

**JANUARY 5, 2026 –
REORGANIZATION MEETING – 6:45 PM
REGULAR MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Mayor Lewis 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. Voitek, Mr. Menta and Mr. Majewski. Also noted as present are Mayor Lewis, Paula Schnelly, Borough Manager, Keighlyn Oliver, Elliott, Greenleaf & Dean; Ken Shefler, Code Enforcement Officer, Ray Mackiewicz, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Hampton, Street Department and Barb ODonnell, Borough Secretary.

The Honorable David Barilla swore in Councilman Ted Voitek, Adam Christian, John Menta, John Majewski, Mayor Jeff Lewis and Borough Tax Collector, Nancy Keating.

Mayor Lewis requested a motion for nomination and vote for Council President. Mr. Olejnick made a motion to nominate Ted Voitek as Council President. Motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Mayor Lewis requested a motion for nomination and vote for Council Vice President. Mr. Majewski made a motion to nominate Mr. Olejnik as Council Vice President. Motion was seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 3 yes/3 no. Mayoral vote resulted in final vote 4/3 Not in Favor.

Mr. Brown made a motion to nominate Adam Christian as Council Vice President. Motion was seconded by Adam Christian. Vote was 3 yes/3 no. Mayoral vote resulted in a final vote of 4/3 In Favor.

Mr. Voitek, Council President, now chairs the meeting and transitioned the Reorganization Meeting to the Regular Borough Council meeting.

Mayor Lewis presented Proclamations to Shirley Gavlick, Swoyersville Borough Administrative Secretary and Gene Breznay, Swoyersville Borough Manager & Treasurer, honoring and thanking them for their decades of dedicated services to the Borough & community of Swoyersville. On behalf of Mayor Lewis and Swoyersville Borough Council, this day, 1/5/26 is recognized as a day of gratitude and honor for both. Congratulations were extended to each on their retirement.

On behalf of the men & women of the Senate of Pennsylvania, State Senator Baker presented to Shirley Gavlick and Gene Breznay, certificates recognizing and honoring their dedicated services

and commitment to good government for Swoyersville Borough. Congratulations were extended to both.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Representative Brenda Pugh acknowledged Shirley Gavlick and Gene Breznay in their retirement. Citations were presented thanking them for their years of dedicated service to the Borough of Swoyersville. Congratulations were extended to both.

Council President Voitek requested a motion and vote to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2025 Regular Council meeting and the December 17, 2025 Special Council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to accept the minutes from both meetings. Motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Vote was 5-0 with Mr. Menta abstaining from the vote.

Monthly bills totaling \$62,689.03 were presented by Ms. ODonnell, Borough Secretary. A motion was made 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 regarding the 2026 Borough Budget & questioned the 40% increased police pension expense. Council noted that a right to know request was made by Mr. Nenichka and all required documents will be provided to him through the right to know avenue. Mr. Nenichka proposed that an Old Business category be added to the Council Meeting Agenda with unresolved business carried until permanent resolution is achieved. Mr. Nenichka proposed creating a listing of all projects/grants within the Borough referencing a grant received in 2024 for a generator at the Borough Building. Mr. Majewski provided an update on the grant & generator project.

Resident made a public comment inquiring about status of 166 Shoemaker Street. Mr. Christian & Attorney Oliver provided an update regarding the property.

Charlie Jones, Watkins St., shared that with the resignation of Mr. Cwalina, members of Recreation Board request that Mr. Voitek be assigned by Council as the new Liaison to Swoyersville Parks & Recreation.

Public comments were made by Charlie Jones, Kathryn Leonard-Nixon and Ryan Binkley (all Recreation Board members) regarding the Council meeting agenda item referencing a motion & vote to appoint Councilman Majewski to serve as a Project Lead for the committee involved with development of the seven-acre parcel located off of Tripp and Church Streets, the status of grant searching steps taken by the Project Committee, proposed plans developed so far, and the status of ongoing meetings held by the Project Committee.

