescue Plan Act. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to research cost/obtain an estimate for the purchase of body cams. Motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 6-0.

**Police Department:** Mr. Brown read the police report for March 2022 which included a summary of Crossing Guard hours. There was a total of 255 service calls, 3 vehicle accidents and 7 Borough ordinance violations and 28 School Crossing Guard bus stop duty. Fees collected totaled \$323.94. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to place monies in the appropriate fund and seconded by Mr. Cwalina. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Civil Service Rules & Regulations. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Mr. Christian thanked the Civil Service Commission for the work they put into revising the Rules & Regulations to current code.

-Mr. Brown made a motion to have the Civil Service Commission start the process to update the Civil Service list for the Police Department. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

**Street Department:** Mr. Olejnick requested the Police Department to check out Sidney Street between Grace Street and the dead end to see if a "Slow – Children at Play sign is warranted. Kyle Castner, Chief of Police will look at the area.

-Mr. Olejnick shared a motion and vote was needed to have the Volvo garbage packer transmission repaired for \$16,730.00 at Penn Diesel. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0. Mr. Christian questioned if this expense was one that could be considered under the American Rescue Plan Act funds. Mr. Breznay feels the expense would qualify.

-Mr. Olejnick made a motion to advertise for two summer help positions for the Street Department. (\$13.00/ hr. for 600 hours). Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor

**Fire Department:** Mr. Cwalina shared that Hose Company #2 is working on purchasing a rescue pick-up truck.

-Mr. Cwalina shared that he and Mr. Hampton have been out looking at Basketball courts/equipment needs through the Borough. The Rec Board has also been visiting parks looking at painting needs, repairs, etc. A list will be compiled and presented once it is complete.

-Mr. Cwalina made a motion to give Premium Pay stipends to Borough employees in the following amounts:

- Full Time - \$1500 each
- Part Time - \$750 each
- Volunteer Fire Personnel - \$650 each.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0. The Premium Pay stipend is a qualified expense through the American Rescue Act funds.

-Mr. Cwalina requested a motion and vote to pay for Bunker Gear for the Borough EMA Director, John Baker. Cost is \$3,660.90 with gear being purchased through Susquehanna Fire Equipment. The expense will be covered with American Rescue Act funds. A motion was made by Mr. Christian and seconded by Mr. Lamereaux. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Mr. Baker thanked Gene Breznay, Borough Manager, for all the help provided with getting a sign for his vehicle. Mr. Baker will be responding to all fire calls through the Borough. There are also EMA announcements, Severe Weather threats, etc. are being posted to keep residents through the Borough informed.

**Mayor Concert:-** Mayor Concert read a letter of resignation submitted by Patrolman Smith. Patrolman Smith's last day will be 4/8/2022. A motion and vote were requested to accept the letter of resignation. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mayor Concert shared that Bumper Bunnies will be held on 4/9/2022 at the Roosevelt Field Parking lot – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. There will be free photos with the Easter Bunny. Also, at 9:00-11:00 am there will be an Easter egg hunt at the field. The Strawberry Social will be held on 6/25/22 at Roosevelt Field with live music provided by George Rittenhouse. Little League opening day will be 4/23/22, rain date is 4/24/22. The Swoyersville Sailors will have a spring event at Roosevelt Field on 5/7/2022, 1:00-4:00 pm; check their website for more details.

-Mayor Concert will be hosting the Community Yard Sale on Saturday 6/4/22, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. An extra police officer will be working that day. Those residents interested in participating should email swoyersvillemayor@gmail.com with their address. On 6/11/22, the Mayor will be hosting a ceremony at the Borough building remembering Hurricane Agnes. There will be displays for residents to observe.

-Mayor Concert thanked April from the Police Department and Dave Hampton from the Street Department for helping him to clean up Roosevelt Park and the playground along with removing trash from along Church Street and Chapel Street.

