

AUGUST 05, 2024 - 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. Christian, Mr. Olejnick, Mr. Cwalina, Mr. Voitek and Mr. Majewski. Council member Brown & Junior Council members were noted as absent. Also present were Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor, Gene Breznay, Borough Manager, Mayor Concert, Dave Hampton, Street Commissioner; Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, Police Chief Wolinsky and Barb O'Donnell, Council Secretary.

Council President Mr. Cwalina took a moment to recognize Mr. Voitek as Council's new 3rd Ward Councilman. Council looks forward to working with Mr. Voitek.

A motion was requested by Mr. Cwalina to accept the minutes from the July 1, 2024 Regular Council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to approve the July 1, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majewski. Vote was 3-0 in favor with Mr. Christian and Mr. Voitek abstaining from the vote. A motion was requested by Mr. Cwalina to accept the minutes from the July 22, 2024 Special Council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to approve the July 22, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$39,619.15 were presented by Council Secretary, Barb O'Donnell. Mr. Christian inquired as to when the Cintas contract will expire. Mr. Breznay reported the contract will end at the beginning of December 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to approve the monthly bills, and motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Council President Cwalina took a moment to recognize 3 members of the Swoyersville Street Department, Anthony Hunzer, John Roberts, and Donald Griffiths for assisting a resident who was experiencing a medical emergency. Mr. Olejnick, on behalf of Council and Swoyersville Borough, also extended a thank you to the employees and shared that a letter of commendation will be placed into their files. In addition, Mr. Rescavage, whose mother experienced a fall, extended a thank you on behalf of family for the actions taken by the Street Department employees. He and his family are extremely grateful for the help provided to their mother.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

-Larry Wrolinsky, Deacon – St. Nicholas Church, Tripp Street presented a concern regarding parishioner parking in the Tripp Street lot not being available when the new mini football season starts. Mr. Cwalina shared that the mini football teams will not be using the area this season. Council will work with the football organization and the church to discuss a parking area that will work for everyone next year.

Hank Zielinski, Keystone Reclamation, shared with Council that Keystone Reclamation is close to transferring property to the Borough. Mr. Zielinski suggested having the transfer complete by October 2024. Attorney Yeager will call and discuss the transfer. Grass planting is planned for the fall. Mr. Zielinski shared that there have been some historical artifacts found and will be given to the Borough.

-Bill Hooper, No Nonsense Neutering (NNN) committee member, presented an updated report through August 5, 2024. For YTD 2024, there were 25 cats treated so far with a cost associated of \$375.00. There are 11 vouchers remaining (@15.00). Mr. Hooper noted that the original contract with NNN included 50 vouchers at \$15.00 & then \$40.00 each for any additional vouchers. As over 50 vouchers have been utilized since the implementation of the program, moving forward any additional vouchers obtained would be \$40.00. Mr. Hooper asked Council for approval to obtain an additional 50 vouchers (includes rabies shot). Mr. Christian made a motion to obtain an additional 50 vouchers. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Mr. Christian also made a motion to approve continuing the new contract with No Nonsense Neutering at \$40.00 per voucher/cat. Mr. Majewski seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0. Mr. Hooper noted that the \$40.00 is not paid until the voucher is used.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

-Mr. Breznay, Borough Manager, requested a motion and vote to pass the amended Health Insurance Ordinance allowing 50% buyback for all employees not accepting borough coverage. Mr. Breznay noted that the amendment was advertised, and this is a second reading. A motion to approve the amendment was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote to apply for county funding for paving eight roads within the Borough. The application is due by September 19, 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Majewski to approve apply for county funding. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay shared a thank you card received from Barb O'Donnell, Council Secretary thanking Council Members, Mayor Concert and all Borough Employees for get well wishes extended & a gift card received as she was recovering from a recent surgery. All were appreciated.

ZONING OFFICER/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

-Mr. Mackiewicz presented and read the Zoning/Code Enforcement Report for July 2024. Mr. Mackiewicz reported 4 zoning permits issued (\$100.00), 23 residential rental inspections were completed (\$2,300.00), 13 inspections are scheduled for August, 2024, 2 new Quality of Life citations issued, 14 complaints reported and handled. Ken Shefler, Code Enforcement Officer, reported clean up progress is being made with the property on Shoemaker Street. Mr. Christian noted the continued clean up at 166 Shoemaker Street. He also shared that Fire Chief Mahon and Ken Shefler; Code Enforcement Officer are working together on the Fire Safety concerns. Mr. Mackiewicz shared that cars parked on the property are also being addressed with citations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Voitek presented the June 2024 Treasurer's Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$142,281.71; interest & revenues for the month: \$41,655.59; Transfers from PLGIT for the month: \$0.00. Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$50,000.00; Expenses for the month: \$125,542.02; ending checkbook balance: \$8,395.28. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$163.44; interest & revenues for month: \$0.30; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$7,700.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$7,724.12; ending checkbook balance: \$139.62. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$621.89; interest & revenues for the month: \$5,800.45; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$5,000.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$4,528.47; ending checkbook balance: \$6,893.87. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$5,442.24; interest & revenues for the month: \$32,548.11; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00.

Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$10,425.32; ending checkbook balance: \$27,565.03.

Fire Department: Mr. Christian reported that he did touch base with Chief Mahon regarding 166 Shoemaker Street. A report was provided to Ken Shefler, Code Enforcement Officer. Kingston EMS responded to 53 calls in July & reported 551 calls YTD. Broderick reported 46 calls for June & July and Maltby reported 22 calls for July.

Police Department: Mr. Olejnick presented the Police Department report for July 2024 which included a review of Crossing Guard hours. There was a total of 171 calls for service and 5 motor vehicle accidents. No school crossing guard duty was reported. Fees collected totaled \$490.85. A motion and vote were requested by Mr. Olejnick to place monies in the proper funds. Motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

-Mr. Olejnick made a motion to hire a school crossing guard at @12.00 per hour. Deadline for applications is August 26, 2024. Applicant chosen must successfully pass drug/alcohol testing prior to starting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majewski. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Street Department: No report provided at this meeting. Mr. Christian did extend a thank you to the Street Department for addressing the curb issue on Warsaw. Residents have not reported any water issues on Hughes and Brown streets.

Parks and Recreation: Mr. Cwalina provided a Parks & Recreation report: Account balance as of 6/30/24 was \$12,503.67. Expenditures & Deposits were reported. Wing Fling Vendor & Sponsor fees were \$10,175.00. The committee will provide a full financial breakdown in August. The Flamingo sale has been extended into September. The following upcoming events were shared: 8/9/24 – Movie in The Park; 8/16/24 – Wyoming Valley West Spartans Concern in The Park; 8/23/24 – Movie in The Park and 8/30/24 – National Night Out in partnership with Forty Fort. Mr. Cwalina commented on the extraordinary job done with the Wing Fling. A thank you was extended to Deb Lewis, Angeli Mahovich and Syrena May along with all of the committee members who did a tremendous job.

-Mr. Cwalina made a motion to approve a title search on the property on the mountain to determine the actual owner. Motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Mr. Christian also made a motion to approve sending a letter to the Bureau of Mining requesting right of entry onto the property. The motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0.

-Mr. Cwalina shared that the A.J. Jones Memorial Cornhole Tournament will be held Saturday, August 10, 2024 at the Wyoming Hose Company #2, 70 East Third Street, Wyoming. There will also be raffle baskets and refreshments. The event will start at 1:00 pm. All proceeds will go to the Swoyersville Police Department and Wyoming Hose Company #2.

-Mr. Christian made a motion for the Borough to donate \$200.00 to the A.J. Jones Memorial Cornhole Tournament. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

-Mr. Cwalina shared that Mr. Olejnick participated in the Keystone State Games and took a Silver in Doubles and a Bronze in Singles. Congratulations were extended to Mr. Olejnick.

-John Baker, Swoyersville EMA, reported an issue located at 224 Watkins Street. UGI had performed a repair and with the recent rainstorm it was noted that the road had collapsed with an opening of two feet or more. Rob Koval, Street Department, filled the hole with gravel and placed cones in the area. As of today, the hole is still there and is noted to be larger. Will UGI be coming back to fix the issue? Dave Hampton, Street Commissioner, will reach out to UGI to discuss.

Mr. Baker also inquired if once it is determined that the Borough of Swoyersville owns the property on the mountain, will notice be given for No Trespassing signs to be removed? Mr. Cwalina shared that once the title search is completed and ownership is confirmed, a process will take place to address the issue.

Liaison: Mr. Majewski extended a thank you to the Recreation & Park Committee for inviting him to participate as a judge at the Swoyersville Wing Fling event. A thank you was extended to committee members for the great job done with the event.

-Mr. Majewski shared that on 8/25/24, the Kiwanis Club will be holding its annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. Proceeds from the event will benefit youths of the community that receive scholarships. If information is needed regarding the event, please reach out to Gene Breznay at 570-704-7196.

-Mr. Majewski shared on behalf of Nancy Keating, Tax Collector, that residents are receiving tax bills this week. Tax Collector office hours are Saturday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm & Tuesday 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The Rebate period ends 9/30/24 and residents paying by installments have the first installment due on 9/1/24.

-Mr. Majewski reported two concerns that he received: A resident of Stock Avenue reported a blocked storm drain on Borough property. Dave Hampton and DPW addressed the issue and cleaned the drain out the next day. Residents of Noyes Avenue shared a concern involving a neighboring yard with high weeds and grass. A thank you was extended to Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning Officer, who addressed the issue the next day.

