



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**June 6, 2018**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
  2. Invocation – Pastor Eric Baldwin
  3. Pledge of Allegiance – Councilman David Petrarca
  4. Roll Call – P. Gionta – here, D. Petrarca – here, J. Grose – here, D. Swartzwelder – here, A. Salisbury – here, T. Ward – here, M. Stanton – here, D. Rapp – absent
  5. Public Comment
    - a. None
  6. Agenda Items:
    - a. Presentation by Mr. John Spehar from the OASIS Intergenerational Tutoring Program.
      - i. Mr. Spehar presented the OASIS Program in order to spread the word about the program and solicit new volunteers. The program matches volunteers who are 50 or older with students in Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. They offer academic tutoring in reading, writing and oral communication. They operate in all three Woodland Hills primary schools. Tutors are given a 2-day training which is research-based and correlated to the academic standards of the schools they'll be volunteering in, as well as Common Core state educational standards. OASIS pays for volunteers to obtain all necessary clearances.
    - b. Motion to ratify the repaving of half of Whipple Street from Monongahela to Monroe and half of Church Street from Hanover to Monongahela as part of the WPJWA restoration project after water line replacement in the approximate amount of \$19,000 to A. Liberoni, Inc., who is the contractor for restoration work for the WPJWA, which was publicly bid on a per unit/quantity basis. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
    - c. Motion to approve the repaving of half of Woodstock Avenue from South Braddock to Wilkins as part of the WPJWA restoration project after water line replacement in the approximate amount of \$25,000 to A. Liberoni, Inc. who is the
-

contractor for restoration work for the WPJWA, which was publicly bid on a per unit/quantity basis. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by T. Ward. All ayes, motion carries.

- d. Motion to adopt **Resolution 18-15** authorizing the transfer of Funds from the Surplus Unreserved Unappropriated Funds from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by . All ayes, motion carries.
  - e. Motion to authorize the Manager and Engineer to prepare and advertise for bids for the Street Scape Project for Noble and Waverly Streets. Moved by P.Gionta, Second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
  - f. Motion to ratify the Salt Procurement Agreement with Cargill for the 2018-2019 winter season at a price of \$70.93 per ton. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
  - g. Motion to approve the Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT for the TAP Grant. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
  - h. Motion to adopt **Resolution 18-16** designating signature authority for the administration of the TAP Grant. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
  - i. Motion to adopt **Resolution 18-17** approving the Policies and Procedures for selecting a Construction Inspector for the TAP Project. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
  - j. Motion to adopt **Resolution 18-18** authorizing grant application to ALCOSAN-GROW program and designating signature authority of program documents. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by D. Petrarca. All ayes, motion carries.
  - k. Motion to approve Amendment to Lease with the Wilkins School Community Center. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
7. Finance Report – Councilman Tim Ward
- Paid Bills as of **May 31, 2018** in the amount of **\$ 290,121.92**
  - Unpaid Bills as of **May 31, 2018** in the amount of **\$ 29,092.61**
  - Motion to accept the financial report by T. Ward, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
8. Police Report – Councilwoman Patricia Gionta
- a. Report is on file in the Borough Manager's office.
-

- b. Chief Watson, Mayor Swartzwelder and Council member Patricia Gionta interviewed part time officer candidates and moved to hire Michael Rosfeld, Ryan Terek and Richard Susalla as part-time police officers, pending background checks. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
  - c. There have been several thefts from unlocked vehicles, including an incident where the keys were left in the vehicle and the car was stolen. The vehicle has since been recovered and an arrest has been made. Chief Watson asked residents to please call 911 to report theft. The department has had success in catching suspects by stepping up patrols.
9. Code and Fire Report – Councilwoman Michele Stanton, Asst. Chief Kip Deleonibus
- a. It was a reasonably busy month for the fire department. While we had no serious incidents here in the Borough, we did assisted with North Braddock Fire Department with 3 structure fires in Braddock Hills.
  - b. The Shift Commanders and Duty Crews are nearing the end of conducting approximately 225 annual fire inspections of commercial properties.
  - c. Code enforcement has issued 78 property maintenance violations notices and 6 citations in May.
10. Public Works Report – Councilman David Petrarca
- a. Report is on file in the Borough Manager’s office.
  - b. Clean Up Day was held on May 19th. 34 volunteers participated in the cleanup of the business district and corridors and collected 82 bags of trash. The clean up at Memorial Field collected 500 tires, 30,000 pounds bulk waste, 20,000 pounds of TVs, 9,000 pounds of computers and 12,000 pounds of paints. 396 households participated in the drop off.
  - c. The work at Collingwood Playground will be finished in the next 2 weeks. The Public Works department continues to work on patching potholes. Work on alleys will begin in the next 2 weeks. They will also be painting crosswalks, cutting grass, cutting 128 abandoned lots, pruning trees, repairing brick streets, replacing street signs and repairing storm and sanitary sewers.
  - d. Mr. Petrarca asked that residents please slow down when they see workers in the street to help keep them safe.
11. Outstanding Complaints Report – None
12. C.O.G. Report – Councilman Tim Ward
-

