



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

September 2, 2020

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02pm.
 2. Roll Call – C. Ansell- here; W. Scales- here; M. Stanton- here; D. Petrarca; S. Alfonso Wells- here; W. Price- here; Mayor Swartzwelder- absent; President Salisbury- here.
 3. Public Comment
 - a. Amy Kennedy of 7460 Schoyer Ave.
 - i. Commented on the lack of clarity regarding zoning for sidewalk dining.
 - ii. Ms. Kennedy also inquired about a vacancy on the Planning Commission.
 1. Mr. Bachy stated that there are no vacancies on the Planning Commission as Ms. Laura Kuster was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Mr. Price's resignation when he was elected to Council.
 4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 with an amendment to include the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee on Resolution 20-10.
Motion by S. Alfonso Wells. 2nd by C. Ansell. All ayes. Motion carries.
 5. Agenda Items:
 - a. Junior Council Pledge was administered to Junior Council members Alta Mercurio and Kristina Rajakovich by President Salisbury.
 - b. Motion to re-engage Glenn Engineering and its subconsultants to complete the design and bid specifications for the Borough owned property at 1927 McCague Street for use by the Department of Public Works. Estimated cost
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of all renovations is \$578,000.00.

Motion by S. Alfonso Wells. 2nd by W. Price.

- i. Mr. Bachy indicated that in the best-case scenario, the bid for this project would be awarded at the end of December.
 - ii. Council declined the DPW employees request to table the motion for one month so that they can have time to make a case for building at Memorial Park.
 - iii. Roll call vote: W. Price- yes; C. Ansell- yes; S. Alfonso Wells- yes; W. Scales- yes; M. Stanton- yes; D. Petrarca- yes; A. Salisbury- yes. Motion carries.
- c. Motion to approve **Resolution 20-12** authorizing and supporting an application by the Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee (SSTAC) requesting 25 trees from Treevitalize to be installed on Noble, Waverly and Washington Streets and Harrison Avenue.
- i. Motion by S. Alfonso Wells. 2nd by W. Scales. All ayes. Motion carries.
- d. Motion to lease/purchase the following vehicles under the Co-Stars Purchasing program and enter into a Master Lease Agreement.
1. Ford F-550 4x4 Dump Truck with plow and salt spreader (DPW)
Cost: \$76,810.00 – Five annual payments of \$16,826.66
 2. Chevrolet Silverado 4x4 Extended Cab Pick-Up Truck (DPW)
Cost: \$29,926.50 – Five annual payments of \$6,555.96
 3. 2 Ford Ranger 4x2 Extended Cab Pick-Up Trucks (Fire/Code)
Cost: \$47,332.00 – Four annual payments of \$12,759.31
 4. Ford Interceptor AWD Utility Patrol Vehicle (Police)
Cost: \$48,031.00 – Four annual payments of \$12,947.74
 5. 1 Ford Interceptor AWD Utility Supervisor Vehicle (Police)
Cost: \$49,346.00 – Four annual payments of \$13,302.23
 6. 1 Ford Interceptor AWD K-9 Patrol Vehicle (Police)
Cost: \$50,836.00 – Four annual payments of \$13,703.89
- i. Council discussed the necessity of certain employees having take home vehicles and possible tax implications.
 - ii. Council would like to review take home vehicle policy.
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- iii. Council agreed to review proposals and get more information before voting.
 - iv. Motion to table vote by President Salisbury. 2nd by W. Price. All ayes. Motion carries.
- e. Discuss pursuing an agreement with Rankin Borough to provide Code Enforcement services for the Borough.
- i. Rankin is not satisfied with their third-party Code Enforcement and would like to contract with us to take over.
 - ii. They are willing to pay us \$12,000 per year, which is what they are currently paying the third party.
 - iii. We have adequate staffing ability to do this.
 - iv. If we are not happy with the agreement, there is a 60 day out clause.

6. Finance Report – David Petrarca

- Paid Bills as of **August 31, 2020** in the amount of **\$266,645.98**
- Unpaid Bills as of **August 31, 2020** in the amount of **\$20,703.32**
- Motion by D. Petrarca. 2nd by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes. Motion carries.

7. Police Report – Chief Watson

- a. On August 10, 2020 the Officers Zacchia and Bondi of the Swissvale Police along with Swissvale Fire and Eastern Area EMS responded to a call for a man in cardiac arrest at Valero.
- i. The responders worked together to bring the man back from cardiac arrest and did a great job of saving his life.
 - ii. The gentleman came to the Police Station and was incredibly grateful to everyone who responded.

