

NOVEMBER 6 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. 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 and Barb O'Donnell, Council Secretary. Councilman Brown was noted present at 06:42 pm.

A motion was requested by Mr. Cwalina to accept the minutes from the October 2, 2023 regular meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to approve the October 2, 2023 minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Binkley. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Councilman Brown was not present for this vote.

Monthly bills totaling \$28,440.05 were presented by Ms. O'Donnell, Council Secretary. Mr. Christian inquired if the \$927.50 Shefler Inspections amount resulting from the Kester property issue could be reimbursed through the Magistrates Office. Attorney Yeager responded that it could and will discuss the issue further with Mr. Breznay, Borough Manager. Mr. Binkley questioned when the Cintas Rental contract was ending. The Cintas Rental contract will end in August 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Binkley to approve the monthly bills for October and motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0. Councilman Brown was not present for this vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

-Michael Cheek, Cheek Custom Homes, requested Council's approval for a pave cut and then pavement restoration curb to curb at a home he is currently building (206 N. Lackawanna Avenue}. Mr. Cheek will cover all costs involved with the work done. Mr. Olejnick made a motion to approve a road cut as long as it is overseen by the Borough Engineer. Motion was seconded by Mr. Lamereaux. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Kathy Breznay, Church Street, on behalf of the Swoyersville Kiwanis Club, presented a reimbursement check for two street signs that were purchased through the Borough. Buying street signs for all streets throughout the Borough of Swoyersville is an ongoing Kiwanis Club project.

-Matt Lamereaux, 64 Barber Street, on behalf of the Swoyersville Sailors, extended a thank you for all that was done during their recent bonfire. The kids had a great time. Mr. Lamereaux requested an update on where Parks & Recreation is with the back field becoming the new football field for the Sailors. Mr. Binkley shared that the original grant application submitted had the field designated as a softball field. Because the scope of the project has been changed, a request will be submitted for approval from the County. The goal is to transition the Sailors to the back field. This will be the first project of 2024 for the Parks & Recreation Committee.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

-Mr. Breznak requested a motion and vote for payment to Cavanaugh Electrical for the installation of new lighting at the Street Department Garage. Total amount is \$4,449.00 with payment coming from the American Rescue Plan Act funds. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Binkley. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote for payment to Central Square for policing software. The amount is \$2,340.00 with payment coming from the American Rescue Plan Act funds. 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 payment to Vector Enterprises for installation of a new camera system at the Swoyersville Police Station. The amount is \$6,750.00 with payment coming from the American Rescue Plan Act funds. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Binkley. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote to approve The Request for Payment Certification for Community Development Block Grant paving project. The amount is \$397,024.00. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Binkley. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote for payment to Pennsy Supply for installation of three (3) ADA ramps at the corner of Oliver and Jackson Streets. The amount is \$10,800.00 with payment coming from the American Rescue Plan Act funds. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote for payment to Rock Street Music for upgrades to the PA system. The amount is \$3,782.99 with payment coming from the American Rescue Plan Act funds. A motion was made by Mr. Binkley and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote to approve payment to Pennsy Supply for resurfacing of the Townsend Avenue cut. The amount is \$2,349.00. Payment will be made from previous funds paid to Swoyersville Borough from a contractor performing work on a new home. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote for the first (1st) reading of an amended parking ordinance (Parking is prohibited at all times on the South Side of Shoemaker Street in a southeasterly direction 30 feet in length). A motion was made by Mr. Binkley and seconded by Mr. Lamereaux. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote on the second (2nd) reading of the amended animal ordinance to include stray cats (Dog & Animal Ordinance). A motion was made by Mr. Christian and seconded by Mr. Binkley. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Council extended a thank you to Bill Hooper and Councilman Christian or their efforts with this amendment. Mayor Concert questioned that there was no fine amount referenced in the ordinance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Lamereaux presented the September 2023 Treasurer's Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$135,665.94; interest & revenues for the month: \$140,292.96; Transfers from PLGIT for the month: \$45,000.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$65,000.00; Expenses for the month: \$209,534.12; ending checkbook balance: \$46,424.78. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$111.86; interest & revenues for month: \$0.18; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$6,300.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$6,175.97; ending checkbook balance: \$236.07. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$10,720.89; interest & revenues for the month: \$22,060.17; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$3,918.18; ending checkbook balance: \$28,862.88. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$13,628.79; interest & revenues for the month: \$17,684.05; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$11,468.39; ending checkbook balance: \$19,844.45.

Mr. Lamereaux shared that ADA ramps have been completed on Jackson/Oliver Streets. There is a street sign at the corner of Jackson/ Oliver is blocked by the stop sign. Street sign placement will be addressed.

Liaison Officer: Mr. Christian shared that input received from the Swoyersville Code Enforcement Officer indicates it is felt the issues at 166 Shoemaker St. will not be resolved. Mr. Christian questioned how long the Borough should give the owner to fix the issues. Attorney Yeager will discuss the issue with Charlie McCormick.

