



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

June 5, 2019

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.
2. Invocation – Pastor Eric Baldwin
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Councilwoman Abigail Salisbury
4. Roll Call – P. Gionta – here, D. Petrarca – here, J. Grose – here, T. Ward – here, A. Salisbury – here, D. Swartzwelder – here, M. Stanton – here. D. Rapp – absent.
5. Public Comment
 1. Bonnie Spoales (1604 Oak Grove)
 - i. Ms. Spoales would like to know more about the conditions of the Washington Street Bridge. She also wants to know if there are any plans to make repairs.
 1. Mr. Wilhelm has explained that the bridge itself is not owned by the borough but by the railroad company. The borough is currently waiting on the railroad company to fix the bridge before they can start patching the pavement.
 - ii. Ms. Spoales is here to discuss the paving of several streets in the neighborhood including Whipple.
 1. Mr. Bachy responded that he had planned to pave Whipple and other streets on that side of town but chose to delay the project until construction is completed at Dickson School.
 - iii. Ms. Spoales wants to know the borough's official stance on fracking.
 1. Solicitor McTiernan said that the borough had to zone for it during the rezoning process and it is in the industrial zone away from any residential areas.
 2. Chuck Warden (Representative of Savvy Citizen)
 - i. Savvy Citizen is a platform that allows municipalities to communicate easier and faster with their residents. Access can be given to several employees and they can post information as it becomes available. They will be able to post from anywhere as long as they have internet access.

- ii. Residents who sign up to use Savvy Citizen can choose how they would like to receive updates. They can choose email, text, or push notifications. They can also filter the messages to receive only the information they want.
 - iii. If the borough agrees to move forward and agree to pay they will receive twelve months for the price of ten.
 - iv. Motion to enter into an agreement with Savvy Citizen for a one year term. Motion by J. Grose, second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
- 6. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes from the Agenda meeting on April 24, 2019 and the Regular Meeting on May 1, 2019. Motion by P. Gionta, second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
- 7. Agenda Items –
 - 1. Motion to approve **Ordinance 19-01** Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the Borough of Homestead to provide garbage collection. Motion by D. Petrarca, second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
 - 2. Motion to approve **Ordinance 19-02** Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the Borough of Braddock Hills to provide Municipal Police Services. Motion by T. Ward, second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
 - 3. Motion to approve **Resolution 19-10** for Credit Card Services with First Commonwealth Bank. Motion by P. Gionta, second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
 - 4. Motion to approve the purchase of a 2019 Freightliner Garbage Truck in the amount of \$171,469 from Mid Atlantic Waste Systems under COSTARS contract 25-194. Motion by D. Petrarca, second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
 - 5. Motion to approve the purchase of a 2019 Ford F450 Chassis in the amount of \$33,202 from C. Harper under COSTARS contract 25-251. Motion by D. Petrarca, second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
 - 6. Motion to ratify the hiring of Elvis Melezovic and John Moss as part-time Firefighter/Paramedics at the contractual rate of \$14.27 per hour. Motion by P. Gionta, second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
 - 7. Motion to ratify the hiring of Jocelyn Tucker and Dione Hood as Administrative Assistants at an annual salary of \$34,500. Motion by T. Ward, second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
- 8. Finance Report – Councilman Tim Ward
 - Paid bills as of May 31st, 2019 in the amount of \$ 273,512.78.
 - Unpaid bills as of May 31st, 2019 in the amount of \$ 39,320.52.
 - Second by D. Petrarca. All ayes, motion carries.
- 9. Police Report
 - 1. The police report is on file in the manager's office.

