

OCTOBER 1, 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, Ms. O'Donnell, Mr. Olejnick and Mr. Alunni. Also present were Mayor Concert and Atty. Yeager, Borough Solicitor. Jeff Zupko, Street Department Supervisor was absent.

A motion to accept the minutes of the September 4, 2018 meeting was made by Mr. Cwalina and seconded by Ms. O'Donnell. The vote was 5-0 in favor. Mr. Olejnick abstained.

Monthly bills totaling \$19,272.59 were paid on a motion made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded Mr. Keating. The vote was 5-0 in favor. Mr. Christian abstained.

BOROUGH COORDINATOR'S REPORT

- An update was given on the Harry E coal bank removal. The company removing the bank is waiting for various state agencies to sign the documents so the project can get started. As soon as all paperwork is signed a meeting will be arranged so residents can ask questions about the project and understand more about what will happen.
- The 2019 budget is just about complete, just waiting on the new health insurance costs. Once those are received then council can proceed to have budget meetings.
- A letter from the Swoyersville Planning Commission was read about 2 subdivisions recently submitted, Charles Kenzakoski and Andrew Barilla. The plans were reviewed and the Planning Commission recommends that council approve the subdivisions. A motion was made by Ms. O'Donnell and seconded by Mr. Christian to approve the Planning Commission's recommendations. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Ms. O'Donnell: Read the August financial reports: **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$46,661.39; transfers and revenue for the month: \$140,019.14; expenses and transfers for the month: \$119,748.48; ending checkbook balance: \$66,932.05. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$117.49; transfers and revenue for the month: \$8,600.16; expenses and transfers for the month \$8,615.76; ending checkbook balance: \$101.89. **Refuse Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$32,469.36; transfers and revenue for the month: \$22,925.30; expenses and transfers for the month \$6,825.72; ending checkbook balance: \$48,568.94. **Sanitary/Storm Sewer Assessment Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$38,830.59; transfers and revenue for the month: \$16,393.09; expenses and transfers for the month \$9,553.51; ending checkbook balance: \$45,670.17.

Liaison Officer: Mr. Christian: Attended the Swoyersville Planning commission meeting recently. 2 subdivisions were recommended for approval by the Commission for Kenzakoski and Barilla.

Street Department: Mr. Olejnick: Received 2 bids to install a lateral for a new home construction at 416 Owen Street: Holena Excavating- \$5,700.00 and Neil-Lynn- \$6,748.00. Mr. Breznay asked if the prices included pave restoration and they did. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Cwalina to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Holena Excavating. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

Police Department: Mr. Keating: The Police report for September 2018 was read. Fines totaling \$256.40 received for the month were placed in the proper fund on a motion made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Ms. O'Donnell. The vote was 6-0 in favor. A crossing guard for the afternoon was needed at Slocum and Main Streets. After an advertisement was read in the paper, council hire Sandra Shields on a motion made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Ms. O'Donnell. Ms. Shields has all the proper background checks completed. The vote was 6-0 in favor. Kevin Walkowiak, a full time police officer, offered his resignation from the force effective October 18, 2018. A motion was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick to accept Walkowiak's resignation. The vote was 5-0 in favor. Ms. O'Donnell abstained. A vacancy exists for a full time officer's position. Richard Vaow, part time police officer who is currently on the borough's police civil service list, was hired to replace Walkowiak. He will start in a full time capacity on October 19. A motion was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick to elevate Vaow to full time. The vote was 4-0 in favor. Mr. Christian and Ms. O'Donnell abstained.

Fire Department: Mr. Cwalina: No report.

Mayor Concert: With Vaow going to full time status, that creates an opening in the part time roster. A motion was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Cwalina to advertise for a part time police officer. Starting rate is \$18.00 per hour. The vote was 5-0 in favor. Ms. O'Donnell abstained. The mayor thanked and wished good luck to Kevin Walkowiak for his service to the borough as a police officer. He also thanked Mr. Breznay for his work in preparing the 2019 budget. Mayor Concert has a complaint form that needs to be filled out by anyone having a complaint regarding the town. Swoyersville Kiwanis will have a Trunk or Treat on October 21 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish grounds from 1 PM to 3 PM. Bloom Early Daycare will have a Trunk or Treat also on October 21. Swoyersville Ambulance having a Kids Halloween Party on October 28 and an adult Halloween party on October 19. Received some compliments about the police officers mingling with the public and playing games with them. Swoyersville Kiwanis is having a Beer Pairing Dinner on October 6 at Coal City Tavern, Luzerne. The mayor spoke with Rep. Kaufer about the trees on Chapel Street and Rep. Kaufer checked with PennDOT and PennDOT said that part of the road is borough property so we're responsible to any trimming or cutting. Swoyersville American Legion is hosting a Halloween parade on October 27. Registration will be at the Roosevelt Field and the parade will go on Church Street to the American Legion hall. Mayor Concert asked council if they can donate \$100 toward the parade. A motion was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Christian to make the donation. The vote was 6-0 in favor.

Atty. Yeager: No report.

Mr. Alunni said Kevin Walkowiak will be attending Wilkes University and will also be working there and that is the reason he is leaving Swoyersville Police Department.

Mr. Christian asked Mr. Breznay to post the activities the mayor mentioned on the Borough's Facebook page.

Mr. Breznay spoke with John Barilla with the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority, and the WWSA will be street sweeping a section of town on October 10-12 and again on October 15. They will start at the West Wyoming border and work toward the Kossack Street area. This is part of the storm water management program.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

Kathy Breznay, President, Swoyersville Kiwanis Club- The club is interested in working on a Hometown Heroes banner program. She was looking for permission from Council to do so, and stressed this is not a fundraiser; it is a service project. There will be no money raised by doing this, just helping the community and its residents. The club will make the arrangements for the banners, collect the pictures to put on the banner, the residents would have to purchase the whole kit (banner and hanger). She asked if the Street Department can help hang them when the time comes and, yes, they will help. The target area is Shoemaker Street and Slocum Street but will expand if needed. Ms. O'Donnell said there are some patrons at the Swoyersville American Legion asking about the banners; sure some members there will participate. Mr. Christian asked if the club is looking for some sponsors, Kathy said that it is not a fundraiser for the club so there is no need for sponsors.

Joe Ruscavage- He spoke about the Harry E bank project. The project is many years in the making and will become a reality very shortly. He put in much time to help move the project along and will be very satisfied when it finally starts. Asked about the agreement being a holdup, but Mr. Breznay said the agreement mentioned was between Panther Creek and Pagnotti not the borough and is now been signed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. O'Donnell and seconded by Mr. Christian. The vote was 6-0 in favor. Next meeting will be held on November 5, 2018


Gene Breznay
Borough Secretary-Treasurer-Manager


Ronald Alunni
Council President