

OCTOBER 7, 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. Brown, Mr. Olejnick, Mr. Cwalina, Mr. Voitek and Mr. Majewski. Also present were Gene Breznay, Borough Manager, 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 and Barb O'Donnell, Council Secretary. Attorney Yeager & Mayor Concert were noted as absent.

A motion was requested by Mr. Cwalina to accept the minutes from the September 3, 2024 Regular Council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the September 3, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$34,616.00 were presented by Council Secretary, Barb O'Donnell. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to approve the monthly bills, and motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

-Tony Zambito, Jackson Street, requested clarification on the borough's ordinance pertaining to placement of a storage unit on an open property that he owns. Mr. Mackiewicz, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer shared that there needs to be an existing living unit on the property in order to place a storage unit/shed. Mr. Mackiewicz will provide Mr. Zambito with a copy of the ordinance.

-Kathy Breznay, Church Street, questioned if Council was aware of when the 125-year Anniversary Celebration party was being planned by the mayor. The Council shared that they are not aware of what the mayor may be planning.

-Managers from B3Q Smoke House & Pub shared that they are now open for business. The restaurant is open Wednesdays through Mondays. Council welcomed B3Q Smokehouse & Pub to Swoyersville.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

-Mr. Breznay, Borough Manager, reported that the LSA (Casino Grant) application was submitted for the Street Department equipment garage. Cost will be \$160,162.00. Council members were encouraged to contact local legislators to assist the Borough by sending letters of support. It was noted that Senator Baker has sent a letter.

-Mr. Breznay reported the application to Luzerne County Community Development for road improvements was submitted. Eight streets that meet low/moderate income levels, as determined by the HUD map, were applied for. Streets include White Street (Shoemaker to Green); New Sullivan (White to Old Sullivan); Green Street (White to Old Sullivan); Dana Street (Church to Perrin); Perrin Street (Entire length); Hemlock Street (Shoemaker to Dana); Avenue C (Entire length); Oliver Street (Chapel to Tener)

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote for final payment of \$42,700 for Borough building roof replacement. The monies will be paid from the General Fund. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote to pay \$3,825.00 for Police Department computer software repairs and reinstallation. Monies to be paid from the American Rescue Plan Act Fund. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Majewski. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote to pay Powell's \$6,635.00 for additional work on the new truck. Monies to be paid from the Liquid Fuels Fund. 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 to extend the current partnership agreement with Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority to December 31, 2026. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Majewski. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Breznay announced the community E-recycling event sponsored by Representative Kaufer and West Side COG. It will be held on October 24, 2024 at the Luzerne County Soccer Fields. Swoyersville Borough has 25-30 tickets available. Cost of a ticket is \$35.00. One (1) TV is included as a recyclable item.

-Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote to accept the Special Warranty Deed transferring 7 acres of property from Pagnotti Enterprises to Swoyersville Borough. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to accept the Special Warranty Deed. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Hank Zielinski, Project Manager, Harry E. Bank Reclamation Project reported to Council that the Reclamation Project will continue. The project is coming up on 50% complete. As for the 7-acres being transferred, there is a plan to seed the area. Mr. Zielinski noted that the transfer should be complete within a week or two.

ZONING OFFICER/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

-Mr. Mackiewicz presented the Zoning/Code Enforcement Report for September 2024. There were 4 dumpster permits & 2 zoning permits issued. Two subdivision applications received, and 7 residential rental inspections were completed. Total funds collected were \$1,100.00. Landlord contact continues and 6 inspections have been scheduled for October. Nine complaints were addressed. Three vehicles were removed from Main Street without incident. Several business operations are being addressed within the Borough. Code Enforcement Officer was called out to an electrical fire incident in a rental property on Oliver Streets. Identified issues have been addressed. Mr. Majewski thanked Mr. Mackiewicz for his help addressing an issue on Noyes Avenue and Hazel Street.

Mr. Shefler, Code Enforcement Officer reported that the deadline for compliance set for 166 Shoemaker was 9/27/24. With compliance not met, the next step involves meeting with Attorney Yeager to determine what to do with the property. Mr. Christian made a motion to start the legal process of vacating the property. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Voitek presented the August 2024 Treasurer's Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$50,477.47; interest & revenues for the month: \$177,090.27 \$; Transfers from PLGIT for the month: \$127,022.09. Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; Expenses for the month: \$150,708.36; ending checkbook balance: \$203,881.47. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$271.90; interest & revenues for month: \$0.40; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$10,400.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$10,530.30; ending checkbook balance: \$142.00. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$22,966.61; interest & revenues for the month: \$16,761.99; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$10,000.00; expenses for the month: \$6,121.84; ending checkbook balance: \$23,606.76.

