

FEBRUARY 3, 2025- 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. Olejnick, Mr. Cwalina, Mr. Voitek and Mr. Majewski. Also present were Gene Breznay, Borough Manager, Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Hampton, Street Commissioner and Barb O'Donnell, Council Secretary. Mr. Christian, Mr. Brown, and Attorney Yeager were noted as absent.

A motion was requested by Mr. Olejnick to accept the minutes from the 01/06/25 Regular Council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Majewski to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Voitek. Vote was 3-0 in favor.

Mr. Olejnick made a motion to appoint Jeff Lewis as the new Swoyersville Mayor. Motion was seconded by Mr. Voitek. Vote was 3-0 in favor. It is noted the Jeff Lewis was sworn into office by the Honorable Judge Barilla prior to the Regular Council Meeting.

Monthly bills totaling \$63,475.62 were presented by Borough Secretary, Barb O'Donnell. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to approve the monthly bills, and motion was seconded by Mr. Majewski. Vote was 3-0 in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

-Kathy Breznay, Church Street, shared that she is extending the sale of Swoyersville "125th Anniversary Commemorative Tee Shirts to April 1, 2025. Ms. Breznay questioned whether proceeds from the 125th Anniversary Celebration were donated to the two Swoyersville youth organizations prior to Chris Concert's departure. Council deferred the question to Borough Manager, Gene Breznay. Mr. Breznay reported that a check was written for both youth organizations (Mini Football & Swoyersville Little League) & provided to Chris Concert; however, only one was cashed (Mini Football). A letter was forwarded to former Mayor Chris Concert inquiring where the check may be.

-Swoyersville Park & Rec Board members, Angeli Nause-Mahovich & Syrena Riley May provided Council with an update on the 2025 Wing Fling event. The event is planned for 7/25/25 & 7/26/25. A new Vendor app was shared along with some updated fees and rules. A copy of the vendor app was forwarded to Attorney Yeager for review. A request was also made for the same platform to be as last year with police available at event. The Wing Fling committee is still looking for members & event volunteers.

-Sue Barilla-Davis, Chestnut Street, presented a concern regarding a property diagonal from her property. The building had been vacant for years; however, a dumpster was recently placed on the street and the building now has power and was recently occupied overnight. Council was questioned if they knew what was going on with the property. Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer, shared that a dumpster permit was granted and there has been cleanup performed on the property. Currently, it is not a rental property. Mr. Mackiewicz shared that ongoing rental property inspections are performed

with one of the goals being maintaining a safe community for residents. Ms. Barilla-Davis also questioned if it is necessary to place a stop sign at the end of Tener Street. With another question presented regarding ways to obtain a recycling sticker, Mr. Cwalina shared the multiple options available.

-Art Stewart, Owen Street, Fire Police Captain, explained that prior to Chris Concert's departure, the fire police had an agreement regarding their participation in non-emergent events where prior approval was not required with the former mayor being notified of any event they participate in. Mr. Stewart questioned if approval from Council will be required moving forward. Mr. Cwalina shared on behalf of Council that they were not aware of the prior agreement; however, Council will not have an issue with the Fire Police continuing with participation in non-emergent events. Communication regarding events should continue.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

-Mr. Breznay, Borough Manager, shared that there is no Borough Manager's Report for this meeting.

ZONING OFFICER/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

-Mr. Mackiewicz presented the Zoning/Code Enforcement Report for January 2025. There was (1) zoning permit issued, (6) residential rental inspections completed; (1) dumpster permit issued (3) quality of life citation issued, (3) complaints reported and addressed and (2) vehicles removed from Warsaw St. with no citations. Total fees collected were \$675.00. (10) Rental inspections are scheduled for February 2025.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Voitek presented the December 2024 Treasurer's Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$136,226.62; interest & revenues for the month: \$46,660.12; Transfers from PLGIT for the month: \$52,000.00. Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; Expenses for the month: \$137,823.26; ending checkbook balance: \$97,063.51. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$267.45; interest & revenues for month: \$0.26; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$13,300.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$13,079.75; ending checkbook balance: \$487.96. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$8,038.91; interest & revenues for the month: \$7,814.28; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$13,000.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$17,136.04; ending checkbook balance: \$11,717.15. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$22,556.79; interest & revenues for the month: \$32,004.17; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$15,420.04; ending checkbook balance: \$39,140.92.

