



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

May 6, 2020

1. Meeting called to order at 7:03PM.
 2. Roll Call – C. Ansell- here; W. Scales- here; M. Stanton- absent; W. Price- here; S. Alfonso Wells- here; D. Petrarca- here; Mayor D. Swartzwelder- here; A. Salisbury- here
 3. Public Comment- None
 4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes from the Special Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2020- D. Petrarca. 2nd by C. Ansell. All ayes. Motion carries.
 5. Agenda Items:
 - a. Motion to approve a change order in the amount of \$171,150.00 with Plavchak Construction, Inc. for providing and installing 12 additional street light fixtures on Noble and Washington Streets to complete the street lighting portion of the Streetscape Project.

The Borough received additional grant funding for this project through the Commonwealth Finance Agency Multi-Modal Grant Program in the amount of \$125,000. The program requires local matching funds which will make up the remaining funds.
Motion by C. Ansell. 2nd S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes. Motion carries.
 6. Finance Report – Dave Petrarca. 2nd S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes. Motion carries.
 - Paid Bills as of **April 30, 2020** in the amount of **\$294,573.47**
 - Unpaid Bills as of **April 30, 2020** in the amount of **\$31,190.48**
 7. Police Report – Chief Watson
 - a. Despite Covid 19, we are operating as normal and responding to a lot of retail theft and domestic calls.
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- b. We have added the ability for residents to report minor criminal activity online through Crime Watch.
- c. There was water damage to Chief's Office and cell block because of the recent building collapse and rain. Repairs are in progress.

8. Code and Fire Report – Chief Wilhelm

- a. Code inspections are continuing on a limited basis in accordance with the Governor's orders and CDC restrictions.
 - b. We have started issuing building permits. 14 permits have been issued this week and another 24 are expected by the end of the week.
 - c. EMS & fire calls are down slightly.
 - d. We are working with Eastern Area Adult Services to deliver meals to seniors.
 - e. The FEMA Reimbursement Program will reimburse up to 75% of out of pocket costs associated with Covid 19.
 - i. We have approximately \$9,000 to \$10,000 in costs related to sanitizing and PPE.
 - ii. We cannot be reimbursed for labor unless it is overtime labor resulting from Covid 19.
 - iii. All employees are acting under guidelines issued by the Governor.
 - iv. We are regularly sanitizing the facilities.
 - v. Chief Wilhelm and Mr. Bachy are working on a plan to reopen playgrounds and sanitize them daily.
 - vi. Swissvale currently has 7 confirmed cases of Covid 19.
 - f. Chief Wilhelm contacted Allegheny county in writing to request restoration of EMS dispatch services.
 - i. EMS dispatch was fully restored to Swissvale on Friday at 3pm. It was also reimplemented county wide.
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9. Public Works Report – Greg Bachy

- a. Due to Covid 19, DPW has had to make changes.
 - i. The men are working in groups of 2 rather than in larger groups to practice social distancing and not expose one another.
 - ii. Loose trash, trash on the ground and trash in torn bags will not be collected.
 - iii. Recycling that is loose on the ground or not in a recycling container will not be collected.
 - iv. Bulk items have been reduced to one item per household per week.
 - b. Street sweeping has been postponed until the first week of June because so many people are home with no place to move their cars.
 - i. We are sweeping the business district a few days a week.
 - ii. We try to sweep areas with fewer cars where we can.
 - c. Summer help has been postponed until at least June 1st to limit possible exposure to the virus.
 - i. Full time employees are cutting the grass at the Borough facilities and parks, 125 + vacant lots.
 - ii. They are not able to do larger projects such as pothole patching, crosswalk painting, storm sewer repairs and sanitary sewer repairs.
 1. We're a little behind but hope to be caught up by June or July when things get back to normal.
 - d. Dave Petrarca reported on the grievance hearing between DPW employees represented by Teamsters Local 250 and the DPW Committee on April 23, 2020 at 2pm.
 - i. In attendance at the hearing were Michele Stanton, Shawn Alfonso Wells and Dave Petrarca from Council, Bob McTiernan the Solicitor, Clyde Wilhelm, Greg Bachy, Chuck Gaston the Union Rep and Dylan Amos and Ross Camillo from the Public Works crew.
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- ii. DPW employees want us to improve their work conditions.
 - iii. Dave Petrarca promised to update the Union and its membership on the new building through regular progress reports.
 - iv. Chuck Gaston said his main objective is to be sure that DPW has a safe place to work.
 - v. Dylan Amos and Ross Camillo stated during the hearing that they have no confidence in Council and expressed disappointment that no one contacted them to apologize when the building collapsed. They feel Council has no concern for them or their safety.
 - vi. Solicitor McTiernan stated that there will be no further processing of the grievance unless Mr. Gaston and the Union decide that they want to move the grievance forward. Parties agreed that they will continue to communicate and work together to correct the issues.
 - vii. Weldianne Scales reported on the grievance hearing with the Police Committee and the Swissvale Police Officers held on April 28, 2020.
 - 1. The complaints given by the Police Officers mirror those of the DPW.
 - 2. Mrs. Scales and Mr. Price stated that they were unaware of most of the problems with the Borough building.
 - viii. Mr. Wilhelm clarified that the issues with the working conditions for DPW & Police are not just due to building collapse but refer to issues that go back several decades.
- e. Dave Petrarca commended DPW and Mr. Bachy for the outstanding work they are doing without summer help. The Public Works report is available online.