- a. The C.O.G. met on May 24. Electronic filing was discussed and the COG is trying to get grant funding to assist boroughs with this. Mr. Ward asked if the borough already scans their documents. Mr. Wilhelm advised that we currently scan and file ordinances, contracts, resolutions, etc. but we do not electronically file bills.
- b. The C.O.G. talked about asking the courts and magistrates to obtain guilty pleas for code violations rather than waiving charges, so that if someone is brought before a magistrate there is a documented history of their prior violations.
- c. The COG also discussed a municipal solar initiative. Mr. Ward believes the volunteer fire station would be an ideal place to install solar panels. Mr. Wilhelm stated that the fire department has looked into this and it is not cost effective. The consultant at the COG Managers meeting stated that pay back is 45 years, it's not grant funded and it is not financially beneficial or advantageous. Mr. Ward felt those numbers may not be accurate and will investigate it further.
- d. Mr. Zischkau commented that Mr. Ward should contact Bill Tomasic from Forest Hills who just built a new building that has those initiatives incorporated into it. Mr. Ward agreed that the new borough building in Forest Hills is a good example of sustainable construction and we should consider that as we look to replace our municipal building.

### 13. President's Remarks – President Stanton

- a. Ms. Stanton reiterated that residents should slow down when driving in the borough.

### 14. Mayor's Report – Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder

- a. The Swissvale Farmers Market opened for the season on June 2 and had the best attendance in 5 years. The mayor thanked everyone who helped to make it a success by making sure that the electricity was hooked up, garbage cans were put out and signs were put out.
  - b. The monthly SEDCO cleanup will take place on Sat. June 9. Volunteers meet at 10 a.m. at Goodfellas.
  - c. National Night Out is August 7. Anyone holding a Block Party should file a request for street closure in the borough office.
  - d. A car lost its brakes on the Parkway West exit ramp and hit the flower planting site opposite the ramp. No one was injured and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy provided replacement flowers for the planting site.
  - e. SEDCO is selling strip tickets for \$5 each to pay their insurance bill. They can be purchased at Community Days on June 15 and 16. Community Days will take
-

place at Dickson Field and will include a K-9 demonstration, entertainment, food, drink and fireworks.

- f. The Swissvale Mile will be taking place on June 23. Anyone interested in participating can still register for the run/walk.

#### 15. Water Authority Report – Tracey Crombie-Collins

- a. Report is on file in the Borough Manager's office.
- b. Between 4/16 and 5/11 there were two water main breaks. One on Harrison Street and one on Church Street. The water meter at the flower planting site is being looked at by the authority to ensure it is working correctly. At the Water Authority meeting on 5/22, change orders were submitted for Church and Whipple Street.
- c. Mr. Ward asked if the WPJWA can let us know when they bid restoration work so that the Borough can piggy-back on that. A discussion followed and Mr. Wilhelm, Mr. Bachy and Ms. Crombie-Collins explained why this cannot be done as part of our paving program.

#### 16. Planning Commission – Greg Bachy

- a. The Planning Commission did not meet in May. The next meeting will be on June 21. We are expecting a couple of conditional use applications for micro-cell towers in several locations. There have been some areas of the Zoning Ordinance that have been found to be problematic and Mr. Bachy will be asking the commission to review various sections and may bring suggested changes to council. It will be a multi-month project.

#### 17. Solicitor Report – Gavin Robb

- a. No report.

#### 18. Engineer Report – Robert Zischkau

- a. The ALCOSAN-GROW grant application voted on by council would provide reimbursement for between 25 and 85% of the \$200,000 cost of the rain garden below Memorial Park. The application is due by the end of the month. Recipients are expected to be announced in September.
- b. Mr. Zischkau would like to meet with the Borough Manager and Asst. Manager regarding modifying the current street opening ordinance.

#### 19. Borough Manager Report – Clyde Wilhelm

---

- a. Electricity has been connected in the Noble St. parking lot for the Farmer's Market. Power will also be turned back on at Dickson Field for Community Days.
- b. Mr. Wilhelm spoke with Patrick Shattuck from the Mon Valley Initiative and learned that First Commonwealth will provide mortgages for the condos at the Deniston Schoolhouse. There are already 40 people on the waiting list to be considered for pre-purchasing condos which will cost between \$150,000 to \$210,000. He thanked council for their help on this project.
- c. Ms. Salisbury asked about the Dollar General Code issues. Mr. Wilhelm reported this is ongoing. The store on Church Street is now less cluttered but not as clean as it could be and the new store on S. Braddock Avenue has not cut its grass since they moved in. They have been served with a violation notice and given 30 days to rectify the situation. If action is not taken they will be cited.
- d. Mr. Wilhelm asked to meet with council in executive session for legal matters.

20. Unfinished Business - None

21. New Business

- a. P. Gionta inquired about residents fixing cars on the streets and having cars up on blocks for extended periods. The existing state vehicle code forbids residents to keep a vehicle on the street if the vehicle is inoperable. Chief Watson noted that this resident has had their car towed and gotten it out of impound repeatedly and has also been cited for street sweeping violations and has paid those tickets. Ms. Gionta asked about making an ordinance that would address this issue. The solicitor offered to review current ordinances and see what other ordinance might be necessary.
- b. A Salisbury asked about Dumpster Permits. A discussion followed. Mr. Wilhelm advised on the Ordinance and the requirements and said code enforcement actively enforces this.
- c. There is no regular council meeting on July 4. The July meeting will be held on July 11.
- d. A. Salisbury noted that a Small Business Roundtable will be held at 2011 Noble Street at 10 a.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month to offer brainstorming, troubleshooting and problem solving for Swissvale business owners.

22. Motion to adjourn. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by T.Ward. All ayes, motion carries.

23. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

---