Mr. Binkley made a public comment regarding the police regionalization study done back in June and asked Council for their thoughts and update on the data released. Mr. Brown provided input regarding the study, resulting data and potential budgetary implications. Mr. Binkley

thanked Gene Breznay & Shirley Gavlick for all their support provided to the Recreation Board and also to him during the time he served as Councilman.

Ms. O'Donnell, Borough Secretary, inquired where Recreation Board Committee minutes can be located for review as there were none posted on the Swoyersville Borough Website for 2025. Mr. Jones will look into the posting of minutes and will get back to Ms. O'Donnell before the next Borough meeting.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

-Ms. Schnelly, Borough Manager, requested a motion and vote to pass Ordinance 1 of 2026, fixing the date, hour, and place of regular meetings of the Swoyersville Borough Council for 2026. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Voitek. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Ms. Schnelly requested a motion and vote to pass Ordinance 2 of 2026, fixing the compensation of certain employees and elected officials and repealing other Ordinances and parts thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance. A motion was made by Mr. Majewski and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Ms. Schnelly requested a motion and vote to pass Resolution 1 of 2026, that for calendar year 2026 member contributions to the Swoyersville Borough Police Pension fund are three percent (3%) of the members compensation. A motion was made by Mr. Voitek and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Ms. Schnelly requested a motion and vote to pass Resolution 2 of 2026, appointing a Chief Administrator for the Borough of Swoyersville Nonuniformed Employees' Pension Plan and Police Pension Plan. A motion was made by Mr. Voitek and seconded by Mr. Majewski. Vote was 5-0 in favor with Mr. Christian abstaining from the vote.

Ms. Schnelly requested a motion and vote to pass Resolution 3 of 2026, adopting a minimum employment period and reimbursement policy for background checks and clearances for School Crossing Guards. A motion was made by Mr. Christian and seconded by Mr. Voitek. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Ms. Schnelly requested a motion and vote to request payment from Luzerne County Community Development for work performed by Pennsy Supply, in the amount of \$62,190.00 for the 2025 CDBG project. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Menta. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

ZONING OFFICER/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

-Mr. Mackiewicz presented the Zoning/Code Enforcement Report for December 2025. There were (1) dumpster permit issued; (3) zoning permits issued & (8) residential inspections performed. Total funds collected were \$1650.00. There were (2) Magistrate hearings and meetings; (13) Rental Inspections are scheduled for January 2026, and (8) complaints were received and addressed. Total funds collected year to date are \$21,315.00 with 219 Rental Unit Inspections completed.

Mr. Mackiewicz presented and read a letter dated 12/05/26 from Joseph D. Lipinski, Chairman Swoyersville Borough Planning Commission. The Planning Commission have reviewed the Fire Sky, LLC and Venus Venture LLC proposed subdivision and voted by all members present to recommend that Council approve the subdivision. Mr. Mackiewicz requested a motion & vote to approve the subdivision. A motion was made by Mr. Christian to approve the subdivision. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council President Voitek assigned committee positions as follows: Mr. Majewski, Liaison; Mr. Brown, Police Department; Mr. Christian, Street Department; Mr. Menta, Finance, Mr. Olejnick, Fire Department, Mr. Voitek, Parks & Recreation. New assignments will be effective with next month's Council meeting.

Finance: Mr. Voitek presented the December 2025 Treasurer's Report. **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$49,051.30; interest & revenues for the month: \$172,898.11; Transfers from PLGIT for the month: \$55,000.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; Expenses for the month: \$120,162.80; ending checkbook balance: \$156,786.61. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$519.35; interest & revenues for month: \$0.16; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$6,600.00; Transfers to PLGIT for Month: \$0.00; expenses for the month: \$6,567.60; ending checkbook balance: \$551.91. **Sanitary/Storm Water Assessment:** beginning checkbook balance: \$13,569.17; interest & revenues for the month: \$1,510.53; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$5,000.00; expenses for the month: \$3,052.81; ending checkbook balance: \$7,026.89. **Solid Waste Collection:** beginning checkbook balance: \$22,170.81; interest & revenues for the month: \$18,925.88; Transfers from PLGIT for month: \$0.00; Transfers to PLGIT for month: \$10,000.00; expenses for the month: \$8,426.53; ending checkbook balance: \$22,670.16.

