

JULY 7, 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. Christian, Mr. Brown, Mr. Olejnick, Mr. Cwalina, Mr. Voitek and Mr. Majewski. Also noted as present are Gene Breznay, Borough Manager, Elliot Greenleaf, Borough Solicitor, Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Hampton, Street Department and Barb O'Donnell, Borough Secretary. Mayor Lewis was noted as absent.

A motion was requested by Mr. Cwalina to accept the minutes of the June 2, 2025 Regular Council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Voitek. Vote was 4-1 in favor with Mr. Christian abstaining from the vote.

Monthly bills totaling \$28,133.97 were presented by Ms. O'Donnell. A motion was requested by Mr. Cwalina to approve the monthly bills. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Majewski. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

-Paul Holena, Hemlock Street questioned the status of the fence issue at 632 Church Street. Mr. Cwalina shared that the Borough is not entertaining selling the property on which the fence exists. Notification for removal of the fence was sent to the resident.

-Carl Maria, 632 Church Street, questioned the decision not to sell the borough property that he had presented an interest in purchasing. Mr. Cwalina provided input regarding decision.

-Mark Nenichka, 77 Brook Street, presented a concern over the use of electric scooters on the streets within the Borough. Mr. Christian shared that residents should contact 911 if they experience an issue involving electric scooters.

Mr. Nenichka shared information regarding a Go Fund Me account that has been established to assist Swoyersville resident Matt Pacovsky who was seriously injured in an ATV accident. Mr. Pacovsky is also a Swoyersville firefighter.

-Matthew Lamereaux, Birch Street, representing Swoyersville Sailors Youth Football, requested approval to purchase a shed to store equipment. Council approved the request and recommended Mr. Lamereaux check with Zoning Officer to confirm permitted shed size prior to purchase.

-Kathy Breznay, Church Street, representing the Swoyersville Civil Service Commission, presented a letter summarizing the recent National Police Officer Selection Test and Oral Interview results for Police Officer

applicant Emily Orzechowski. On May 21, 2025, Ms. Orzechowski also successfully passed the police academy's Physical Agility Test and has completed reports for Psychological Testing along with a Physical Examination through the Police Officer's Education and Training. The Commission requests that Borough Council accept the successful completion of the academy's agility test in lieu of the Commission's standard test, allowing Ms. Orzechowski to advance in the hiring process. Council accepted the results and Council agreed that Ms. Orzechowski could advance in the hiring process.

-Rob Jenkins, Church Street, 515 Church Street requested a status update regarding a concern involving a large swale located in front of his home. Water accumulates & pools frequently and there is also noted sidewalk sinking. Mr. Breznay, Borough Manager, shared that the Borough Engineer was notified & upon inspection, felt it was not a road issue. Mr. Breznay will follow up with Mr. Amato again. Dave Hampton, Street Department, shared that the DPW can address the issue and perform repairs.

-Bill Hooper presented the second quarter 2025 Spay/Neuter Program report. There were 10 cats processed through the program during 2nd Quarter 2025. Year To Date 2025, a total of 14 cats were processed. Mr. Hooper extended a thank you to the Ciprich family for their cat food and donations to the committee/program. Council thanked Mr. Hooper and all members of the committee for all that they are doing.

-Mr. Christian welcomed the Andrew Jones family who presented a \$2,000.00 donation to the Swoyersville Police Department Equipment Fund in memory of Swoyersville Police Officer Andrew Jones, who passed away in 2019. The donation was made through the "Andrew "AJ" Jones Memorial Fund of the Luzerne Foundation." Swoyersville Borough, Council, and the Police Department are very thankful and grateful for the donation.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

-Mr. Breznay reported that the survey required for a police department consolidation study has been completed and submitted to the State for review.

