

AUGUST 4, 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. Brown, Mr. Olejnick, Mr. Cwalina, Mr. Voitek and Mr. Majewski. Also noted as present are Gene Breznay, Borough Manager, Drew McLaughlin, Borough Solicitor, Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Hampton, Street Department and Mayor Lewis. Council member Christian was noted as absent.

A motion was requested by Mr. Cwalina to accept the minutes of the July 7, 2025 Regular Council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Majewski to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$21,935.41 were presented by Mr. Voitek. A motion was requested by Mr. Cwalina to approve the monthly bills. A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Council President Cwalina addressed the recent criminal allegations made against a Swoyersville Council member. Swoyersville Council members are concerned with the allegations made but are reminded that everyone is considered innocent until proven guilty. As of this time, based on Borough Code and PA Constitution, Council cannot discipline, suspend, or remove a council member. It is the responsibility of the individual to decide to resign.

Swoyersville Borough Solicitor, Drew McLaughlin shared the issue has been researched and the situation will continue to be monitored. As facts change, a different response from the Borough or a different legal option may be presented; however, for now despite what has been commented on by the public any lack of action by the Borough is not a sign that the allegations are not considered serious nor that Council is condoning the activity. It reflects that this is the current state of the law.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

-Dave Lamereaux, Jackson Street, thanked Ken Shefler, Code Enforcement Officer, for his promptly addressing his concern regarding a trailer not having entry access. Mr. Lamereaux also thanked all those who participated in the Wing Fling while sharing that it was a great event.

-Kathy Breznay, Church Street, requested permission to place information on the Borough Website and Facebook site sharing information about a display case project that she is working on for the Borough. Information will be posted sharing that memorabilia such as pictures, newspapers, trophies will be collected and placed on display. Items can be donated or can be shared on a lend basis. Information regarding a drop-off location & time will be shared. The project's goal is to enhance the history of Swoyersville. Permission was granted by Council.

Ms. Breznay, on behalf of the Kiwanis Club and Mayor Lewis, also shared information regarding a "Welcome to Swoyersville" sign project. Details regarding replacement costs involved and the opportunity for businesses to have their logo added to signs were presented. All funds collected will go through the Borough. Ms. Breznay

requested Council consideration for \$150.00 payment for inclusion of the Borough logo on the signs. Mr. Majewski will add the request to next month's agenda for council to consider & vote.

-Several residents of Jay Street presented concerns to council regarding a home at 1 Frederick Street. Concerns exist surrounding an individual/patient residing at the home with round-the-clock caretakers. There concerns involve his behavior which surrounding residents find alarming and unsafe. Multiple complaints have been filed with the Zoning Officer. Police Chief Wolinsky will meet with Ray Mackiewicz to review and address complaints. Mr. Brown encouraged residents to call 911 as concerns arise so that the police department can address the issue as it is occurring.

Mr. Cwalina called an Executive Session at 06:51 pm. Executive Session ended at 07:07 pm.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

-Mr. Breznay reported that Borough was awarded a grant totaling \$325,000 for paving Hemlock Street (Shoemaker to Dana) and Dana Street (Church to Perrin). The award was based on HUD standards to benefit low-moderate income areas. Eight streets had been submitted in the original application.

ZONING OFFICER/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

-Mr. Mackiewicz presented the Zoning/Code Enforcement Report for July 2025. There were (4) dumpster & (3) zoning permits issued; (1) Quality of Life fines processed & (9) residential inspections performed. There was one minor subdivision (Madar) addressed. Total funds collected were \$1,425.00. (6) rental inspections scheduled to date for August 2025. (11) complaints were received and addressed. (1) vehicle was removed from Wesley Street without incident. Total funds collected year to date are \$16,035.00 with 190 Rental Unit Inspections completed.

