

DECEMBER 4, 2022

REGULAR MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council President Cwalina calls the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call was taken, those present included Mr. Binkley, Mr. Brown, Mr. Christian, Mr. Cwalina and Mr. Lamereaux. Mr. Olejnick was noted as absent. Also present were Mayor Concert, Gene Breznay, Borough Manager, Attorney Yeager, Solicitor and Dave Hampton, Street Department.

A motion was requested by Mr. Cwalina to accept the minutes from the November 7, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Lamereaux. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$25,075.94 were presented by Ms. O'Donnell, Borough Council Secretary. Mr. Christian explained for the public the Quality Electric expenses that was incurred due to a need to remove wires that here hanging down in front of the Borough Building. A motion was made by Mr. Lamereaux to approve the monthly bills and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 5-0 in favor

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote to spend \$330.10 from the American Rescue Plan Act for computer equipment for Borough Council Secretary. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Christian. Motion was 5-0 in favor.

-Mr. Cwalina shared three garbage/recyclable changes that will be addressed in 2023 budget. Those areas include raising the garbage sticker .25 cents; glass will no longer be considered recyclable and will need to be placed in with garbage and pick up of cardboard & paper will occur every other Thursday. Mr. Cwalina shared that the glass & cardboard/paper changes will save the Borough \$40 to \$60 a ton. Mr. Breznay shared that the handout that will be received with 2023 recycling sticker will explain the changes in detail. Mr. Cwalina shared that the change with glass not being considered recyclable is a Recycling Center decision. Mayor Concert shared that garbage stickers purchased in 2022 can still be used into 2023.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Lamereaux presented the October Treasurer's Report: General Fund: beginning checkbook balance: \$157,349.77; transfers & revenue for the month: \$32,085.44; Expenses & Transfers for the month: \$147,939.58; ending checkbook balance: \$41,495.63. Liquid Fuels: beginning checkbook balance: \$2,763.85; transfers and revenue for month: \$3,600.18; expenses and transfers for the month: \$6,257.97; ending checkbook balance: \$106.06. Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment: beginning checkbook balance: \$29,851.05; transfers and revenue for the month: \$9,123.96; expenses and transfers for the month: \$17,284.00; ending checkbook balance: \$21,691.01. Solid Waste (Refuse) Collection: beginning checkbook balance: \$14,174.88; transfers and revenue for the month: \$24,157.46; expenses and transfers for the month: \$11,349.90; ending checkbook balance: \$26,984.56

Handwritten notes: 14,177.00, 1-3-23, 26,984.56, 1/3/23

**Liaison Officer:** -Mr. Christian shared an update regarding an additional charge for repairs to Birch Drive. Cost of repairs would be approximately \$86,000.00. Information is available through e-mails sent to Council Members for review.

-Mr. Christian commended the Recreation Board who recently held a girl scout related event at the Borough Building. It was noted there; unfortunately, was a vehicle accident during the time of the event. Members of the Board were compassionate and helped to assist the accident victim.

-Mr. Christian made a motion to appoint Shaun Brown as the Swoyersville Borough representative to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Board. Motion was seconded by Mr. Cwalina. Vote was 6-0. Mr. Brown will attend WVSA meetings and represent Swoyersville. Mr. Cwalina thanked Mr. Brown and a second applicant, Mr. John Casey, for showing an interest in and applying for the position to represent Swoyersville.

**Police Department:** Mr. Brown read the police report for November 2022 which included a summary of any Crossing Guard hours. There was a total of 146 service calls, 3 vehicle accidents and two School Crossing Guard Duty. Total fees collected totaled \$525.10. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to place monies into the appropriate funds and seconded by Mr. Binkley. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Street Department:** No report at this meeting provided.

**Fire Department/Recreation Board:** Mr. Cwalina shared there were 37 ambulance calls and 25 fire response calls reported in November 2022.

-Mr. Cwalina reported the Recreation Board hat & glove event held recently had great results with approximately 500 sets donated to Brandon's Forever Home. Mr. Cwalina thanked the many volunteers who assisted with putting the sets together. The Board will be participating in Mayor Concert's Christmas parade and will also be serving as judges for the mayor's upcoming Door Decorating Contest.