-Mayor Concert requested a motion & vote to advertise to sell the 2008 police cruiser that is no longer being used. Mr. Olejnick made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mayor Concert shared that there will be a rummage sale held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parrish on 4/28/22, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and 4/29/22, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. The Kiwanis Club will be holding a Treasure Your Chest dance to benefit Candy's Place & local breast cancer programs on 4/23/22, 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Residents can contact the Kiwanis Club for tickets.

**Attorney Yeager:** No report given at this meeting

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

-Mr. Christian asked if there was an update regarding the “No Smoking” policy? Attorney Yeager shared that he is still working on finalizing a policy.

-Mayor Concert shared a problem with residents walking their dogs through the Borough and not cleaning up after them. Residents are requested to please clean up after their dogs as necessary, do not leave waste behind. Mayor Concert also addressed the issue someone tossing bagged waste over the guardrail on Chapel Street.

-Mr. Lamereaux wants it on record that he had a question regarding a complaint; however, noted he already spoke to Mayor Concert about it and Mayor Concert will follow up with him.

-Mr. Christian shared a comment from a resident regarding a complaint she had made a few months ago. An Executive Session will be held at the next Agenda meeting to discuss the status and a letter will be forwarded to the resident.

-Mr. Breznay reported that paperwork is complete for the 4 part-time Fire Department Drivers and asked for a start date. Mr. Cwalina shared that the Fire Chiefs are working on a work schedule; however, they would like the Drivers to start on this Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

## MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

-Tony Zambito, Jackson Street – agrees that complaints need to be addressed in a timely manner. He also asked who verifies the WVSA report that summarizes work done in the Borough. He feels it should be reviewed for accuracy.

Mr. Zambito asked if there is an ordinance that addresses the storage of garbage outside. He shared his continued concern regarding the multiple unit apartment building on his street storing garbage outside in bags and not in containers. Kyle Shefler, Zoning Officer, did share that garbage needs to be stored in containers. Mr. Zambito asked if the building owner is required to have a dumpster for the tenants. Mr. Brown referenced the process/ordinance for Edwardsville. A dumpster is required based on the number of units in a building. Mr. Brown will obtain a copy of the requirement and provide it to Mr. Breznay, Borough Manager. Mr. Breznay will share with Attorney Yeager for review for Borough consideration.

-John Barilla, Slocum Street – there is a concern over the speeding that occurs on Slocum Street. He pointed out there are two different speed limits signs within a short distance of each other and inquired why (35mph & 25mph). Mr. Christian shared that Slocum Street is State regulated and PennDOT establishes the Speed limit of 35mph. Chief Castner shared that the 25-mph sign was placed by the Borough along with Pedestrian Crossing as a warning for the park located on Slocum Street. Mr. Barilla did note that there are no playground signs or “slow – watch children signs”. Mr. Christian requested that Dave Hampton, Street Commissioner, look at the area and place playground/watch children signs as needed. Mr. Christian requested Gene Breznay, Borough Manager reach out to PennDOT to inquire about “Speed Advisory” boards that could be placed temporarily on Slocum Street to further raise awareness of speed limits for that area.

Mr. Barilla requested 2 recycling buckets that he and his wife could use when cleaning up the parks.

-Kristen Leary – Office of Vocational Learning Skills, provided information and answered questions about the Northeastern PA Inclusive program that provides high school students the opportunity to become involved with hands on vocational work such as painting, cutting grass, etc. The Borough enrolled in the program and approved having students work within the Borough. Ms. Leary shared there will be a program supervisor on-site & students are covered by insurance provided by the program. Ms. Leary will provide a certificate of insurance to the Borough.

-Mayor Concert reminded residents that Facebook comments and or questions will not be read during Council meetings. Council meetings are open to all and residents are encouraged to attend to share any concerns/ask questions.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 4-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm. Next meeting will be held on May 2, 2021 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell  
Borough Council Secretary

William Keating  
Council President

