

OCTOBER 2, 2023 - 6:30 PM
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, Mr. Lamereaux and Mr. Olejnick. Also present were Mayor Concert, Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor, Gene Breznay, Borough Manager, Dave Hampton, Street Commissioner, Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning Officer, Police Chief Wolinsky, Ken Shefler, Code Enforcement Officer and Barb O'Donnell, Council Secretary.

A motion was requested by Mr. Cwalina to accept the minutes from the September 5, 2023 regular meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to approve the September 5, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$39,311.23 were presented by Ms. O'Donnell, Council Secretary. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the monthly bills. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote 6-0 in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

-Michelle Soreth, 313 Shoemaker Street – inquired if there was any follow up to her question regarding the possibility of a lighting ordinance for Swoyersville. Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning Officer, will obtain a copy of the lighting ordinance in place within Kingston Borough for review and consideration.

-Attorney James Brando appeared in front of Council in a representational capacity for Ms. Marilyn Kester, 166 Shoemaker Street. Attorney Brando reported that active efforts have been made toward cleaning the property at 166 Shoemaker Street and noted that the back area of the property has been cleared. Attorney Brando requested approval for an additional week beyond the 10/09/23 deadline set in a condemnation notification that was issued for the property. Ken Shefler, Code Enforcement Officer agreed that there is headway being made with outside property cleanup; however, there is a concern regarding the inside of the home. To avoid condemnation, significant progress needs to be made that includes inside and outside of the home. A motion was made by Mr. Brown that with a letter of agreement, signed by Ms. Kester, Mr. Shefler - Code Enforcement Officer will be allowed to enter the property at 166 Shoemaker Street to conduct an inspection of the home by Friday, October 6, 2023. Based on Mr. Shefler's decision, if substantial improvements have been made, the deadline will be extended seven (7) days from October 10, 2023 (10/17/23) or if substantial improvements have NOT been made, Ms. Kester will need to vacate the premises on 10/10/23. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-1 in favor.

-Tammy Amico, 36 White Street requested a 4-way stop sign be placed at the intersection of White & Shoemaker. She shared her concern regarding an obstructed view resulting from the increased number of parked vehicles for customers frequenting Bourbon City. Mr. Christian explained that the area would require an investigation/traffic study to determine the necessity of additional stop signs. Police Chief Wolinsky will evaluate the area. The possibility of "no parking" restrictions near the corners to decrease the obstructed view can also be reviewed. Mayor Concert requested that the portable speed limit indicator be moved to Shoemaker Street to help address concerns regarding speed of cars in that area.

-Dawn Rheukas, Vice President Swoyersville Sailors - A request was made to use Roosevelt Field for a bonfire on October 28, 2023. Council approved use and recommended reaching out to Police Chief Wolinsky to coordinate police & fire department assistance.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

-Mr. Breznay reported that the \$284,900 LSA grant application for three (3) emergency generators for the Borough Building, Police Department and Street Department has been submitted. Mr. Breznay encouraged Council Members to ask local legislators for their support of the application.

-Mr. Breznay shared that the paper shredding event held on 9/16/23 was successful.

-Mr. Breznay The 2023 e-Recycling Event will be held at the Luzerne County Fields, 1571 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort, on Thursday, 10/26/23 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$35.00 per vehicle & are good for ONE TV/monitor per ticket. Tickets can be purchased at the Swoyersville Borough building and will be sold on a first come first serve basis. Individuals wishing to dispose of multiple TVs/monitors may purchase additional tickets for \$30.00 per ticket. Information will be placed on the Borough's Facebook page.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote to pay the Staples bill, \$329.00, for Police Department use of body cameras. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote for an amended ordinance (Chapter 89) prohibiting parking at all times on the South Side of Shoemaker Street between Perrin and Old Sullivan Streets. A motion was made by Mr. Christian and seconded by Mr. Binkley. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote to amend the Health Insurance ordinance allowing for buyback of supervisors' monthly health insurance cost at 50% of the premium. Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Lamereaux. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote to amend Chapter 89 prohibiting parking at all times starting 165 feet in an easterly direction from Simpson Street on Wesley Street & parking at all times at the dead end of Wesley at the railroad tracks area. A motion was made by Mr. Binkley and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor. A 60-day grace period will be granted before enforcing the "No Parking".

-Mr. Breznay shared that the 2024 budget is nearly complete. A work session will be held in the few weeks to finalize.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Lamereaux presented the August 2023 Treasurer's Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$17,814.43; interest & revenues for the month: \$147,791.31; Transfers from PLGIT for the month: \$104,000.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; Expenses for the month: \$133,939.80; ending checkbook balance: \$135,665.94. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$182.77; interest & revenues for month: \$0.18; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$8,700.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$8,771.09; ending checkbook balance: \$111.86. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$10,129.36; interest & revenues for the month: \$13,503.24; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$3,000.00; expenses for the month: \$9,911.71; ending checkbook balance: \$10,720.89. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$13,324.10; interest & revenues for the month: \$31,331.67; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$20,000.00; expenses for the month: \$11,026.98; ending checkbook balance: \$13,628.79.

