

FEBRUARY 5, 2018 6:30 PM

REGULAR MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council President Alunni calls the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call was taken, those present: Mr. Christian, Mr. Cwalina, Mr. Keating, Mr. Olejnick, Mr. Onzik and Mr. Alunni. Also present was Mayor Concert, Atty. Yeager, Borough Solicitor and Mike Amato, PennEastern Engineering.

A motion to accept the minutes of the January 2 and January 8, 2018 meetings was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$52,051.67 were paid on a motion made by Mr. Onzik and seconded Mr. Cwalina. On the question: Mr. Alunni asked about the bill for replacing the batteries on the garbage truck at the St. Dept. garage. Why was there a service call charged for \$150 when it was across the street and when the batteries were replaced in July 2017 a service call was charged also. The vote was 4-0 in favor. Mr. Christian and Mr. Alunni abstained.

BOROUGH COORDINATOR'S REPORT

- Code Enforcement report for January 2018; \$546.88 in fees was taken in
- Payment certification for the 2017 Community Development Block Grant totaling \$175,000 was approved on a motion made by Mr. Onzik and seconded by Mr. Christian. Mr. Breznay will submit a request for \$183,100 which is slightly higher than the original grant. On the question Mr. Onzik asked about the warranty for the streets. Mr. Amato said there is a retained amount of \$20,000 until the roads are deemed satisfactory. Once the roads are okay the retained amount will be paid. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Olejnick: Read the December 2017 financial reports: **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$65,643.99; transfers and revenue for December: \$57,380.94; expenses and transfers for December: \$97,547.49; ending checkbook balance: \$25,477.44. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$45.55; transfers and revenue for December: \$4,500.07; expenses and transfers for December \$4,459.57; ending checkbook balance: \$86.05. **Refuse Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$17,975.49; transfers and revenue for December: \$15,588.40; expenses and transfers for December \$8,013.97; ending checkbook balance: \$25,549.92. **Sanitary/Storm Sewer Assessment Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$8,227.90; transfers and revenue for December: \$3,763.54; expenses and transfers for December \$4,859.56; ending checkbook balance: \$7,131.88.

Liaison Officer: Mr. Christian: Read the ambulance report for the month of January 2018: Total calls for January 2018-56. Runs handled by 579: 25; Runs handled by M10: 31; Runs handled together: 11; Public assist: 14; Fire Dept. assist: 4; Medical Calls: 21; Mutual Aide: 9; Hours in Service: 291 Hours, 3 Minutes, Hours Not in Service: 452 Hours, 57 minutes; On 1-17-18 the Ambulance spent 3 hours shoveling out 10 residents who needed assistance from the snow storm. Captain: Steve Felker and Co Captain: Elmer Weaver. Mr. Christian also reported there were positive posts on Facebook for helping out some residents with snow shoveling.

Street Department: Mr. Onzik: There were 3 applications considered for the opening on the Street Department. Robert Koval was hired on a motion made by Mr. Onzik and seconded by Mr. Christian. The vote was 5-0 in favor. Mr. Alunni abstained. The clutch in one of the tractors needs to be replaced; the initial estimate was \$5,000. Jeff Zupko will check around to see if there is a better price and get the tractor ready for spring.

Police Department: Mr. Keating: The Police report for January 2018 was read; Crossing Guard's times were read. Fines totaling \$152.96 received for the month were placed in the proper fund on a motion made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

Fire Department: Mr. Cwalina: An audit report from the state for the fire relief fund for Hose Company #2 was received. There were 3 findings, 2 were repeat findings from prior audits and 1 was a new finding. Finding 1: Noncompliance with prior audit recommendation- Failure to maintain minutes of meetings; Finding 2: Non compliance with prior audit recommendation- Failure to maintain a complete and accurate equipment roster. Finding 3: Inappropriate presigning of blank checks. Mr. Cwalina will discuss the findings with the department.

Mayor Concert: Received a letter regarding an incident on January 15 at 5:30 PM on Broderick Street. A car got stuck in the snow. Officer Wolinsky responded and assisted in helping the driver. The Street Department was called out to salt the icy road. On March 25 the mayor will again host Bumper Buddies at Hose Company #2 parking lot. The Street Department has been doing a great job this winter in keeping the roads clear, which hasn't been easy. The Swoyersville Kiwanis Club will host a Nite at the Races on March 3 at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton school cafeteria. The ambulance with their volunteers is doing a good job and they are assisting residents with snow shoveling. The mayor asked council to consider amending the ordinance for the Fire Pits. The current ordinance does not establish a start time for burning wood. He would like to make the ordinance clear so people do not start burning at any time since there is just an ending time. A motion was made by Mr. Onzik and seconded by Mr. Cwalina to have a start time of 12 Noon for both groups of burn days. The vote was 6-0 in favor. The amended ordinance will be voted upon at the March 5 meeting.

Atty. Yeager: Reviewed the land transfer agreement for the 7 acres in conjunction with the Harry E coal bank removal project. Atty. Yeager sent his comments back to David Swisher, CEO, Pagnotti Enterprises, for his review and comments.