8. Code and Fire Report – Asst. Chief Mike Volpe

- a. Code and Fire Report is on file in the Borough Manager's Office.
 - b. Code Enforcement only responds to Code complaints, not Police complaints.
 - c. Councilwoman Stanton added:
 - i. The Fish Fry will be held September 11, 2020.
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- ii. Last Saturday, the Swissvale Fire and Police and the Edgewood Fire and Police passed out produce at Edgewood Town Center. 500 boxes of food were distributed in 45 minutes.

9. Public Works Report – Greg Bachy

- a. Last Thursday and Friday, storms caused damage in the Hill area.
 - i. We are still working on clearing trees and catch basins.
 - ii. There is a company coming out to deal with trees that are beyond the capabilities of the DPW and their equipment.
- b. Council discussed a resident who replaced her sidewalk only to have it removed and replaced for the TAP project on South Braddock Avenue.
 - 1. Mr. Bachy will follow up with the contractor.

10.C.O.G. Report – Weldianne Scales

- a. There will be no meeting until the end of September.

11.CONNECT Report – Shawn Alfonso-Wells

- a. Connect has been trying to get together with different boards to push our local issues through to the state.
- b. Mrs. Alfonso Wells will continue to advocate for Swissvale.
- c. Mrs. Alfonso Wells gave an update on the Lead Program and stated that we are a top contender to get chosen.

12.President's Remarks – Abigail Salisbury- No report

13. Mayor's Report – Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder- Absent- No report

14.Water Authority Report – Tracey Crombie-Collins

- a. Report is on file in the Borough Manager's Office and was read aloud by President Salisbury.

15.Planning Commission – Greg Bachy

- a. Will be meeting September 17, 2020.
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- b. It will take at least 2 meetings to make changes to the zoning ordinance to address offensive language, chickens, sidewalk dining and issues with parking.
- c. Some definitions also need to be added to make it easier to administer the ordinance.

16. Solicitors Report – Robert McTiernan- No report

17. Engineers Report – No report

18. Borough Manager Report – Greg Bachy

- a. The Civil Service Commission will meet later in the month to discuss updating rules and regulations and advertising the test for patrolmen and sergeants.
 - b. Applications for the Community Development Block Grant projects are due this Friday.
 - i. Every third year we get a \$20,000 to \$25,000 grant from them, which we will use for handicap ramps on Noble Street.
 - ii. They can award an additional funds to communities where 51% of residents who benefit from the project are low to moderate income.
 - 1. Mr. Bachy recommends we use request a grant to replace the sanitary sewer line on Denniston Street which is in need of replacement.
 - 2. Council agrees to proceed with this project.
 - c. Mr. Bachy and Council discussed engaging an engineer to get pricing on renovation, addition, or demolition of the current Borough Building.
 - i. Mr. Bachy advises doing a walk through with an engineer first to get a price on doing the study which will probably cost to \$20,000 to \$30,000. A walk through would cost around \$100.
 - ii. We can get estimates from Glenn Engineering, KU Resources and others. Ms. Alfonso-Wells requested that we get a bid from a minority owned firm.
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- d. Mr. Bachy thanked Diane Turley for her almost 11 years of service to the Borough and wished her the best in her retirement.

19. Unfinished Business

- a. Mr. Price inquired about getting adequate signage on Delmar Place so that people know it is a dead-end street.
 - i. Mr. Bachy will put in a One Call and get the sign by Tuesday or Wednesday.
- b. We still need to resolve a personnel issue that was left over from last Wednesday's Executive Session.

20. New Business

- a. President Salisbury received information on the Be the Change app from Bhavini Patel, head of Beam Data.
 - i. Ms. Patel is working with Senator Jay Costa to create a dialog between elected officials and constituents by allowing people to share community causes and upvoting or downvoting posts that have been shared by others.
 - ii. Community causes are shared in the form of legislative feedback, neighborhood development ideas or concerns, and Senator Costa's office responds to each post.
 - iii. The IOS version of the app is available in the Apple Store. Android and web versions will be available soon.
 - iv. Learn more at www.beam-data.com .
 - v. There is no fee to participate.
 - vi. President Salisbury would like us to post something online to let people know that it is a way to contact Senator Costa. President Salisbury will provide the wording to post.
 - b. President Salisbury reiterated that an unresolved personnel matter from the last meeting will be wrapped up tonight in Executive Session.
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21. Motion to adjourn by S. Alfonso Wells. 2nd by C. Ansell. All ayes. Motion carries.
Meeting adjourned at 9:54pm.