10. Outstanding Complaints Report – None

11. C.O.G. Report – No report

- a. President Salisbury asked Shawn Alfonso Wells to report on the online meeting held by Connect, as this information falls under the COG umbrella.
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- i. The meeting discussed The Lead Project, which is an intervention program designed to bring reform to the criminal justice system. The program is free.

- 1. Shawn Alfonso Wells agreed to forward information on the Lead Program to Chief Watson.

12. President's Remarks – Abigail Salisbury

- a. President Salisbury requested that departmental reports be made available online for public review.
- b. An Executive Session is scheduled for after tonight's meeting.
- c. People are putting trash, electronics and tv's where they don't belong.
 - i. Charitable entities such as Goodwill are reporting people are leaving bags outside that get ruined in the rain. They then must pay someone to remove these items.
 - ii. Please dispose of items properly and don't dump them where they don't belong.

13. Mayor's Report – Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder

- a. Community Days has been cancelled. The mayor would like to have some type of community gathering by the end of summer or early fall.
- b. Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has cancelled flower planting this year.

14. Water Authority Report – Tracey Crombie-Collins

- a. The Water Authority Report was submitted by email and will be posted online.

15. Planning Commission – Greg Bachy- No report

16. Solicitor Report – Robert McTiernan

- a. Wants council to consider approval of a tentative agreement with the Swissvale School crossing guards represented by Teamsters Local 205.
 - i. Bargaining unit has approved the tentative agreement which calls for a 2% raise, half of which will be paid for by the school district.
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- ii. A major development in this agreement is that we are moving away from providing them with hospitalization, which will save us money. They have been able to get coverage through alternate means.
- b. Motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement of Teamsters Local 205 - School Crossing Guards from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2023, by D. Petrarca. 2nd C. Ansell. All ayes. Motion carries.

17. Engineer Report – No report

18. Borough Manager Report – Clyde Wilhelm

a. Hazard Mitigation Plan

- i. FEMA regulations require all municipalities to have their own plan or participate in a county wide plan.
- ii. Chief Wilhelm encourages council to participate in the county wide plan, as to do otherwise would be costly.
- iii. We must adopt the plan to be eligible for future federal disaster aid.

b. Borough Building

- i. The 3rd floor of the building has been demolished
- ii. Because of rain, there was some damage to the 2nd floor of the building which has been remediated.
- iii. The project should be complete in the next couple of weeks.
- iv. We have contacted the insurance carrier to see if any additional coverage is available for the damage to the 2nd floor.

c. Finance

- i. Our earned income tax revenues, will be negatively impacted because of layoffs and business closures due to the Covid 19 Pnademic.
- ii. The Manager will meet with department heads to be proactive and look at ways we can reduce budgeted expenditures by 5% to 7% to prepare for those potential shortfalls this budget year.

d. New Borough building

- i. Mr. Wilhelm is working on preparing documents to present Council with various options to consider such as site availability, cost estimates, cost of debt service and how it will impact the budget.

19. Unfinished Business

- a. Applications for the Civil Service Board will be reviewed at the next Agenda Meeting.
 - i. 3 applicants will be interviewed for 1 opening and 2 alternate positions.

20. New Business

- a. Chris Ansell is requesting residents to give their input on the Borough Manager position by completing the online survey. The survey will be available until May 22, 2020.
- b. Chris Ansell suggested changing the video format of the Council meetings so that video as well as audio can be posted to Facebook.
- c. Shawn Alfonso Wells would like everyone involved in the meetings to show their face on video to make it easier to read facial expressions and know who is speaking.
- d. Shawn Alfonso Wells inquired about the possibility of getting Swissvale wired for the benefit of school kids who don't have wi-fi at home.
 - i. Mr. Wilhelm will get her in touch with Jamie Glasser of Woodland Hills School District. They are working on a program to get everybody set up.

21. Moment of silence was observed in commemoration of Charles "Chuck" Kotula, brother of Councilwoman Michele Stanton.

22. Motion to adjourn- S. Alfonso Wells. 2nd C. Ansell. All ayes. Motion carries.

23. Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.
