

October 6, 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 Mayor Lewis, Gene Breznay, Borough Manager, Drew McLaughlin, Borough Solicitor, Ken Shefler, Code Enforcement Officer, Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Hampton, Street Department and Barb ODonnell, Borough Secretary.

Mr. Christian read a statement regarding his current legal issue.

Mayor Lewis administered the Oath of Office to the newly hired member of the Police Force, Emily Orzechowski.

Council President, Mr. Cwalina, requested a motion and vote to approve the minutes of the 09/02/25 with a correction striking a public comment made by Mr. Mark Nenichka, 77 Brook Street. Mr. Olejnick made the motion to approve the minutes with the correction made. Motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$40,107.94 were presented by Ms. ODonnell, Borough Secretary. A motion was requested by Mr. Brown to approve the monthly bills and seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

-Mark Nenichka, 77 Brook Street, made a public comment about lack of catch basins located on Lionel Drive which has resulted in flooding and also standing water concerns with Abrahams Creek. Borough Manager will refer issues to Borough Engineer.

-Jody Shultz, 413 Washington Ave, West Wyoming, made a public comment about Dennison Cemetery not maintaining the grounds that borders her property. Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement Officer will address the issue with the Cemetery staff.

-Kathy Breznay, Church Street commented on the following activities: Christmas light purchase for the Borough Christmas tree; Toys for Tots box placement in Borough building; Welcome to Swoyersville signs; Swoyersville memorabilia final collection date is 10/09/25; Basket placement in Borough building with blank Veteran's card for children to color and return; New business banners thanking Veterans past & present will be hung; Veteran raffle tickets for a diving watch available for sale.

-Matthew Weldon, 105 Hughes Street, made a public comment about cars parking and blocking his driveway. The Police Department will evaluate area & appropriateness of no parking signs.

-Dave Lamereaux, 137 Jackson Street, made a public comment about open burning near his home. Council will address issue with Police Chief.

-Rob Jenkins, 515 Church Street, made a public comment about an ongoing dog issue that exists at 519 Church Street. Issue has been submitted to Magistrate and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer is awaiting a hearing date.

-Chip Fuqna, 165 Shoemaker Street, made a public comment about the status of 166 Shoemaker Street. Borough Solicitor shared where the case is in the legal process.

-Paula Matthews, 22 Grandville Drive, made a public comment about colored lines painted on her street and questioned truck traffic up onto the mountain. Borough Manager reported Astound was working in area (colored lines) & Council shared utility work being done on Mountain.

-Thomas Yankay, Kossack Street, requested a copy of the 2024 Audit & Financial Report. In addition, Mr. Yankay made a public comment about a request to place his email message on the Swoyersville Town Hall Facebook page being denied. Borough Solicitor addressed the issue.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

-Mr. Breznay, Borough Manager, requested a motion and vote on Resolution to approve the PennDOT Winter Maintenance Agreement with Swoyersville. Mr. Olejnick made a motion to approve the Resolution. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Mr. Breznay reported that the 2025 Budget was 95% complete.

Mr. Breznay requested a motion and vote to award the Luzerne County funded pave project for Hemlock and Dana Streets to Pennsy Supply, Pittston, PA for \$289,965.00. Bids were received & opened on October 3, 2025, as advertised in a legal notice. Bids were tabulated by Penn Eastern Engineering, and they have recommended Council award the bid to Pennsy Supply. Mr. Brown made the motion to award the Luzerne County funded project to Pennsy Supply for \$289,965.00. Mr. Christian seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

A recommendation was made by Borough Solicitor to hold on a motion & vote to use any remaining grant money from Hemlock & Dana St. project to pave Avenue C until more input is received from the Borough Engineer. Council agreed.

ZONING OFFICER/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

-Mr. Mackiewicz presented the Zoning/Code Enforcement Report for September 2025. There was (1) dumpster permit issued; (2) Quality of Life citations processed & (10) residential

inspections performed. Total funds collected were \$1,400.00. There are 7 Rental Inspections scheduled for October 2025. (10) complaints were received and addressed. (2) vehicles were removed from upper Brook St. & Hughes Street. Total funds collected year to date are \$17,920.00 with 200 Rental Unit Inspections completed.

Mr. Mackiewicz requested a motion and vote to amend Zoning Ordinance -Chapter 93,- 93-51: Accessory Structures, Section B, by adding Subsection (7): Maximum size for an attached or unattached accessory structure in a Residential District shall be 24 feet by 24 feet with a maximum height of 15 feet. Council noted that the current maximum size is 40% of a lot. Council tabled the request for now.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Voitek presented the September 2025 Treasurer's Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$72,698.27; interest & revenues for the month: \$172,040.83; Transfers from PLGIT for the month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; Expenses for the month: \$120,416.82; ending checkbook balance: \$124,322.28. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$741.18; interest & revenues for month: \$0.08; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$6,600.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$6,617.18; ending checkbook balance: \$724.08. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$23,037.28; interest & revenues for the month: \$30,718.76; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$15,000.00; expenses for the month: \$3,708.42; ending checkbook balance: \$35,047.62. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$8,566.73; interest & revenues for the month: \$40,274.37; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$19,758.55; ending checkbook balance: \$29,082.55.

Mr. Voitek made a motion to hire Brian Harshinski, Wilkes-Barre, to replace the roof on the mini football concession stand. Cost of new roof is \$3,200.00. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote is 6-0 in favor.

Fire Department: Mr. Christian presented the Fire Department report for September 2025. Broderick reported 20 calls; Maltby reported 18 calls (Volunteers 5; Drivers 13).

Mr. Christian shared he has received input from residents that they are happy with Astound Wireless.

Police Department: Mr. Brown presented the Police Department report for September 2025 which included a review of Crossing Guard hours. There were 149 calls for service, 1 motor vehicle accident and no school crossing guard duty reported. Fees payable to Municipality totaled \$1,013.85. 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 hire Donna Perhach, as a School Crossing Guard at a rate of \$12.00/hr. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote is 6-0 in favor.

Mr. Christian made a motion to reimburse School Crossing Guards for background check expenses. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 4-2 in favor.

Street Department: No report provided at this meeting.

Parks and Recreation: No Report provided at this meeting.

Liaison: Mr. Majewski motioned to allow a Police Cruiser to participate in the Veteran's Day parade that is scheduled for 11/9/25. Parade will be held on Market Street, Kingston and will be approximately 3 hours long. Council noted that a motion is not needed with this request. Major Lewis will check with Police Department to see if a Police Officer is available to participate.

Mayor Lewis: Mayor Lewis shared that on Tuesday, 10/21/25, a pumpkin painting event will be held at the Borough building from 5:00 PM to 07:00 PM.

Borough Solicitor: No report provided.

NO ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

-Mr. Olejnick presented & read a Written Notice of Retirement, submitted by Gene Breznay, Borough Manager. The letter serves as written notice of Mr. Breznay's retirement date of January 5, 2026 after 38 years of service as Swoyersville Borough Manager.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

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, November 3, 2025 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

Pete Cwalina, Jr.
Council President