



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

February 3, 2021

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:06 PM.

2. ROLL CALL:

- a. W. Price – here, D. Petrarca – here, C. Ansell – here, S. Alfonso Wells – here, W. Scales – here, M. Stanton – here, D. Swartzwelder – here, A. Salisbury – here.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Anastasia Blu: asked for a follow up on the revisions to the zoning ordinance regarding chickens.
 - i. Mr. Bachy proposed that council approve a stand-alone ordinance to address the chickens while the Zoning Hearing Board continues to work on revisions to the zoning ordinance.

4. Business Agenda Items:

- a. Noble Street Handicapped Accessible Ramp
 - i. MOTION: I move to approve a bid award to A. Folino, Inc. in the amount of \$14,000.00 for the Noble Street Accessible Ramp Project which was bid by the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.
 - ii. Motion by C. Ansell, second by M. Stanton. All ayes, motion carries.
 - b. Swissvale Fire Department Shift Commander
 - i. MOTION: I move to promote Michael Norkus to the position of Shift Commander within the Swissvale Fire Department with wages and benefits as specified in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
 - ii. Motion by M. Stanton, second by D. Petrarca. All ayes, motion carries.
 - c. Animal Control Contract
 - i. MOTION: I move to renew the contract with Sable Kennels for Animal Control services from February 2021 to February 2023.
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- ii. Motion by M. Stanton, second by W. Price. All ayes, motion carries.
 - d. VPRP – Resolution 21-01
 - i. MOTION: I move to approve Resolution 21-01 to approve a Vacant Property Recovery Program application for property located adjacent to 2225 Lehigh Street and known as Tax Parcel ID # 234-K-19.
 - ii. Motion by M. Stanton, second by C. Ansell. All ayes, motion carries.
 - e. Carrie Furnace Trail
 - i. MOTION: I move to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Rankin Borough concerning the Carrie Furnace Access Trail Project.
 - ii. Motion by S. Alfonso Wells, second by M. Stanton. All ayes, motion carries.
 - f. Plum Alley Retaining Wall:
 - i. MOTION: I move to approve an agreement between the Borough of Swissvale and the owners of 2228 Hampton Street concerning the Plum Alley Retaining Wall.
 - ii. Motion by M. Stanton, second by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes, motion carries.
 - g. CITF Grant Funding – Resolution 21-02
 - i. MOTION: I move to approve Resolution 21-02 to permit the Borough to apply for funding through CITF (Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund) for demolitions.
 - ii. Motion by C. Ansell, second by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes, motion carries.
 - 5. Finance Report – David Petrarca
 - a. MOTION: I move to approve the paid bills as of January 31, 2021 in the amount of \$216,168.78 and unpaid bills as of January 31, 2021 in the amount of \$27,778.51.
 - b. Motion by D. Petrarca, second by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes, motion carries.
 - 6. Police Report – Chief Watson
 - a. The police report is on file in the Borough Manager’s Office.
 - b. Chief Watson met with Magistrate Thomas Caulfield and other Police Chiefs from the area to discuss their LEAD Program Cohort.
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7. Code and Fire Report – Chief Wilhelm

- a. An employee was injured last week and will be off for approximately four weeks to complete rehab.
- b. Chief Wilhelm has applied for grants for new turn out gear and new AEDs and heart monitors.
- c. The Borough budgeted \$40,000 for demolition of properties this year. Chief Wilhelm proposes that the Borough demolish 7311 Florence Avenue, 7528 & 7530 Short Street, 2521 Woodstock Avenue, and 2520 South Braddock Avenue.
 - i. In 2019, there was a fire at 2520 South Braddock Avenue and the Borough received \$10,533 in fire escrow from the mortgage company. While these funds do not cover the full cost of demolition, Mr. Wilhelm suggested that the Borough pay the remaining costs due to the state of the property. The current owners have not responded to any requests by the Borough to mitigate the damage caused by the fire.

8. Public Works Report – Greg Bachy

- a. The project to replace the traffic signals at Waverly Street and South Braddock Avenue is nearly complete. With the remaining funds, the traffic signals on South Braddock Avenue at the intersections of Church Street, Waverly Street, Dickson Street, Westmoreland Avenue, and Roslyn Street will be re-timed to reduce traffic in the area.

9. Borough Manager Report – Katie Malsch

- a. Core Engineering is still waiting for the results of the asbestos testing.

10. C.O.G. Report – Weldianne Scales

- a. The COG met and discussed: Police Regionalization, the vector truck, the COG's application for 501(c)3 status, available funds for demolition projects, and CTF applications.

11. CONNECT Report – Shawn Alfonso-Wells

- a. Ms. Alfonso Wells met with CONNECT to discuss the LEAD project, regional recycling programs, and digital record keeping.

12. President's Report – Abigail Salisbury

- a. Council will meet in executive session to discuss legal matters.

13. Mayor's Report – Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder

- a. SEDCO will be starting their monthly clean up on Saturday, March 13th at 10:00 am.
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- b. The Farmers Market will start Saturday June 15th from 9 am – 1 pm.
- c. The Swissvale Rotary Club donated to the Swissvale Library so that they could have WIFI. It has since been installed. The birthday kits they put together are still being passed out at the food pantry.
- d. In past years, the Easter Egg Hunt was the Saturday before Easter. Ms. Swartzwelder is considering a Borough-wide hunt similar to the Elf Hunt from Christmas. Any plans will be posted on the Borough Website and Social Media.
- e. Spring Parkway Flower Planting will take place on Saturday May 8th at 9 am. Anyone who wants to participate can stop at the highway underpass on South Braddock Avenue.
- f. The dates for Community Days are June 18th and 19th. We will be incorporating the Borough's Juneteenth celebration.

14. Water Authority Report – Tracey Crombie-Collins

- a. The Water Authority Report is on file in the Borough Manager's Office.

15. Engineer Report – Robert Zischkau

- a. No report

16. Solicitors Report – Robert McTiernan

- a. Mr. McTiernan asked council if they want to advertise the changes to the graffiti amendment.

17. New Business

- a. Ms. Malsch received a request from the Swissvale Library asking council to sign a letter of support for their grant application.
 - i. Motion by M. Stanton, second by W. Scales. All ayes, motion carries.
- b. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee read a statement in honor of Black History Month. Council voted to adopt the message for Swissvale Borough.
 - i. Motion by W. Scales, second by W. Price. All ayes, motion carries.

18. Motion to adjourn:

- a. Motion by S. Alfonso Wells, second by C. Ansell. All ayes, motion carried.

19. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.
