

JULY 1, 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 presents included Mr. Brown, Mr. Olejnick, Mr. Cwalina, Mr. Lamereaux and Mr. Majewski. Council member Christian, Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor and Gene Breznay, Borough Manager were noted as absent. Also present were Mayor Concert, Dave Hampton, Street Commissioner; Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, Ken Shefler, Code Enforcement Officer, Police Chief Wolinsky, Jake Dubaskas and Tyler Ruddy, Junior Council Members.

A motion was requested by Mr. Cwalina to accept the minutes from the June 3, 2024 Regular Council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to approve the June 3, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majewski. Vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion was requested by Mr. Cwalina to accept the minutes from the June 12, 2024 Special Council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to approve the June 12, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$30,415.77 were presented by Council President Cwalina. 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. A motion was made by Mr. Majewski to approve the monthly bills as read. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

-Hank Zielinski, Keystone Reclamation, presented Council with copies of the donation agreement which does require signature. Once the agreement is signed, a deed can be forwarded which will then allow the Borough to move forward with grant applications & or use of existing grants. Council will forward the agreement to Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor, for review. Mr. Zielinski provided an update on how the project is progressing. It is anticipated that the grounds will be graded toward the end of July.

-Mark Nenichka, 77 Brook Street, presented a concern regarding a posting on Swoyersville-Next Door which referenced the parking situation on the corner of Dennison and Bohac Street. There is no "no parking here to corner" on Bohac Street and there are people parking within 12 feet of the corner. It is difficult to pull onto Bohac Street from Dennison as a result. Can a "no parking here to corner" be placed on Bohac? Mr. Cwalina requested Police Chief Wolinsky to evaluate the issue and follow up with Mr. Hampton, Street Commissioner, with recommendations.

Mr. Nenichka, on behalf of Zoning, shared that the group has an interest in a Solar Park up on the mountainside. There is currently no zoning in place to cover any residential or commercial solar installations. A meeting was held with Mr. Mackiewicz, Zoning Officer, and an ordinance was developed. A copy of the ordinance was provided to Council this evening. Council will forward the suggested ordinance to Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor, for review.

-Residents residing at 32 E. Hall Street, experienced an issue with sewage back up in their basement which was determined by WVSA to be a Borough issue. The source of the blockage was found outside of the resident's property. Dave Hampton, Street Commissioner, did evaluate the issue at the residents' home & recommended residents coming to Council to request assistance with covering the cost of clean-up. Mr. Cwalina

-Ray Lepo, Sullivan Street, presented a concern regarding dirty bike riding near his home. There are several riders on the road, not following any signs and speeding. Many times, cars need to stop to allow the bikes to go through. There is a safety concern resulting from this issue. Council member Majewski shared that the Police Department is working on the dirt bike riding issue and there has been collaboration with Forty Fort & Kingston Boroughs. Mr. Majewski encouraged those who may know or are associated with the riders to take the riders to a safe place for riding and have concern for the safety of the public.

Mr. Lepo also thanked Mr. Majewski for addressing the trimming of trees on the corner of Dana/Sullivan Streets. A thank you was also extended to the Street Department who cut the trees.

-Ken Matsko, representing Prime ABA in Scranton shared the upcoming closing on a property at 119 Hughes Street and extended a thank you to Mr. Mackiewicz and Swoyersville Police Department for their assistance in making their dream of expansion a reality. Prime ABA is a small organization that assists children between the ages of 3-21 who are affected by Autism & ADHD.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

No report was provided at this meeting.

ZONING OFFICER/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

-Mr. Mackiewicz presented and read the Zoning/Code Enforcement Report for June 2024. Mr. Mackiewicz shared that 95 landlord/tenant forms were mailed out. Ken Shefler, Code Enforcement Officer, reported clean up progress is being made with the property on Shoemaker Street. Mr. Shefler met with Swoyersville Fire Chief Mahon and Mike Amato, Penn Engineering and there are no structure issues with the home; however, there were some fire concerns noted. Mr. Shefler is forwarding a letter to the property owner's attorney that will outline the concerns found. The expectation is that the concerns be resolved immediately.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Lamereaux presented the May 2024 Treasurer's Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$103,466.31; interest & revenues for the month: \$437,143.27; Transfers from PLGIT for the month: \$0.00. Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$200,000.00; Expenses for the month: \$198,327.87; ending checkbook balance: \$142,281.71. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$205.12; interest & revenues for month: \$0.30; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$14,600.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$14,641.98; ending checkbook balance: \$163.44. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$882.04; interest & revenues for the month: \$653.36; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$7,500.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$8,413.51; ending checkbook balance: \$621.89. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$22,614.15; interest & revenues for the month: \$35,325.62; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00;

Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$40,000.00; expenses for the month: \$12,497.53; ending checkbook balance: \$5,442.24.