-Mr. Majewski shared that he recently participated in an interview with Channel 16 pertaining to a new business that purchased the Topsy Turtle building in Swoyersville. B3Q Smokehouse, currently located in West Pittston, will be relocating to Swoyersville with an anticipated opening date of October 2024.

-Mr. Majewski shared that WVSA has placed signs throughout the Borough for upcoming street sweeping dates.

-Mr. Majewski reminded residents that cardboard pick up dates are 8/15/24 and 8/29/24.

-Mr. Majewski shared that the next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 due to Monday being the Labor Day Holiday.

-Mr. Majewski shared that residents can still get recycling stickers. There is a slight upcharge due to the lateness in the year. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the recycling program. Recyclables are picked up the same day as garbage is.

Attorney Yeager: No report provided at this meeting.

Mayor Concert: Mayor Concert extended a thank you to the Recreation & Parks Committee for an awesome job done with the Swoyersville Wing Fling.

-Mayor Concert reported that the monument dedications are being planned for October 2024.

-Mayor Concert reported that the proceeds from the Swoyersville 125th Anniversary will be distributed with checks written this week to the Little League and Swoyersville Sailors.

-Mayor Concert shared that the Trunk or Treat will be held on 10/26/24 so that it will not interfere with the Kiwanis Trunk or Treat.

-Mayor Concert requested that anyone who may find a veteran's banner that has fallen, please contact the Kiwanis Club or Swoyersville Borough to have the banners picked up.

-The agenda item of 4 Public Citations to be presented at the October meeting is being moved to the November Agenda.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

-Mr. Christian recognized Chief Wolinski for helping with a resident on Owen Street. A scam related issue was resolved quickly with Chief Wolinski's assistance.

-Mr. Christian expressed a concern regarding the Swoyersville – Next Door page. He received two complaints from residents that shared their posts praising the Street Department and a Councilman were never approved. Mayor Concert shared that he is the administrator of the page which is not a Swoyersville Borough page. Mayor Concert also shared that many posts have been approved praising the Street Department and Council members. Mayor Concert shared that if the residents would like to repost or send him a message, he will be more than happy to look at them. It is noted that there is a lot of spam that occurs on the page and there is a possibility that the posts were not seen.

-Mr. Breznay shared a live feed comment questioning if Old Sullivan Street was included in the streets being considered for paving. Old Sullivan Street from Dana to Shoemaker will be paved in the next several weeks.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

-Syrena May, 191 Hughes Street, member of Recreation Board and Wing Fling Committee, shared that Movie in The Park, Little Giants, is moved to Friday, August 9th at 9:00 pm. There is a Car Show being held on Sunday, August 25, 2024. The two-day wing fling event was successful with over 60 vendors. Approximately 24,600 wings were sold. Approximately \$5,900.00 was raised. A final report will be presented next month. T-Shirts are still being sold at \$25.00. If interested in purchasing a t-shirt, please reach out to any member of the Recreation Board or Wing Fling Committee or send a message on Facebook. A thank you was extended to Swoyersville Council, Mr. Majewski, Swoyersville DPW, all Swoyersville organizations, and all Volunteers who supported the Wing Fling Committee's efforts. A request was made for Council to approve a two-day event for 2025. Dates set are 7/26/25 and 7/27/25, 11:00 to 7:00 pm each day. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to approve the two-day event. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor. The committee is seeking additional volunteers for the Wing Fling committee.

-Kathy Breznay, Church Street, shared that she requested a right to know form to receive a copy of the Swoyersville 125th Anniversary Report. Ms. Breznay presented a few questions regarding the report and expenses documented. Clarification was requested regarding monies noted as donated by vendors versus monies paid to vendors. Mayor Concert responded to all questions and offered additional documentation regarding transactions if Ms. Breznay would like it. Ms. Breznay noted that a request was also made for a copy of the Monuments report; however, has not received it yet. Mayor Concert shared additional receipts are needed from Gene Breznay in order for him to complete the report. Once he receives the receipts, a report can be completed. Ms. Breznay questioned a refund to Maddie's Doghouse; was it paid by cash? Mayor Concert shared a check was requested from Gene Breznay, Borough Manager to be made out to Maddie's Doghouse. Mayor Concert confirmed Ms. Breznay's question regarding the event proceeds going to the Little League and Swoyersville Sailors, each receiving \$262.00.

Mr. Cwalina called an Executive Session at 7:37 pm. The Executive Session ended at 7:44 pm.

With no further issues or comments, Mr. Cwalina requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. Next meeting will be held on September 3, 2024 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

Pete Cwalina, Jr.
Council President