



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2021**

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:02PM
2. ROLL CALL: W. Price- here; D. Petrarca- here; S. Alfonso Wells- here; C. Ansell- here; M. Stanton- here; W. Scales- here; Mayor Swartzwelder- here; President Salisbury- here.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT- None
4. Business Agenda Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes-

MOTION by S. Alfonso Wells: I move to approve the December 30th, 2020; January 6th, 2021; January 27th, 2021; and February 3rd, 2021 meeting minutes. 2nd by C. Ansell with proposed sub-amendment below:

- i. SUBMOTION by C. Ansell: Item 4.c.ii of the January 27th, 2021 minutes will be edited to state that Council will keep the compensation rate the same and offer to pay for certain expenses which were previously paid for by the tax collector. 2nd by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes. Motion passes.

- b. Paving Contract-

MOTION by D. Petrarca: I move to award a contract to EL Grande Industries in the amount of \$99,575.63 to pave Whipple Street from the Pittsburgh City line to Aurelius Avenue, the eastbound lane of Whipple Street from Aurelius Avenue to Monroe Street, and the intersection of Aurelius Avenue between Monarch Way and Schoyer Avenue Extension as per the bid specifications. 2nd by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes. Motion passes.

- c. Plum Alley Retaining Wall-

MOTION by D. Petrarca: I move to reject all bids received for the Plum Alley Retaining Wall project. 2nd by C. Ansell. All ayes. Motion passes.

d. Creation of Swissvale Historical Committee-

MOTION by W. Price: I move to create a Swissvale Historical Committee with the first three members to be Frank Berry, Calvin Yoder, and Hollen Barmer. 2nd by W. Scales. All ayes. Motion passes.

e. Vacancies on Boards, Commissions and Committees

i. Planning Commission- 2 vacancies

MOTION by S. Alfonso Wells: I move to approve Laura Kuster to the Planning Commission to serve a four-year term set to expire on January 1, 2025. 2nd by W. Price. All ayes. Motion passes.

ii. Zoning Hearing Board – 1 vacancy

MOTION by C. Ansell: I move to approve Andrew Horowitz to the Zoning Hearing Board to serve a five-year term set to expire on January 1, 2026. 2nd by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes. Motion passes.

iii. Shade Tree Commission- 1 vacancy

MOTION by S. Alfonso Wells: I move to approve Cynthia Pagesh to the Shade Tree Commission to serve a five-year term set to expire on January 1, 2026. 2nd by C. Ansell. All ayes. Motion passes.

iv. Steel Valley Authority- 1 vacancy

MOTION by D. Petrarca: I move to approve Amy Starrett to the Steel Valley Authority to serve a five-year term set to expire on January 1, 2026. 2nd by W. Scales. All ayes. Motion passes.

v. Recreation Advisory Committee- 1 vacancy

MOTION by W. Scales: I move to approve John “Scrap” Wilson to the Recreation Advisory Committee to serve a four-year term set to expire on January 1, 2025. 2nd by C. Ansell. All ayes. Motion passes.

f. LEAD Program-

MOTION by S. Alfonso Wells: I move to adopt **Resolution 21-03** directing the Chief of the Swissvale Borough Police Department to investigate and develop a prearrest law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) program centered around harm reduction that offers alternative pathways for low level offenders and reduces unnecessary justice system involvement. 2nd by M. Stanton. All ayes. Motion passes.

g. Amended Graffiti Ordinance-

MOTION by M. Stanton: I move to approve the adoption of **Ordinance 21-01** of the Borough of Swissvale Code, amending **Ordinance 99-3** and all successor ordinances, to expand the definition of Graffiti to prohibit posting of signs and handbills by glue, tape, or other means without the advance written permission of the property owner. 2nd by W. Scales. All ayes. Motion passes.

5. Finance Report

a. President Salisbury removed Councilman Petrarca as Chair of the Finance Committee and appointed Councilman Ansell to the position.

i. Councilman Petrarca requested to be removed from all Committees that he is currently on.

b. Paid Bills-

No motion was made or vote taken to approve the payment of bills as of February 28, 2021 in the amount of \$233,357.23 and the unpaid bills in the amount of \$172,184.82.

6. Police Report- Chief Watson

a. Chief Watson thanked Council for moving forward with the LEAD Program.

b. Chief Watson discussed the dangerous trend of youths congregating in large groups on dirt bikes and ATVs.

7. Code and Fire Report- Mike Volpe

a. The Code and Fire report is on file in the Borough Manager's office.

b. The Volunteer Fire Department is holding its Fish Fry every Friday through Lent.