Fire Department: No report provided at this meeting.

Police Department: Mr. Brown presented the Police Department report for May 2024 which included a review of Crossing Guard hours. There was a total of 197 calls for service, 5 motor vehicle accidents and 5 school crossing guard duty reported. Fees collected totaled \$281.53. A motion and vote were requested by Mr. Brown to place monies in the proper funds. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Street Department: No report provided at this meeting.

Parks and Recreation: Mr. Cwalina invited Charles Jones, Swoyersville Parks and Recreation Committee member to provide a parks and recreation report. The account balance as of 6/02/24 is \$9,814.44. Work has begun on Roosevelt Park. The Parks & Recreation Committee is requesting guidance regarding modifications that may be needed for the fence located on the left side of the field. A meeting will be requested with representatives from Swoyersville American Legion Baseball, Sailors Football, and Council to go over some proposals and develop a plan. Two bids were received to resurface the tennis courts. The plan is to convert the tennis courts to pickle ball courts. The total cost will be under \$10,000. The committee also approved the purchase of 8 picnic style, ADA approved tables. A safety & electrical inspection was performed on the concession stands with a list of recommended improvements completed. Volunteers from the baseball & football organizations will be requested to help minimize costs to the Borough and Parks & Recreation. It was noted that an extension was approved for the Parks & Recreation Board grant. The committee will reach out to Mr. Zielinski to determine specifics regarding what land at the culm bank will be available & what can be placed there. A plan will be developed and brought to Council for review and approval.

Recent Goat Yoga and Movie in the Park events were successful. The car show was postponed from 6/29/24 to 7/25/24. A Wyoming Valley West Spartans concert is planned for August 16, 2023. Parks & Recreation will be partnering with Forty Fort Parks & Recreation for a National Night Out on August 30 2024 at the soccer fields near Forty Fort Airport. The Wing Fling is approaching – July 27th & July 28th. The board is still actively seeking volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering can visit the Parks & Recreation Facebook page for additional information.

A request was made & approved to use the Roosevelt Park filed for an upcoming fundraising event benefiting Jared Allen's Home for Wounded Warriors. The board is looking for clarification on how to approach requests from Mayor Concert to use Borough parks/fields for events as Mayor Concert holds events as Mayor and also as an individual resident. Mr. Cwalina recommends the committee speak to Attorney Yeager for clarification and process to follow. The next Parks and Recreation Meeting will be held on July 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm. The public is welcome to attend.

Liaison: Mr. Majewski made a motion to donate \$150.00 to the Swoyersville Kiwanis Club's Annual Four Seasons Golfing Tournament. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor. The Borough will be advertised as a sponsor with a sign present at the tournament. Residents interested in participating in the tournament can visit the Swoyersville Kiwanis Club Facebook page or call 570-704-7196 for more information.

-Mr. Majewski reminded residents that cardboard pick up is moved to Friday this week due to 4th of July holiday.

-Mr. Majewski noted that the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parrish Festival is 7/11/24 through 7/13/24. Festival is located at 116 Hughes Street. John Stevens Polka Band will be one of the performing bands.

-Mr. Majewski would like to recognize the Swoyersville Police Department for the extra efforts put forward in an attempt to curtail dirt bike riding on borough streets. Safety of the general public is the ultimate goal and Mr. Majewski has reached out to surrounding communities to encourage the same effort. Finding a safe place for the bike riders was encouraged.

Attorney Yeager: No report provided at this meeting.

Mayor Concert: Mayor Concert presented a question asked by Resident Robin Hovan regarding allowing the milkweed to grow next to the tracks on Simpson Street. It is noted that the property is owned by the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority; however, the Swoyersville Street Department does help maintain it. Further discussion will take place regarding the request with the Street Department. A suggestion was also made to reach out to the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority.