Solid Waste Collection: beginning checkbook balance: \$9,758.43; interest & revenues for the month: \$22,696.37; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$22,343.60; ending checkbook balance: \$10,111.20.

-Mr. Voitek requested a motion and vote to accept a \$4,998.00 proposal from CVI, Pittston PA for security camera installation for Roosevelt Park. Monies will be paid for from the American Rescue Plan Act. A motion was made by Mr. Christian and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor. It is noted that the cost falls under threshold amounts for requiring bids. The system is able to perform continuous recording for a set number of days and will have remote access for specific officials. Mr. Breznay informed council that the internet cost involved with this will be approximately \$90.00 a month.

Fire Department: Mr. Christian reported that Kingston EMS responded to 45 calls in September. Maltby responded to 16 calls.

-Mr. Christian suggested setting up a tier-level for donations to organizations. All donations would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Council suggested further discussion at the next Agenda Meeting.

-Mr. Christian made a motion for the Borough to donate \$250.00 to the Swoyersville Sailors for their upcoming cheerleading competition. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Christian shared residents can view crime report totals (UCRs) on the Swoyersville Borough website.

-Mr. Christian made a motion for the Borough to donate the Code Enforcement vehicle (2015 Ford Explorer) that is no longer in use to Maltby Fire Company. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Police Department: Mr. Brown presented the Police Department report for September 2024 which included a review of Crossing Guard hours. There were 155 calls for service, 6 motor vehicle accidents and 3 school crossing guard duty reported. Fees collected totaled \$169.66. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to place monies in the proper funds. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Street Department: No report presented at this meeting.

Parks and Recreation: Mr. Charlie Jones provided the Parks & Recreation report: Account balance as of the September meeting was \$14,147.82. Upcoming events include Swoyersville Kiwanis Trunk or Treat 10/20/24, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Parrish and a Halloween Pet Photo contest on Facebook. In addition to the park equipment being purchased through the American Rescue Plan Act Funds, Parks and Recreation, through Wing Fling proceeds, plans to purchase three "Generational Swings," one for each park.

-Mr. Cwalina requested a motion to elevate Ray Mackiewicz, current part time Zoning Officer to full-time status (at current rate of \$17.00/hour, non-uniform). A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Cwalina shared that the Culm Bank Project Committee has been formed and will meet Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Public is welcome to attend the meeting.

Liaison: Mr. Majewski made a motion to accept the second reading of the Solar Energy Systems ordinance to be included in the Zoning Ordinance. It will go under Ordinance #8-2024, amendment to Chapter 93. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Majewski shared the American Red Cross is conducting a community blood drive on 10/18/24 at Saint Elizabeth Anne Seton Parrish.

-Mr. Majewski provided an update on cleaning, trench dredging and pipe cleanout being performed by WVSA on ponding basins near Kossack Street, Filbert Street and Church Street. Mr. Majewski thanked Dave Hampton, Street Commissioner, for his assistance with the basins.

Attorney Yeager: No report provided at this meeting.

Mayor Concert: Mr. Majewski shared on behalf of Mayor Concert the following report: Mayor is still collecting ring tabs for the Ronald McDonald House; the collection is currently over 500,000 tabs. A Halloween event will be held at the Borough building on 10/26/24, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Any donations of wrapped candy in store bags would be appreciated. Mayor Concert will be decorating Veteran cards 11/2/24 at 11:00 am at the Borough building. Mayor Concert is currently looking for volunteers to join him for the event.

-Mr. Olejnick made a motion to approve the Halloween event being held at the Borough Building on 10/26/24. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majewski. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

-Mr. Christian made a motion to begin the reclaiming process for the property on the mountain, pending Attorney Yeager's advice. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

-Mr. Cwalina noted that this meeting was the last meeting for the Junior Council Members, Jake Dubaskas and Tyler Ruddy. Mr. Cwalina and Council members thanked both for their participation as Junior Council Members and congratulated them on their dedication and efforts demonstrated as members.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

-Bill Hooper, representing No Nonsense Neutering, presented a 3rd Quarter update. There were 21 cats captured and released in 3rd Qtr. 2024. Year to date 2024, there are a total of 40 cats serviced through No Nonsense Neutering's TNR program. Mr. Hooper also included a summary of street names and number of cats trapped per street for July through September 2024.

-Mark Nenichka, 77 Brook Street, questioned if the barriers placed at the Mine Reclamation Property will remain in place with the turnover of 7 acres from the Reclamation Project? Mr. Cwalina will reach out to Hank Zielinski for an answer.

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 6-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm. Next meeting will be held on November 4, 2024 at 6:32 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

Pete Cwalina, Jr.
Council President