-Mr. Cwalina shared that the Board is still waiting to hear on the status of the American Rescue Plan Act, Luzerne County Grant. The Board is looking to establish a special needs playground committee. The Rec Board Account balance is \$4,294.81 with expenditures of \$80.79 (movie & raffle basket), \$250.00 (movie license), \$4.50 (Kings College Print Shop), \$218.00 Wyoming Valley Veterans Parade donation and \$250.00 (Mayor Concerts Trunk or Treat & Spooky Stories in The Park).

**Mr. Binkley:** Mr. Binkley confirmed 404 gloves, 363 hats and 103 scarves were donated and provided to Brandon's Forever Home. In addition, there were a total of 350 sets of dental hygiene products collected which was made possible by Benco Dental (donated approximately \$500.00 toward project).

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

**Mayor Concert:** Mayor Concert shared that the Swoyersville Christmas Parade will be held on December 17, 2022 at 2pm. Those who would like to participate should reach out to Mayor Concert. Santa Clause will be present at the Borough Building after the parade. The parade route will be posted.

-Mayor Concert thanked the Street Department for exception work with putting up Christmas decorations, banners, etc.

-Mayor Concert reported he was able to collect 300 toys for donation to Toys for Tots. The total will rise to 600 toys as a result of Kevin's Auto matching toy for toy up to \$5,000.00.

-Mayor Concert shared that the Decorate Your Door contest will be announced on Wednesday, December 6, 2022 on Facebook.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

-Mr. Lamereaux has a concern about WWSA and jetting of sewer manholes on Jackson and surrounding Streets. He feels there should be notice given to residents as the process does blow water back into your home. He feels that advance notice would allow residents to be prepared (can shut seat cover on toilet, etc.). Mr. Breznay shared that he received a call from WWSA, and input received was that pressure would be turned down for the jetting process. WWSA will work on a notification process. With Mr. Brown being appointed as the Swoyersville Borough representative on the WWSA Board, he can present questions and or issues that residents are experiencing.

-Mr. Lamereaux made a motion to purchase lunch for the Street Department on the first Friday of each month as a thank you for the services they provide with cleaning the Borough Building (weekly). With the services provided, the Borough does not need to hire someone to provide cleaning services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Binkley. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

-Mr. Lamereaux requested an update on the status of paving Jackson Street. Is there a timeframe for completion of the project? Mr. Breznay will reach out again and inquire. Mr. Lamereaux feels a timeframe needs to be provided and is willing to speak about the issue if needed. Mr. Christian questioned if the Jackson Street paving project funds that were approved will carry over to the 2023 budget. Mr. Breznay confirmed that they would.

-Mr. Christian shared that he will be meeting on 12/07/22, 6:30 pm with committee members to discuss the No Nonsense Neutering contract. The committee will discuss structuring of the program with direct input from No Nonsense Neutering. The program is set to start on 1/1/2023. The contract has been signed and received by No Nonsense Neutering.

-Mr. Christian inquired if the Police Department is accredited. Mayor Concert shared that they are not. Mayor Concert will follow up with Mr. Christian and provide additional information.

-Mr. Brown made motion to adopt the Borough of Swoyersville, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania Ordinance Amending Chapter 89 Vehicles and Traffic. The ordinance establishes regulation on recreational vehicles. An opportunity for resident comment and questions was provided by Council.

William McDonald, 223 Shoemaker St., shared that he owns a lawncare business; however, does not have a driveway to park his business trailer. Mr. McDonald questioned clearing of the alleyway that is located behind his home as he can use it to pull his business trailer onto his property if it was accessible. Mr. Christian questioned if the area was an alleyway or an easement. The Borough will need to look into the area which can be cleaned up by the Street Department and if it is an alleyway, Mr. McDonald can use it.

Matthew Lamereaux, 64 Barber St., shared his disagreement with the ordinance and with not being able to leave his boat on the road from Friday to Friday if it is not an eyesore. He feels the ordinance is nonsense and questioned why the ordinance is being put in place. Mr. Brown shared that Swoyersville residents have requested an ordinance from Council.

Bill Hooper, 28 Brook Street shared that although Council shared residents are complaining, he has only heard one complaint about trailers. Mr. Hooper agrees that if you have tags on the trailer, you should be able to park it on the street. It should not have to be attached to a vehicle. He requests that Council vote no.

Dave Levendoskie, Park Avenue shared that the issue really is people leaving their junk and various trailers parked out in the street. There are multiple residents who are impacted by this. There are many surrounding towns who have ordinances that address this same parking issue. Prior to this proposed ordinance, Swoyersville was the anomaly.

