

SEPTEMBER 2, 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 (via telephone) 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.

A motion was requested by Mr. Cwalina to accept the minutes of the August 4, 2025 Regular Council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 5-0 in favor with Mr. Christian abstaining from the vote.

Monthly bills totaling \$37,866.54 were presented by Ms. O'Donnell, Borough Secretary. A motion was requested by Mr. Brown to approve the monthly bills and seconded by Mr. Voitek. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

-Mark Nenichka, 77 Brook Street, Has the annual inspection of the Abraham and Wade Creek Project taken place this year? Mr. Hampton, Street Commissioner, shared that the inspection is scheduled to occur this week.

~~Mr. Nenichka shared that as of 09/01/25, he has opened a write in campaign for Councilman - Ward 1. A letter of intent to fill Adam Christian's council seat if it should become vacant was provided to and acknowledged by Council.~~

10/06/25
A motion to
Strike
Vote 6-0
in Favor
BS

-Kathy Breznay, Church Street, shared that information was forwarded to 8 organizations to donate toward welcome signs and have their logo placed on the bottom of the sign. Those 8 organizations do not include the Borough.

Ms. Breznay reported that items are still being collected for the memorabilia display case project that she is working on for the Borough. Someone will be available on 9/4/25 and 9/25/25 at the Borough Building to collect items. Ms. Breznay reported that there was a balance left over from the shirts sold for the 125th Anniversary. That amount will be used to purchase supplies that may be needed for the display.

-Rob Jenkins and Lois Carver, 515 Church Street presented a concern regarding the number of dogs that reside at 519 Church Street. Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer is aware of the complaint and reported that a cease & desist order had been issued to the resident. As of last Wednesday, the resident was compliant with 4 dogs residing in home. Currently, 6 dogs have been observed at the property. The State Dog Warden has been contacted and will be meeting with Mr. Mackiewicz on 9/3/25. After meeting with the State Dog Warden, if necessary, an order can be obtained from the Magistrate allowing entry into the home and verify exactly what the situation is. Ms. Carver is concerned with the safety of her grandchildren and other children who reside nearby as the dogs are large and often get out of the house. Council member

Majewski shared that he will also attend the meeting with the State Dog Warden.

Mr. Jenkins suggested that Council consider providing a follow up/update session at the beginning of each month's Council meeting to provide information as to what steps have been taken to address any issue/concern brought forth by a resident at the prior month's meeting.

*Chip Fuqua, 165 Shoemaker St., requested an update on the status of 166 Shoemaker Street. Drew McLaughlin, Borough Solicitor shared that paperwork has been filed, and it is currently in active litigation.

*Dave Lamereaux, Jackson St. Why do we have to wait for Dog Warden to take care of the dog issue on Church Street when Swoyersville has an ordinance that allows "4" dogs only? Drew McLaughlin, Borough Solicitor explained why you cannot just enter into a private residence to enforce an ordinance. An order from a Magistrate is required to provide legal authority to enter a residence. If there is evidence of an ordinance violation, an application for a court order is required to enter the residence to look for evidence of the violation in order to take appropriate action.

*Matthew Lamereaux, 64 Barber St. shared that the Swoyersville Sailors are in full season. A request is made for Council's permission to hold a bon fire during the second or third week of October. Council granted permission for the bon fire to take place.

*Carol Castellino, 456 Slocum Street, reapproached an issue that she shared with Council in June 2024. Ms. Castellino's concern is that her home is land locked due to right of ways. Residents are parking on the right-of-way which prevents Ms. Castellino from accessing her back property. There is also overgrowth. Dave Hampton & Mr. Cwalina will visit the area & determine a resolution that will support access.

*Steve Wenselars, Simpson Street reinforced the concerns involving the dogs located at 519 Church Street and also shared a concern regarding commercial vehicles & trailers being parked on Simpson Street. When the resident moves the vehicles, he places cinder blocks in the parking spot to prevent others from parking in the spot. Mr. Olejnick shared that both the police and zoning have been notified of the issue.

*John Baker, 713 Main Street shared that the residence at 717 Main Street has issues with high grass & overgrown weeds. There is also garbage alongside the house that has been there for three weeks. A concern also exists with several houses on Owens Street that also all have weed overgrowth. Mr. Mackiewicz, Zoning Officer, has been informed of both concerns and is addressing the issues. A citation has been issued to 717 Main Street.

Mr. Baker asked what is going on with the 122 acres on the mountain that the Borough owns. Council shared that the issue involving the property is currently in litigation.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

-Mr. Breznay, Borough Manager, requested a motion and vote to pass the resolution for the LSA (Casino) grant application for a new garbage truck. The cost is \$287,168.02. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick to pass the resolution, and motion was seconded by Mr. Majewski. Vote was 5-0 with no vote from Mr. Chrisitan.