-Mayor Concert shared the upcoming Kamden Cunningham event August 17, 2024. Kamden is again raising money for Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors.

-Mayor Concert shared information for the Memorial Corn Hole Tournament that is being held in memory of AJ Jones. AJ served the Swoyersville Borough Police Department. The event will be held on August 10 2024 at Hose Company #2. Registration will start at 12:30 pm with the tournament beginning at 01:00 pm. The cost is \$50.00 for a 2-person team & \$20.00 for "non" players/spectators. All proceeds raised will benefit the Swoyersville Police Department and the Wyoming Hose Company.

-Mayor Concert reported there was \$5,900.00 raised at the Swoyersville 125th Celebration with \$5,375.23 expenses noted. There was a profit report of \$524.77 which will be divided between the Swoyersville Little League and Swoyersville Sailors.

-Mayor Concert reported that there was an issue noted last month with the monument check. A new check was dropped off for the monuments by Mr. Cwalina and the wording for the monuments will be delivered this week. It is anticipated that the monuments will be placed sometime in the fall.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

-Mr. Lamereaux thanked Ken Shefler and Council member Shawn Brown for addressing a property issue that was brought to his attention. The issue has been resolved.

-Mr. Lamereaux shared that he has decided to resign from his Council seat. He thanked all those residents who came to the meeting to address issues.

-Mr. Cwalina questioned the curb & water issue on Warsaw. Dave Hampton, Street Commissioner, shared that the Street Department can take care of it. Mr. Olejnick noted that Mr. Breznay, Borough Manager, did send the homeowner a letter notifying him of the curb installation. The installation should take place as soon as possible.

-Mr. Cwalina requested a motion and vote to amend the Health Insurance Buy Back Policy to include all employees at 50 Percent. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 4-1 in favor.

-Mayor Concert reported a clarification regarding the amount of money given to Mr. Breznay, Borough Manager for the concession stands. The amount was \$610.00. Mayor Concert also thanked Mr. Lamereaux for all he has done for the Borough and asks that he reconsider his resignation.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

-Bill Hooper, No Nonsense Neutering (NNN) committee member, presented a quarterly report. For 2024, there were 19 cats treated so far. There are 17 vouchers remaining for this year. The committee is starting to be able to schedule appointments again. There had been an availability issue. With 17 vouchers remaining in addition to the 19 used, the total expense comes to \$540.00. Mr. Hooper noted that the original contract with NNN included 50 vouchers at \$15.00 & then \$40.00 each for any additional vouchers; however, NNN provided the Borough with an additional 50 vouchers @ \$15.00 to Borough as the first 50 were used up so quickly. The current budget for NNN is \$4,000.00 so when committee asks for an additional 50 vouchers (at \$40.00), the expense will still fall under budget.

-Kelsey Cunningham presented information on the upcoming fundraising event to be held at Roosevelt Field on August 17, 2024. Ms. Cunningham shared that her son Kamden is again participating in the National Mullet Competition along with his father. More importantly, Kamden is again raising funds to benefit Jared Allen's Home for Wounded Warriors. Last year Kamden was able to raise just under \$9,000.00 for the organization and is hoping to raise more this year. Kamden Cunningham thanked council for helping him raise money.

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. Brown. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm. Next meeting will be held on August 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

Pete Cwalina, Jr.
Council President

JULY 22, 2024 - 6:00 PM
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 presents included Mr. Christian, Mr. Olejnick, Mr. Cwalina, and Mr. Majewski. Mr. Brown, Mr. Lamereaux and Attorney Yeager, Borough Solicitor were noted as absent. Also present were Mayor Concern, Gene Breznay, Borough Manager and Barb O'Donnell, Council Secretary.

The reason for this Special Meeting is to motion and vote to accept the written letter of resignation from council member, Dave Lamereaux, interview interested residents for the 3rd ward council seat vacancy and to motion and vote on a 3rd ward council seat replacement. One application is noted as received.

An executive session was called at 06:02 pm. Executive session ended at 06:08 pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to accept the resignation letter from council member Dave Lamereaux. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majewski. Vote was 3-1 in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Christian to approve Ted Voitek to fill the 3rd Ward council seat vacancy. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

With no further issues or comments, Mr. Cwalina requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Christian and was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 4-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm. Next regular meeting will be held on August 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

Pete Cwalina, Jr.
Council President