-Mr. Voitek discussed the need for "Soliciting Permits Required" signs at locations coming into Swoyersville. Mr. Breznay shared that soliciting permit required information can be placed on Swoyersville Borough's Facebook page and also the Borough's website. In addition, signs can be purchased and posted under the Welcome to Swoyersville signs.

Fire Department: Mr. Cwalina presented the Fire Department report. There were 71 ambulance calls, and 22 Malby Fire Department calls reported in January 2025. No report for Station #2. The two Fire Police members' names will be added to the department listings.

--Mr. Cwalina requested a motion to advertise for part time drivers at \$16.50/hour. Mr. Olejnick made a motion to advertise for part-time drivers at \$16.50/hour. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majewski. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Police Department: Mr. Cwalina presented the Police Department report for January 2025 which included a review of Crossing Guard hours. There were 146 calls for service, 6 motor vehicle accidents and 1 school crossing guard duty reports. Fees payable to Municipality totaled \$333.43. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to place monies in the proper funds. Motion was seconded by Mr. Voitek. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

-Mr. Cwalina requested a motion and vote to authorize the Civil Service Commission to start the process for testing to update the Civil Service list. A motion was made by Mr. Majewski and seconded by Mr. Voitek. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

-Mr. Cwalina requested a motion and vote to purchase/install a new sign for the police station from Sign Kings, Forty Fort. Cost is \$1,300.00. Motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Voitek. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Street Department: Mr. Olejnick made a motion to hire Russel Van Ogden as a Street Department worker at \$20.00/hour. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majewski. Vote was 4-0 in favor. Starting date will not be until after passing drug and alcohol testing. Mr. Olejnick thanked former St. Department worker, Mr. Hunsinger for his years of Borough Service

Parks and Recreation: No Park & Recreation report provided at this meeting.

-Mr. Cwalina shared that the Miner Memorial Park Committee continues to meet. The next meeting is scheduled for 2/10/25. Public is welcome to attend.

Liaison: Mr. Majewski shared that cardboard pick for February is scheduled for 02/06/25 and 02/20/25 and again reviewed the recycling sticker purchase options. The Kiwanis Club continues to offer the Honoring Our Hero Banner Program. More information can be -obtained by calling 570-719-0850 or going onto the Kiwanis Club Facebook site. Applications for Scholarship Awards for Highschool seniors from Swoyersville, Forty Fort and Luzerne are available by contacting the Kiwanis Club.

-A motion was made by Mr. Majewski to increase the salary of the Borough Tax Collector by \$1,000 effective January 1, 2026. Motion was seconded by Mr. Voitek, Vote was 4-0 in favor.

-Mr. Majewski will be reaching out to the Northeast PA Land Bank to set up a meeting. The Land Bank is a public agency that finds additional funds beyond monies that the Borough applies for to conduct municipal projects. They work alongside school districts to rehab vacant/abandoned properties through municipalities. Doing this can result in increased tax revenues coming into the Borough. There are currently 9 other local municipalities involved with this organization.

Attorney Yeager: No report provided at this meeting.

Mayor Lewis: Mayor Lewis took an opportunity to introduce himself to the public. He has been a member of the Parks & Recreation Board for the last two years and he has been in public service for 14 years and looks forward to bringing his public service to his hometown of Swoyersville. He is honored to be here and thanked Council for the opportunity.

NO ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

-Kathy Breznay requested approval to hold the Civil Service Testing on February 22, 2024 in the Borough Building. Approval was granted. Ms. Breznay asked when the last time the Tax Collector salary was increased. Mr. Majewski shared that in 2019, an increase was approved for 2020.

With no further issues or comments, Mr. Olejnick requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Brown and was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm. Next meeting will be held on March 3, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

Pete Cwalina, Jr.
Council President