-Mr. Breznay shared that the second paper shredding event will be held on 09/20/25 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the rear parking lot of the Swoyersville Borough Building. The event is available to Swoyersville residents only.

-Mr. Breznay reported that the Borough received a 2023 Performance Grant from DEP for recycling efforts in the amount of \$979.52

-Mr. Breznay read the 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO) for pensions plans: Police Pension - \$95,579.00 & Non-Uniform Pension - \$28,332.00

ZONING OFFICER/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

-Mr. Mackiewicz presented the Zoning/Code Enforcement Report for August 2025. There were (2) dumpster & (3) zoning permits issued; (1) Quality of Life citation processed & (2) residential inspections performed. Total funds collected were \$485.00. There were 10 Rental Inspection Letters mailed. (9) complaints were received and addressed. (2) vehicles were removed from upper Bohac & Main Street. Total funds collected year to date are \$16,520.00 with 193 Rental Unit Inspections completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Voitek presented the July 2025 Treasurer's Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$36,138.58; interest & revenues for the month: \$76,208.10; Transfers from PLGIT for the month: \$110,000.00. Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; Expenses for the month: \$149,648.41; ending checkbook balance: \$72,698.27. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$926.12; interest & revenues for month: \$0.03; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$7,500.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$7,684.97; ending checkbook balance: \$741.18. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$21,895.93; interest & revenues for the month: \$32,627.48; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$25,000.00; expenses for the month: \$6,486.13; ending checkbook balance: \$23,037.28. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$11,209.68; interest & revenues for the month: \$25,617.06; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$20,000.00; expenses for the month: \$8,260.01; ending checkbook balance: \$8,566.73.

-Mr. Voitek made a motion to advertise for a School Crossing Guard at a rate of \$12.00/hour. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote is 5-0 with no vote from Mr. Christian.

Fire Department: Mr. Christian presented the Fire Department report. There were 54 EMS calls reported by Kingston Ambulance in August 2025. Broderick reported 17 calls for August 2025. Maltby reported 25 calls (Volunteers -7, Drivers-18).

Police Department: Mr. Brown presented the Police Department report for August 2025 which included a review of Crossing Guard hours. There were 165 calls for service, 4 motor vehicle accidents and no school crossing guard duty. Fees payable to Municipality totaled \$460.96. 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.

Mr. Brown made a motion to purchase ten (10) new department weapons for \$4,973.80 (\$8,873.80 for 10 weapons less a buy back amount for old weapons = \$3,900.00). Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Street Department: Mr. Olejnick made a motion to approve the PennDOT winter maintenance agreement for back road plowing. PennDOT will pay the Borough \$10,000.00 to plow and salt a section of the back road. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Parks and Recreation: No Report provided at this meeting.

Liaison: Mr. Majewski made a motion to approve a \$100.00 donation to Hose Co. #2 as a sponsor for the Golf Tournament being held to benefit Matt Pacovsky who is a dedicated fire fighter who was seriously injured in an ATV accident. The motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Mr. Majewski made a motion to donate \$150.00 to the Swoyersville Kiwanis Club for help with replacing the Welcome to Swoyersville signs. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Mr. Majewski shared that the State of PA is still working on updating the laws surrounding electric bikes and scooters along with many other classifications. Parents & residents are encouraged to understand the capabilities of these types of electric vehicles and to provide education to children on how to safely operate electric modes of transportation while following Borough traffic laws. There is information posted on Swoyersville Borough Town Hall page.

Mr. Majewski noted that cardboard pick up for this week will be held on Friday due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Mayor Lewis: Mayor Lewis shared that someone will be at the Borough Building on Thursday if anyone would like to drop off Swoyersville memorabilia.

Borough Solicitor: No report provided.

NO ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

-Mayor Lewis shared that the Rec Board is looking for assistance to replace the concession stand roof. The board is asking if Council would consider contributing money toward the cost of replacement. Council shared that an actual estimate will be required before a motion and vote can be considered. Mayor Lewis shared the upcoming Fall Community Yard Sale that will take place on Saturday. If residents want their address to appear on the list, they should reach out to the Recreation Board.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

*Steve Wenselars, Simpson St. commented that he recently switched to Astound and is happy with the service.

*Ms. Breznay, Church St. shared she received a question about there being no older children's swings located in Loveland Park. Mr. Cwalina shared that the Rec Board is working on the issue. Ms. Breznay shared that a Kid Foam Party is being held on 09/13/25. Age requirements are 5 to 10 years old.

*Dave Lamereaux, Jackson Street, asked how many rental inspections still need to be done. Mr. Mackiewicz, Zoning Officer, shared that there are 200-225 inspections remaining to be completed.

Mr. Cwalina called an Executive Session at 7:39 pm. Executive Session ended at 8:06 pm.

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 8:08 pm. Next meeting will be held on Monday, October 6, 2025 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

Pete Cwalina, Jr.
Council President