



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

APRIL 7, 2021

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:03 PM.
2. ROLL CALL
 - a. W. Price – here, D. Petrarca – here, S. Alfonso Wells – here, M. Stanton – here, W. Scales – here, C. Ansell – here, D. Swartzwelder – here, A. Salisbury – here.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Frank Berry
 - i. The Swissvale Historical Commission had their first official meeting.
 - b. Jiri Vřsek
 - i. Thanked Council and the police department for addressing his concerns about Wilson’s Nite Out
 - c. Miranda Crotsley
 - i. Expressed concerns about transparency in the decision to purchase a new website and create the assistant finance director position
 - d. Tim Dalton, Tom Crombie, Bill Hahn and Jim Ohodnicki
 - i. Expressed the desire to dedicate the basketball court at Collingwood Park in honor of Darren Poindexter.
4. Business Agenda Items:
 - a. Approval of Minutes –
 - i. MOTION: I move to approve the February 24th, 2021 Agenda Meeting minutes.
 1. Motion by C. Ansell, second by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes, motion carries.
 - b. Approval of Subdivision –

- i. MOTION: I move to approve the Manchego/Navarro subdivision at 2502 and 2504 Woodstock Avenue.
 - 1. Motion to amend the motion as written by C. Ansell, second by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes, motion carries.
 - 2. Motion to C. Ansell, second by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes, motion carries.
- c. Finance Department Hiring –
 - i. MOTION: I move to hire Cameron Caputi as the Borough Finance Director at a salary of \$52,500 annually, effective April 12, 2021.
 - 1. Motion by C. Ansell, second by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes, motion carries.
 - ii. MOTION: I move to promote Dione Hood to the position of Assistant Finance Director at a salary of \$46,716.80, effective April 12, 2021.
 - 1. Motion by C. Ansell, second by W. Price. All ayes, motion carries.
- d. Vactor Agreement
 - i. MOTION: I move to approve the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments 2021 Vactor opt-in agreement at a cost of \$18,150.00
 - 1. Motion by M. Stanton, second by W. Scales. All ayes, motion carries.
- e. Borough Website and Agenda Management Solution –
 - i. MOTION: I move to approve the purchase of a new Borough Website through CivicPlus at the initial cost of \$31,987.00.
 - 1. Motion by C. Ansell, second by W. Scales. All ayes, motion carries.
 - ii. MOTION: I move to approve the purchase of an agenda management software solution, CivicClerk, at the initial cost of \$13,898.00.
 - 1. Motion by C. Ansell, second by W. Scales.
 - 2. Motion to table the motion by S. Alfonso Wells, second by W. Scales. All ayes, motion carries.
- f. Insurance Rate Renewal –
 - i. MOTION: I move to approve the renewal of the Borough's insurance with Duncan Financial Group with a change in the annual premium from \$108,799.00 to \$124,262.00.
 - 1. Motion by C. Ansell, second by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes, motion carries.
- g. Act 152 Blight Mitigation Grant Resolutions –
 - i. MOTION: I move to approve **Resolution 21-04** formally requesting Act 152 funds.

1. Motion by M. Stanton, second by W. Scales. All ayes, motion carries.

ii. MOTION: I move to approve the Demolition, Slums, and Blight Resolution 21-05.

1. Motion by M. Stanton, second by W. Scales. All ayes, motion carries.

h. Demolition Clearance Hearings

i. MOTION: I move to schedule demolition clearance hearings for properties located at 2520 South Braddock Avenue, 7313 Florence Avenue, 2521 Woodstock Avenue, and 7538-7530 Short Street at 6:00 p.m. on April 28, 2021.

1. Motion by M. Stanton, second by . All ayes, motion carries.

i. Letter of support for the Mannesmann Foundation's Entrepreneurs Forever Program

i. Motion: I move to submit a letter of support to the Appalachian Regional Commission Power Fund on behalf of the Mannesmann Foundation's Entrepreneurs Forever Program as part of their application for grant funds.