-Mr. Christian shared that the Street Sign for Poland Street is missing and there is some curb damage noted. Mr. Hampton, Street Commissioner will address both concerns. Mr. Christian also shared that the residents of Warsaw St are happy with the recent paving. A thank you was extended to the Borough and the paving company and a request was made to send a letter sharing the residents' satisfaction.

-Mr. Christian initiated a discussion regarding the possibility of setting term limits for the Liaison Officer role. Rotating the Liaison Officer role every two years is suggested. Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor recommended tabling the issue for now for further review. He will discuss the issue with Charlie McCormick and will follow up with Council.

Police Department: Mr. Brown presented the Police Department report for October 2023 which included a review of Crossing Guard hours. There was a total of 167 calls for service, three motor vehicle accidents and 2 School Crossing Guard duty. Fees collected totaled \$41.20. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to place monies in the appropriate funds. Motion was seconded by Mr. Lamereaux. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Street Department: Mr. Olejnick made a motion to advertise selling the old Street Department recycling truck. It is noted that the truck has not been used in a few years. Mr. Binkley seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Fire Department: Mr. Cwalina shared there Maltby responded to 11 calls. Kingston Ambulance responded to 38 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 \$7749.00. No funds from the Venmo account had been transferred. Starting in November, Swoyersville Parks & Recreation will be collecting winter accessory donations for our Give gLOVEs winter season project. All the hats, scarves, and gloves collected will be donated to Brandon's Forever Home, a children's foster care organization. The Wing Fling dates have been set for 2024. It will be a two-day event occurring on July 27 & July 28, 2024. The next Recreation Board meeting will occur on 11/15/23, 6:00 pm at the Borough Building.

-Mr. Binkley requested a motion and vote to approve the appointment of two (2) Junior Council Members, Jake Dubaskas and Tyler Ruddy. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Lamereaux. Vote was 6-0. Junior Council member terms are December 2023 through December 2024. Mr. Binkley extended a thank you to Mr. Doug Mucha for his work along with the rest of the History Department at Wyoming Valley West High School who identified and recruited candidates that would be suitable for Junior Council members.

Attorney Yeager: No report provided.

Mayor Concert: Mayor Concert requested an update on the purchase of defibrillators for the Borough Offices. Mr. Cwalina shared that the Fire Department has been utilizing the defibrillators. Mayor Concert requested one be available at the Borough Building. Mr. Cwalina shared if one is not being utilized by the Fire Department, it can be placed in the Borough Building.

-Mayor Concert shared Decembers events: the Christmas Parade will be held on 12/15/23 at 5pm. The Police Department is participating in "No Shave November" & will be donating to the St. Jude's Children Hospital. Swoyersville Parks & Recreations is holding their annual gloves/hats/scarfs drive. 150 hats will be donated this evening. A donation box is located in the Borough hallway. The Swoyersville Kiwanis Club is holding their North Pole Express Mailbox. The mailbox is located in front of the Swoyersville American Legion. Coloring post cards are available in the lobby of the American Legion and in the back of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. All are reminded to include name and return address. Deadline to drop off a letter is 12/15/23. A new Christmas tree will be placed in Council Chambers and will be decorated with ornaments painted by children at an upcoming event. The Recreation Board will be assisting with the event.

-Mayor Concert welcomed Swoyersville Boy Scout Troop 193 who are attending this meeting for their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

-Mr. Binkley requested an update regarding where things are at with quotes for camera/Wi-Fi systems for all the parks within the Borough. As of this meeting, an update was not available. Mr. Binkley will work on obtaining information regarding a system and pricing.

-Mr. Lamereaux questioned if removal of the vehicles left on the property at 166 Shoemaker Street has been addressed with the owner. Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer shared that a letter was provided to the owner last week. Legal action may be necessary. Mayor Concert asked if the home was completely secured now to prohibit the owner from entering on her own. Mr. Mackiewicz shared that the home is secured.

-Mr. Christian extended a thank you to Officer Roper who recently assisted him with a situation.

-Mr. Binkley shared that a Veterans Brunch in honor of Army veteran Stephen Giza will be held on November 19, 2023 at 10:00 am at the Woodlands Inn. Cost of the brunch is free for veterans and \$20.00 for guests.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

-Bill Hooper, Brook St. provided an update on "No Nonsense Neutering" program and committee. The total number of cats trapped & treated are 63 since the program started in February. The Committee is now ready to expand and get some additional help for 2024. Mr. Hooper requested use of Council chambers on 11/29/23 to hold a meeting which Council approved. The Committee welcomes anyone who would like to get involved in the program. Mr. Christian suggesting getting in touch with Mr. Breznay to have Information regarding the meeting be placed on Face book. Council thanked Mr. Hooper, Mr. Christian, and the committee for all the work they have done growing the "TNR" - No Nonsense Neutering program.

Mr. Christian called an Executive Session at 07:26 pm. The Executive Session ended at 07:40.

Mr. Cwalina reminded all to be careful with parking in front or in back of the Borough building as there is work being done on the roof and also the retaining wall in the front. With no further issues or comments, Mr. Cwalina made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Binkley. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm. Next meeting will be held on December 4, 2023 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

Pete Cwalina, Jr.
Council President