ZONING OFFICER/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

-Mr. Mackiewicz presented the Zoning/Code Enforcement Report for June 2025. There were (7) dumpster & (7) zoning permits issued; (4) Quality of Life fines processed & (5) residential inspections performed. Total funds collected were \$1,510.00. (5) rental inspections scheduled to date for July 2025. (10) complaints were received and addressed. (1) vehicle was removed from Main Street and (1) from Owen Street without incident. (4) properties with abandoned vehicles were posted. Total funds collected year to date are \$14,615.00 with 181 Rental Unit Inspections completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Voitek presented the May 2025 Treasurer's Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$33,253.04; interest & revenues for the month: \$534,808.43; Transfers from PLGIT for the month: \$66,000.00. Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$340,000.00; Expenses for the month: \$180,932.80; ending checkbook balance: \$113,128.67. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$495.14; interest & revenues for month: \$0.14; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$4,500.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month:

\$0.00; expenses for the month: \$4,788.13; ending checkbook balance: \$207.15. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$13,981.85; interest & revenues for the month: \$34,768.79; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$10,000.00; expenses for the month: \$11,668.84; ending checkbook balance: \$27,081.80. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$6,415.00; interest & revenues for the month: \$1,320.19; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$12,000.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$18,995.31; ending checkbook balance: \$739.88.

Fire Department: Mr. Christian presented the Fire Department report. There were 17 EMS calls reported by Kingston Ambulance for June 2025. Maltby reported 13 calls for June 2025. No report for Broderick available to present.

Police Department: Mr. Brown presented the Police Department report for June 2025 which included a review of Crossing Guard hours. There were 240 calls for service, 6 motor vehicle accidents and no school crossing guard duty. Fees payable to Municipality totaled \$226.34. 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: Syrena May, Parks & Recreation Board member presented a report on the 3rd Annual Car Show held on 06/29/25. Over 120 cars participated in the event. Registration for the cars was donation based. The amount raised was \$1,334.00. A concern was presented regarding the concession stand not having a handicap accessible bathroom. Ms. May requested if Council could provide a handicap port-a-potty at each of the future events held at Roosevelt Field. Council agreed to provide a handicap accessible port-a-potty. The Wing Fling event will be held July 26-27, 2025, 11:00 am to 07:00 pm each day. There are 45 vendors that include 25 food vendors of which 12 are chicken wing vendors. There will be band entertainment each day. Volunteers are still needed. The online merchandise store will close this coming Sunday. T-Shirts will be available to also purchase at the festival. A full financial report for the Wing Fling event will be available at the next Council Meeting.

Ms. May shared that Girl Scout Troop 30820 reached out the Recreation Board with a request to place a "Little Library" at the Church Street Park as one of their projects sometime in September. The troop will manage the library once it is established. The Recreation is in favor of the request and asks Council to grant permission. Council is in favor of project and granted permission for the Little Library.

Ms. May reported that the concession stand is currently under repair. Painting and wood replacement are taking place along with a new freezer and new counter tops purchase.

-Mr. Christian shared a resident request for adult swings to be purchased for the parks throughout the borough. The Parks and Recreation Committee will look at adding adult swings and consider the cost for next year.

Liaison: Mr. Majewski submitted a check for \$35.00 received from Chris Concert as reimbursement for missing donation funds noted in a past bench purchase for the Borough. Council accepted the check.

Mr. Majewski thanked all involved for the placement of slow signs and speed limit signs on Birch Drive. He has received a lot of positive feedback from residents.

Mr. Majewski thanked all those who offered sympathy wishes and support to both himself and his family with the recent passing of his wife.

Borough Solicitor: Attorney Greenleaf shared that he and his firm are thankful for the appointment to serve as Solicitor for Swoyersville Borough. The firm has done other legal work for the Borough in the past and looks forward to the continuing relationship. The balance of additional comments will be reserved for the upcoming Executive Session.

Mayor Lewis: No report provided at this time.

NO ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

-Dave Lamereaux, 137 Jackson Street, requested an update on the lack of an accessible entry to a home located at 91 Chestnut Street. Council requested Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning Officer, evaluate the issue and address as appropriate with residents residing at the property.

-Mark Nenichka, Brook Street, shared a concern about a section of Boback Street settling. Dave Hampton, Street Department shared that UGI has been contacted with a request to repair the section.

-Kathy Breznay, Church Street, requested if additional parking control could be considered during the upcoming church festival. Ms. Breznay suggested that temporary no parking signs be placed on Warsaw Street. Council approved. The Police Department will assist with the request.

Mr. Cwalina called an Executive Session at 7:14 pm. Executive Session ended at 7:32 pm.

-Mr. Christian shared his abstaining from voting to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2025 meeting was due to returning home from a trip just prior to the meeting which did not allow him enough time to carefully review the minutes.

With no further issues or comments, Mr. Cwalina requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Brown and was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm. Next meeting will be held on August 4, 2025 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

Pete Cwalina, Jr.
Council President