1. Motion by C. Ansell, second by S. Alfonso Wells. 6 ayes, A. Salisbury abstains. Motion carries.

5. Finance Report – Chris Ansell

a. a. Paid and Unpaid Bills –

i. MOTION: I move to approve the payment of bills as of March 31, 2021 in the amount of \$464,348.81 and the unpaid bills in the amount of \$9,275.09.

1. Motion by C. Ansell, second by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes, motion carries.

b. Mr. Ansell updated everyone on the budget numbers he had questioned at the last legislative meeting.

c. As chairperson of the finance committee, Mr. Ansell wants council members to submit recommendations for how the American Rescue Funds should be spent. The finance committee will then make a final recommendation to council.

6. Police Report – Chief Watson

a. Lieutenant Peter DeFazio retired after working 32 years in Swissvale. Thank you for your service.

b. The department is actively working on residents' complaints regarding Wilson's Nite Out

7. Code and Fire Report – Clyde Wilhelm

a. The Borough received a \$100,000 CITF grant for demolitions.

b. Yearly fire inspections of commercial and multi-unit properties have started.

c. The Fish fry is finished and the department thanks everyone for the support.

8. Public Works Report – Greg Bachy

- a. Saturday May 15th is clean-up day.
 - i. The hard-to-recycle collection event will be at Memorial Park from 9 am - 1 pm. The collection event is for residents only; proof of residency is required to participate.
 - ii. Volunteers will meet at the DPW garage at 1927 McCague Street at 9 am for the community clean-up. Supplies are provided.
- b. Mr. Bachy congratulated Luke Conley for passing his CDL test.
- c. Residents are concerned about getting parking tickets during street sweeping season.
 - i. Due to the pandemic people are required to work from home and do not have parking available.
 - ii. If people don't move their cars it will limit the functionality of the street sweeper.
 - iii. For the time being, the Borough will hold off on ticketing while the DPW committee meets with staff to review the street sweeping schedule.

9. Borough Manager Report – Katie Malsch

- a. The Borough has an intern through a program run by the Local Government Academy.

10. C.O.G. Report – Weldianne Scales

- a. The COG met and discussed time lags in Allegheny County 911 calls, COVID-19 vaccinations, the vector truck, an Active Threat Response Training for police in May, Act 152 grants, and American Recovery Act Funds.

11. CONNECT Report – Shawn Alfonso-Wells

- a. Ms. Alfonso Wells met with CONNECT and discussed the LEAD program, regional waste management, and digital record retention programs.

12. President's Report– Abigail Salisbury

- a. Ms. Salisbury wants a volunteer to research estimates on trash cans before allocating funds
- b. Please include the public comment regarding the Collingwood Park basketball court in the next agenda meeting.

13. Mayor's Report – Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder

- a. Mayor Swartzwelder thanked the participants and volunteers from the egg hunt.
- b. SEDCO clean-up is Saturday at 10 am starting in the Goodfellas parking lot.
- c. Enterprise Zone granted their first business loan to the Swissvale Dari Delite
- d. The Farmer's Market starts June 5th and runs through October.
- e. Community Days is June 18th and 19th.

14. Borough Engineer's Report – Bob Zischkau

- a. Report is on file

15. Water Authority Report – Tracey Crombie-Collins

- a. Report is on file

16. Solicitors Report – Robert McTiernan

- a. Title searches were completed on the properties listed for demolition which allows the Borough to contact the owners about the public hearing.

17. New Business

- a. The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee has put together a Juneteenth celebration.
 - i. Local artist contest and youth essay competition (Swissvale youth only)
 - ii. Local businesses can contact Ms. Scales if they are interested in supporting the contests.
 - iii. Details will be included in the next issue of the newsletter. The deadline is April 30th.

18. Motion to adjourn by S. Alfonso Wells, second by W. Price. All ayes, motion carries.

19. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.