Liaison Officer: Mr. Christian raised the question of a camera/Wi-Fi system for Roosevelt Park resulting from a concern presented by a resident. Resident Brook Rikoskie shared a concern regarding kids climbing on equipment and a recent wallet theft from an unlocked car during the day at the park. Mr. Binkley shared that the issue of a system was discussed at a previous Recreation Board meeting and the question arose regarding will the system be a 24-hour recording; how long the recording will be kept, if recording is constant it will need to be maintained on a server. Resident Brooke Rikoskie shared some concerns regarding kids climbing on equipment and a recent wallet theft from an unlocked car at the park. Mr. Binkley suggested considering a server system with constant recording. Mr. Christian made a motion to get quotes for a camera/Wi-Fi system for Roosevelt Park & to vote if Council agrees on price. Motion was seconded by Mr. Binkley. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Christian made a motion to approve a second reading of the amended Animal Ordinance. Mr. Binkley seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Christian requested that hoops are replaced at Loveland Park. Mr. Binkley shared that the Borough could get reimbursed for replacement of the hoops through the Parks & Recreation Luzerne County Grant. Mr. Christian made a motion to replace the hoops at Loveland Park with reimbursement for the expense coming from the Luzerne County Grant. Motion was seconded by Mr. Lamereaux. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Police Department: Mr. Brown presented the Police Department report for September 2023 which included a review of Crossing Guard hours. There was a total of 231 calls for service and one motor vehicle accident. Fees collected totaled \$1,205.28. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to place monies in the appropriate funds. Motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Street Department: Mr. Olejnick shared that two bids were received for installing additional lights in the Street Department garage – Quality Electric (6 lights) \$5,999.00 & Kavanaugh Electrical Contractors (9 lights) \$4,449.00. LED lighting will be used. Mr. Olejnick made a motion to approve Kavanaugh \$4,449.00. Motion was seconded by Mr. Lamereaux. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Olejnick initiated a discussion regarding the option of repairing or selling the Borough's 2009 Chevy Dump Truck. Mr. Hampton, Street Commissioner, shared information regarding replacing the truck. He will provide Council with a copy of the information that was referenced. This issue is an item for the 2024 budget. Council recommended discussing it further at a future budget meeting.

Fire Department: Mr. Cwalina shared there Maltby responded to 15 calls. Kingston Ambulance responded to 53 calls.

Technical/Parks and Recreation: Mr. Binkley shared there was no Technology report for this meeting. The Recreation Board meeting was held on 9/20/23. Recreation Board account balance equals \$8245.42. No funds from the Venmo account had been transferred. On 10/21/23, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm there will be a Spooky Stories event in Loveland Park. The event is cosponsored by the Little Library of Swoyersville. There is a RSVP for the event. Those interested can find more information on the Little Library of Swoyersville's Facebook page. The Halloween Pet Costume Contest will run from 10/15/23 through 10/28/23. Those interested in participating can find more information on the Recreation Boards Facebook page. A gate for an opening in the fence at Andrew Barilla Jr. Park has been requested by a resident. There is currently an opening with nothing to stop children from running out. Also, there is no

"Playground" sign at the park. The Recreation Board is considering obtaining both the gate and also a sign. The next Recreation Board meeting will occur on 10/18/23, 6:00 pm at the Borough Building.

Attorney Yeager: No report provided. Attorney Yeager questioned if there would be any State Grant or matching funds available for the camera/Wi-Fi system in Roosevelt Park. Mr. Binkley shared that the Recreation Board is holding a meeting on the DCED grant & a camera/Wi-Fi system could potentially be part of the grant. There are also other grants that can be explored.

Mayor Concert: Mayor Concert shared a residential concern involving 489 Slocum Street. There is a concern that children are being left alone, dogs are tied out for hours and there are 11 bags of trash left out with no stickers. Mayor Concert asked Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement to look at the property.

-Mayor Concert reported that he received several complaints regarding the condition of the ponding basin behind Birch Drive. He requested assistance with taking care of the area near the tree line at the basin. Residents had been cleaning the area.

-Mayor Concert presented a letter received from Barbara Pitcavage thanking the Swoyersville Police Department for their assistance with an incident that occurred at her home in early September.

-Mayor Concert presented a letter of resignation on behalf of part-time police officer, Dane Sorensen. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to accept the letter of resignation. Motion was seconded by Mr. Binkley. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Mr. Brown made a motion to advertise for a part-time police officer. Motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

-Mr. Lamereaux reported that the ADA ramps are being worked on at the corner of Jackson/Oliver Streets.

-Mr. Binkley revisited the creation of an Ordinance Review Committee & reopened the discussion to establish members. Mr. Binkley, Mr. Christian, and Mr. Lamereaux will serve as members of the Ordinance Review Committee.

-Mayor Concert shared a letter received from Community Bank that provides information regarding what they can offer the Borough.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

-Charles Jones, member of the Recreation Board, shared a request to open consideration for a camera/Wi-Fi system to all the parks within Swoyersville Borough. Mr. Binkley made a motion to amend the original motion to get quotes & vote for a camera/Wi-Fi system for Roosevelt Park to get quotes & vote for a camera/Wi-Fi system for "All Parks" within the Borough. Motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

With no further issues or comments, Mr. Cwalina requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Lamereaux and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. Next meeting will be held on November 6, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

Pete Cwalina, Jr.
Council President