Fire Department: Mr. Christian presented the Fire Department report for December 2025. Broderick reported 30 calls; Kingston EMS reported 65 calls & Maltby reported 27 calls.

Ted Sherill, Fire Chief, requested that Council consider an ordinance requiring all commercial buildings have a Knox Box by year 2027. Rob Koval, Deputy Fire Chief explained what a Knox Box was & its purpose. Council will consider request.

Chief Sherill requested assistance from residents who live near fire hydrants and also the Street Department with maintaining clear & clean fire hydrants especially during times of snow accumulation.

Chief Sherill suggested looking into grants to refurbish engines versus replacing engines. Having refurbish knowledge, Ms. Schnelly, Borough Manager, will meet with Fire Chief to discuss it further.

Chief Sherill & Mr. Koval requested Council look at the current ordinance that allows billing for excess false alarms. Mr. Voitek and Ms. Schnelly will meet & review ordinance.

Mr. Christian requested a motion for a second reading to amend the existing "No Parking Here to Corner" ordinance at the intersection of Jay and Kossack Street. The motion was made by Mr. Majewski and seconded by Mr. Christian. Mr. Olejnick noted that this would only be a first reading as there was not a definite amount of feet determined at the last meeting. Mr. Christian then moved to amend the original motion to a first reading amending the existing ordinance to a total of 20 feet "No Parking Here to Corner". Motion was seconded by Mr. Majewski. Ryan Binkley made a public comment encouraging Council to move the feet back as much as possible as you cannot see when crossing the street and it presents a safety issue. Vote was 4/2 Not in Favor. Council members suggested looking at the issue further to explore options to address parking & safety concerns.

Mr. Christian announced that on Thursday, January 22, 2026, he will be holding a Knox Mine Disaster memorial in front of the Borough Building. Ceremony will be scheduled for 11:30 am. Families who have been affected by the disaster can reach out to Mr. Christian or Ms. Schnelly, Borough Manager and are welcome to participate.

Police Department: Mr. Brown presented the Police Department report for December 2025 which included a review of Crossing Guard hours. There were 140 calls for service, 7 motor vehicle accidents and no school crossing guard duty reported. Fees payable to Municipality totaled \$224.44. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to place monies into the proper funds. Motion was seconded by Mr. Olejnick. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

Street Department: No report given. Mr. Olejnick extended a thank you to Shirley Gavlick and Gene Breznay for all that they have done and noted their huge contribution to the success of Swoyersville Borough. Both will be sorely missed.

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

Liaison: Mr. Majewski shared that recycling stickers are now available for purchase for a cost of \$30.00. He shared purchase locations and noted the stickers are available for sale until 2/28/26. Cardboard pickup will occur on Thursday, 1/8/26. DPW will be picking up Christmas Trees with normal garbage collection and also on Fridays through February. A thank you was extended to

Swoyersville DPW for work completed during recent snowfall & Holiday season. Residents were reminded that dog licenses should be purchased for 2026. Information was shared regarding PA Financial Aid sites available for parents with college students. Forms and applications are free.

Mr. Majewski made a motion to be appointed to assist the Recreation Board Committee as a Project Lead for the development of the Tripp & Church Street seven-acre parcel project. No second motion made. Motion failed. A discussion was held regarding the Recreation Board & project committee membership, including assignment of Council Liaisons.

Borough Solicitor: Attorney Oliver shared an update regarding a Kester litigation hearing scheduled for March 10, 2026. More information will be available after that point. Attorney Oliver will look into the issue presented by Mr. Mark Nenichka during the Public Comment period.

Mayor Lewis: Mayor Lewis extended a thank you to Shirley Gavlick and Gene Breznay for their dedicated years of service. Happy New Year wishes were extended to residents.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

No additional comments brought forward by Council

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

No comments brought forward by the Public.

With no further issues or comments, Mr. Voitek requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Christian and was seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote was 6-0 in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 08:20 pm. Next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 6:30 pm.



Barb O'Donnell
Borough Council Secretary

Ted Voitek
Council President