With Mr. Brown making the first motion to adopt the Borough of Swoyersville, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania Ordinance Amending Chapter 89 Vehicles and Traffic, Mr. Binkley seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0 in favor with Mr. Christian abstaining from the vote. Mayor Concert commented that Council has been dealing with the issue of an ordinance for months and it is not something that was decided overnight. Mayor Concert thanked all those who worked on the ordinance. Upon questioning from Mr. Christian, Attorney Yeager shared he reviewed the issue and prepared the ordinance.

## MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

-Dave Suszon, 328 Main Street questioned how Council is doing on the 2023 budget? Will there be an increase in taxes? Mr. Cwalina shared that there is a Special Budget Meeting set for December 14, 2022 at 6pm. Mr. Breznay shared that there will be at ¼ mill increase which will generate \$53,000 for the Borough. Part of the issue leading to an increase includes the rising cost of fuel and surcharges. Mr. Christian noted that Swoyersville has not had an increase in at least 10 years.

-Jessie Costello, recently purchased a home at 112 R Owen Street and being the only house on the alley experienced some issues with the utility companies, mail delivery, dumpster placement, etc. Mr. Costello spoke to Mr. Christian regarding the difficulties and within a week a new Street Signed was placed. Mr. Costello thanked Mr. Christian & Mr. Hampton (Street Department) for their help.

-Mr. Christian shared with resident Mr. Nenichka that an issue he brought to him regarding Bohak Street has been turned over to the appropriate personnel.

Council members wished everyone "Happy Holidays".

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lamereaux and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm. Next meeting will be held on January 3, 2023 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell  
Borough Council Secretary

Pete Cwalina  
Council President

**DECEMBER 8, 2022**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Council President Cwalina calls the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call was taken, those present included Mr. Binkley, Mr. Christian, Mr. Cwalina and Mr. Lamereaux. Also present were Mayor Concert and Gene Breznay, Borough Manager. Mr. Olejnick, Mr. Brown and Attorney Yeager were noted as absent.

-Mr. Cwalina requested a motion and vote for the Civil Service Commission to start the testing procedures for civil service test for the Police Department. A motion was made by Mr. Christian and seconded by Mr. Lamereaux. Vote was 4-0 in favor. A date of January 7, 2023 was set for testing with applications being submitted no later than December 22, 2022. The testing fee will be waived. Testing will be conducted at the Swoyersville Borough building.

Mr. Brown is noted as in attendance for the meeting at 6:06 pm.

-Mr. Cwalina requested a motion to approve the date of the street parking ordinance enforcement timeframe for trailers, boats, etc. The date of February 5, 2023 was recommended by Mr. Cwalina. Mr. Binkley inquired as to warning notifications will be given prior to that date; how are the police going to manage it. Mr. Cwalina shared that a discussion will be held with the Police Department. A motion was made by Mr. Binkley and seconded by Mr. Lamereaux. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Cwalina called an Executive Session at 6:14 pm. The Executive Session ended at 6:33 pm.

-Mr. Brown made a motion to advertise for hiring full-time officers in 2023 with a starting salary of \$60,159.33 with a \$4,000.00 sign on bonus with the stipulation that the officer stays employed with Swoyersville Borough for a period of two years. Civil Service Testing fee is waived. Terms for sign on Bonus will be written up legally with assistance from Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor. Mr. Cwalina seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.



Barb O'Donnell  
Borough Council Secretary

Pete Cwalina  
Council President

**DECEMBER 14, 2022**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Council Vice President Christian calls the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call was taken, those present included Mr. Binkley, Mr. Christian, Mr. Lamereaux and Mr. Olejnick. Also present were Mayor Concert and Gene Breznay, Borough Manager. Mr. Cwalina, Mr. Brown and Attorney Yeager were noted as absent.

-Mr. Christian requested a motion and vote to approve the 2023 Swoyersville Borough budget. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Lamereaux. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

-Mr. Christian requested a motion and vote for a tax millage rate ordinance. Tax rate for fiscal year 2023 is 1.80 mills (.25 Millage Rate Increase) . A motion was made by Mr. Binkley and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

-Mr. Christian requested a motion and vote to purchase a snow box for the backhoe; price not to exceed \$8,000.00. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Lamereaux. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Christian and seconded by Mr. Binkley. Vote was 4-0 in favor.  
Meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm.



Barb O'Donnell  
Borough Council Secretary

Adam Christian  
Council Vice President