Mr. Onzik asked if the borough has heard anything about the Local Share Account grant for the roads. Mr. Breznay said the application was completed and sent in but the applications have not been reviewed yet by Harrisburg. The borough should hear something in March or April. Mr. Breznay also said he will be applying for the multimodal grant for road paving as soon as the application period opens. The LSA will be used as a match for the multimodal grant which requires a 30% match.

Mr. Christian asked if there was another meeting date for the Harry E coal bank project set. Mr. Breznay said he was coordinating another meeting with the local legislatures and the companies involved with the bank removal, as well as the various state agencies. The format will be a question and answer type and hopefully residents can get their questions answered.

Mr. Amato- He will sit down with Atty. Yeager and Mr. Breznay to determine if the coal bank project will be considered a residential or coal removal project.

Mr. Onzik asked about the roughing out of a road to Slocum Street. Mr. Breznay said a company who operates on Charles Street in Luzerne purchased the property from Luzerne County

Redevelopment Authority and would like to connect the Charles Street area with Slocum Street instead of driving all around to get to Slocum Street. Mr. Onzik was concerned that the right of way for the storm water pump station may be encroached upon and possibly cause some problems. The area will be checked out and any problems will be addressed with the owner.

Mr. Alunni commented about the land swap agreement for the Harry E coal bank removal project. The area can only be used recreation and asked about the status of the agreement to which Atty. Yeager said he sent his comments back to David Swisher, CEO for Pagnotti Enterprises, for review.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

Ed Connor, Swoyersville Ambulance- He thanked Mayor Concert and Mr. Christian for their kind comments about the ambulance and helping residents of the community. He highlighted some of the accomplishments the ambulance had made: They paid off Trans Med; they are waiting for a statement from Kingston Medic 13 for call they responded to; the subscription drive is doing well; they continue to assist residents with snow removal; on March 24 they will have a fundraiser: A Easter candy and Bread Sale Craft Fare from Noon until 5 PM and urged residents to stop down. Connor said the Street Department has done a good job plowing the streets.

Ken Rosa, Slocum Street- He complained about the speeding cars on Slocum Street. He asked if the speed limit can be lowered to 30 MPH or even 25 MPH. Mr. Breznay said the borough tried to lower it several years ago but PennDOT would not do it. He can ask again and see what the response is.

Ann Marie Saunders, Milbre Street- Thanked the Street Department for plowing the snow. She asked if there was an ordinance for parking cars on the street while plowing snow. Mr. Onzik said he's not sure about the ordinance but asked Mr. Breznay to post something on the Borough's Facebook page about this. Mr. Onzik also said people might park their cars on the street hoping that way there won't be any snow left in front of the driveways when the plow truck goes by. Saunders also said it was nice to see the Ambulance helping people with shoveling snow.

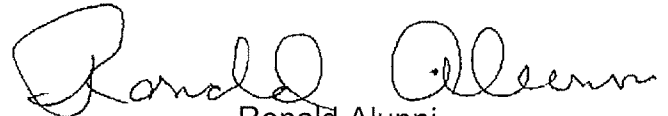
Barbara Brody, 67 Perrin Street- Complained about the Street Department plowing the streets and leaving piles of snow in her driveway. She had a problem with her sewer; it blocked up and sewerage backed up into her house. PAWC was in the area and they told her to call Drain Tech for the problem. Drain Tech pumped the sewerage out and then it happened again. They put a camera in the line and it showed a broken pipe. Patrick from Drain Tech said the Borough would reimburse her the cost of their bill which was \$745. The latest blockage occurred at 5:30 PM on Friday, January 12. She went to the police station; the police contacted Jeff Zupko, St. Dept. Commissioner, to see what could be done. Jeff said it was not an emergency and said there would be crew to work on it on Monday. She asked Zupko about how to get reimbursed the \$745 for Drain Tech's bill and Zupko said to talk to "Gene, my boss". Mr. Onzik said the problem has been fixed and the borough is not liable for backups. Brody said Mr. Breznay was very rude to her about the whole situation. Breznay said he has nothing to do with issues like this, the St. Dept. handles that and makes all the arrangements for sewer repair issues, and Breznay said he spoke to her 3 times: the initial call from Brody on Monday, January 15; another time that afternoon as she was looking for Jeff Zupko and a third time when Breznay called her to let her know that the bid was awarded and a company would be there the next day to start the repairs. Brody is insisting on being reimbursed the \$745 which she put on her credit card and will not pay for until the Borough reimburses her for it.

David Calabrese, Poland Street- There is a parking situation at the top of both Poland Street and Warsaw Street to needs to be addressed. Parking is allowed at the top of both streets and that creates a very tight lane to get any vehicles down.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. The vote was 6-0 in favor. Next meeting will be held on March 5, 2018.



Gene Breznay
Borough Secretary-Treasurer-Manager



Ronald Alunni
Council President