Mr. Mackiewicz requested a motion and vote on the Ordinance 6-2025 - Amendment to Chapter 93, Swoyersville Borough Zoning Ordinance 93-65 B. Schedule of Fees - B. Certificates of occupancy shall be increased to \$50.00. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to approve the amended ordinance increasing the certificates of occupancy to \$50.00. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Voitek presented the June 2025 Treasurer's Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$113,128.67; interest & revenues for the month: \$54,066.76; Transfers from PLGIT for the month: \$110,000.00. Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$70,000.00; Expenses for the month: \$171,056.85; ending checkbook balance: \$36,138.58. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$207.15; interest & revenues for month: \$0.26; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$7,000.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$6,281.29; ending checkbook balance: \$926.12. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$739.88; interest & revenues for the month: \$21,319.77; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$18,500.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$18,663.72; ending checkbook balance: \$21,895.93. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$27,081.80; interest & revenues for the month: \$19,117.37; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$20,000.00; expenses for the month: \$14,989.49; ending checkbook balance: \$11,209.68.

Fire Department: Mr. Brown presented the Fire Department report. There were 63 EMS calls reported by Kingston Ambulance for July 2025. Broderick reported 15 calls for July 2025.

Police Department: Mr. Brown presented the Police Department report for July 2025 which included a review of Crossing Guard hours. There were 185 calls for service, 4 motor vehicle accidents and no school crossing guard duty. Fees payable to Municipality totaled \$300.06. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to place monies in the proper funds. Motion was seconded by Mr. Voitek. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Brown made a motion to hire Emilly Orzechowski as a full-time police officer with an annual base salary of \$64,132.85. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Street Department: Mr. Olejnick thanked Oley Industries for donating the concrete used for the new memorial monuments foundation.

Parks and Recreation: Mr. Cwalina shared that he will be posting information on the borough bulletin board about a golf tournament being held to raise funds that will benefit Matt Pacovsky, a volunteer firefighter for Swoyersville Broderick # 2 and Edwardsville fire department who was severely injured in an ATV accident.

Mr. Cwalina congratulated Councilman Olejnick for winning the gold medal in doubles and a silver medal in singles at the Keystone State Games, senior division.

Mr. Cwalina congratulated all those involved with the 3rd Annual Wing Fling event. It was a tremendous event. Angeli Mahovich, Swoyersville Parks and Recreation Board thanked all who helped support the Wing Fling event and requested permission to hold the event again in 2026. Council granted permission for the Wing Fling to be held July 25th & 26th, 2026. Ms. Mahovich shared that the Parks and Recreation Committee raised \$6546.73 at the 2025 event with 50,000 wings sold. A full financial report will be completed and provided to the borough.

Liaison: Mr. Majewski made a motion to donate \$200.00 to the annual Corn Hole Tournament held in memory of A.J. Jones, a former full-time member of the Swoyersville Police Force. Funds raised will benefit the Swoyersville Police Department and the Wyoming Hose Company #1. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0 in favor. Information regarding the tournament will be posted on the Borough bulletin board.

. Mr. Majewski made a motion to donate \$175.00 as a gold sponsor to the upcoming Kiwanis club Annual Golf Tournament. Motion was seconded by Mr. Voitek. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Majewski thanked Councilman Olejnick for the concrete work in coordination with Oley Enterprises performed on Veterans and Coalminers monuments in front of Borough. Mr. Majewski also thanked Swoyersville DPW for enhancing the landscaping in front of Borough Building. They will also be resurfacing the flagpole after which time a small dedication ceremony for the monuments will be held. A new flag has also been received from State Representative Brenda Pugh who will be joining Council at the ceremony.

Mr. Majewski reported that the two outdoor benches ordered have been delivered. Council will determine at a later time when the benches will be placed.

Mr. Majewski shared that Council will not be moving forward on an ordinance addressing use of electric scooters and bikes on the streets within the borough as the State of PA is currently in the process of updating the laws surrounding electric bikes and scooters along with many other classifications. Council will give the issue some time and anticipates being able to move forward with something addressing the issue in 2026. Parents & residents are encouraged to use caution and obey the traffic regulations that the borough has. Provide education to children on how to safely operate electric modes of transportation.

Borough Solicitor: No report provided.

Mayor Lewis: Mayor Lewis extended a thank you to the Parks & Recreation Board, Wing Fling Committee, Police Department and Street Department for an outstanding job done at the 3rd Annual Swoyersville Wing Event.

NO ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

-A request was made for Council to consider sponsoring a hole at the upcoming golf event being held for Matt Pacovsky on 9/28/25. Mr. Majewski will place the request on the September meeting agenda for motion and vote.

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 7:26 pm. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday September 2, 2025 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

Pete Cwalina, Jr.
Council President