8. Public Works- Greg Bachy

a. The Public Works Report is on file in the Borough Manager's office.

b. We received the DPW building drawings from the architect and engineer.

i. After sharing the drawings with the DPW Committee and staff, it was determined that some small changes will need to be made.

ii. Once final drawings are received they will be submitted to Council for approval.

c. Complaints from residents at 7324 & 7326 Trevanion Avenue have been resolved and permits will be issued at the end of this week to address the

landslide.

- d. Street sweeping will begin April 5, 2021. Warnings will be given for the first two weeks. Ticketing will begin April 19, 2021.

9. Borough Manager Report- Katie Malsch

- a. Financial Statements of Interest are due from all elected officials.
- b. City Reach Church will hold a diaper drive on Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 11am to 5pm.
- c. Core Architects and their engineers began their investigation of the building's structural integrity. They will attend the March 31, 2021 agenda meeting to provide their findings.
- d. Mrs. Malsch and Mr. Bachy attended the LGA internship orientation. They will meet virtually with potential interns on March 18, 2021.
- e. Mrs. Malsch reported on preliminary research she has done that would allow the administrative staff to work from home.
 - i. Mrs. Malsch reached out to two separate phone providers that provide a service that would work outside of the Borough building or forward calls to a cell phone. One gave a quote and she is still waiting to hear from the other.
 - ii. She has totals for laptops and will forward all this information to Council once she receives the last quote.
- f. Police, Fire and DPW departments have been compiling vehicle usage data. Mrs. Malsch will send this information to Council once she has everyone's data for all vehicles.
- g. The second round of interviews for the Finance Director position have concluded. The committee will have a recommendation for hire by the next meeting at the beginning of April.

10. C.O.G. Report- Weldianne Scales

- a. COG met in February and discussed the Allegheny County Blight Removal Program.
- b. Bids were approved under the CITF Grant Application for road reconstruction, a community center roof replacement, and municipal building renovations. Ms. Scales suggested that we look out for these opportunities for our own municipality.
- c. COVID Vaccine Update

- i. Giant Eagle has online registration for COVID vaccines which will be administered at Heinz Field. You may also register by phone at 1-877-288-2070.
- ii. UPMC is in Phase 1A which is for those 65 and older. Online registration is available at vaccine.upmc.com or call 844-876-2822.

11. CONNECT Report- Shawn Alfonso Wells

- a. Councilwoman Alfonso Wells wants to investigate the possibility of getting walk in vaccination clinics in our neighborhood since many people here are pedestrians and don't have cars.
- b. CONNECT held a workshop on equity and inclusion. The goal was to eliminate institutionalized racism.
- c. The LEAD Program, and sustainable recycling were also discussed.
- d. Councilwoman Alfonso Wells requested numbers from the Borough Manager to modernize the administrative office so that employees can work from home.

12. President's Report- Abigail Salisbury

- a. Code and Fire provided the revenue that comes from Code enforcement. President Salisbury would like to see numbers of warning letters and citations as opposed to just revenue.
- b. President Salisbury thanked Christopher Paul Miller who bought trash cans for people in the community.
- c. President Salisbury recognized the St. Patrick's Day holiday.

13. Mayor's Report- Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder

- a. The following organizations are looking for new members: Swissvale Farmer's Market, Swissvale Rotary, SEDCO, Shade Tree Committee.
- b. The following events need volunteers: Swissvale Community Days, Juneteenth celebration, Easter egg hunt.
- c. The Easter egg hunt will take place March 20 to April 3, 2021. The Easter Bunny will be at Memorial Park on April 3, 2021 with volunteers to pass out prize baskets to participants.
- d. SEDCO is starting monthly clean-up on March 20, 2021, at 10am in Goodfella's parking lot on McCague. Volunteers are welcome.

- e. The Enterprise Zone has offered its first bridge loan in Swissvale to the Dairy Delight to assist the owner with building improvements.
 - f. Mayor Swartzwelder reminded everyone to Spring Forward 1-hour next Sunday, March 14, 2021 for Daylight Savings Time.
14. Borough Engineer's Report- Bob Zischkau
- a. No report
15. Water Authority Report- Tracey Crombie-Collins
- a. Report is on file in the Borough Manager's office.
 - b. Main points were read into the record by President Salisbury.
16. Solicitor's Report- David Mongillo
- a. No report
17. Meeting was closed in honor of Officer Nick Kalogeris' mom who passed away last night.
18. Motion to adjourn at 8:44pm
- Motion by C. Ansell. 2nd by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes. Motion passes.