2. Motion to have the borough manager write a letter to the Civil Service Commission to initiate a new full time officer test and compile a new eligibility list from the Civil Service Commission. Motion by P. Gionta, second by D. Petrarca. All ayes, motion carries.
 3. Two homicides have occurred in Swissvale in the last few weeks:
 - i. Swissvale PD is working with Allegheny County Homicide detectives to investigate the shooting that occurred on Woodstock on May 19, 2019.
 - ii. The second shooting took place at a house party on Ellesmere. There was a confrontation in which the suspect allegedly had a firearm stolen from him at the party. A short time later he confronted the alleged thief with another weapon. There was one reported fatality. Police were able to apprehend the suspect after several witness interviews.
 - iii. Chief Watson has set up meetings with the DA's office to get funding for an update to our camera system. The DA is working with communities in the area as well as federal agencies to pursue federal charges for gun crimes. Chief Watson has also reached out to community leaders for youth outreach and gun violence programs.
 - iv. There were suggestions from the audience to have a community session that would allow various block watch/crime watch groups to connect in person. There was also a suggestion for trauma sessions to deal with the emotional toll gun violence can have on people. We can also create block watch groups/committees which can then nominate block captains.
 4. Chief Watson has an update regarding the burglaries on Columbia, Saint Lawrence, and Milligan.
 - i. Two individuals were involved in these crimes, one was committing the crime and the other was pawning the items. They were caught and arrested.
10. Code and Fire Report
1. The Code and Fire Report is on file in the Borough Manager's Office.
 2. The Citizens' Fire Academy is set to begin in August, any interested applicants should apply. Applications can be found online and in the office.
11. Public Works Report
1. The Public Works Report is on file in the Borough Manager's Office.
 2. The Public Works Department has advertised for a new CDL Driver Position. The primary duty will be to drive the garbage or recycling truck and throw trash and recyclables. Applicants must hold a class A or B Commercial Driver's License at the time of application. The deadline to apply is Tuesday June 11th at 4:30 pm. Applications can be found online or at the Manager's Office. They can be dropped off in person or emailed to gbachy@swissvaleborough.com

3. The borough will be advertising for bids for the 2019 Summer Paving Project. Roads to be paved include Milligan Avenue from Westmoreland Avenue to Patterson Street. They are also reconstructing four intersections on Columbia Avenue, repairing twelve sanitary manholes, and installing thermoplastic cross walks at all intersections. This is the same scope of work that was discussed at the budget meeting back in November.
4. Summer Grass Cutting
 - i. There are 125 vacant lots that are maintained by the borough throughout the summer. So far we have reached 100 of those lots. Summer help started in the last couple weeks so we now have a crew dedicated to cutting grass. Mr. Ward wants to determine if any of these vacant lots the borough maintains be repurposed into a dog park. There could be the possibility of combining future projects to address several issues.
5. Updates on the South Braddock Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Project:
 - i. Since the project started in March, 25 storm inlets have been repaired, 3 sanitary sewers were replaced, and 20 out of 89 handicap ramps have been started. So far the project is on schedule and on budget.
6. Mr. Bachy received the bill from Clean-Up Day from ECSR. We collected fewer items this year compared to last year. Mr. Bachy is disappointed by the lack of community involvement and wants to look for solutions to get people interested in volunteering their time.
 - i. Members of council have proposed splitting the two events and having a separate day dedicated to cleaning up around the borough, and possibly having more than one event a year.
12. Outstanding Complaints – none
13. C.O.G Report – Tim Ward
 1. Nothing to report
14. President's Remarks
 1. Nothing to report
15. Mayor's Report
 1. Community Days is June 14th and 15th at the new location of Memorial Park. Residents can stop by for the usual games, food, and live entertainment. Gates open at 6pm on Friday and the live entertainment will include a K-9 demonstration followed by live music from the group Zoot Island. On Saturday the gates open at 5pm with music from Gary Burke, This Indecision, and Fireworks at 10pm.
 2. Saturday June 8th is the SEDCO monthly clean-up

3. Last Saturday was the first run of this year's farmers market. It was a wonderful day. The farmers market will run until October in the Noble Street parking lot.

16. Water Authority Report – Tracey Crombie-Collins

1. If residents have questions about the lead levels in their water they can find information on the water authority's website.
2. New design on the bills → Slimmer font to allow for more messages
3. WPJWA is moving to a new health care carrier to provide employees with options for their healthcare
4. Union contract is under negotiations
5. Carrie Furnace property- a resolution was drawn up with CSX Transportation because the water will cross under two sections of the railroad
6. There were 36 water main breaks since April
7. The Kenmawr Bridge project will be completed by the Water Authority on the Swissvale side because they felt it would be done faster and cheaper than if PennDot completed it
8. Woodstock Terrace Update – concerned resident met with members of the water authority. The water authority is going to start making repairs to the road.

17. Planning Commission – Greg Bachy

1. The planning commission did not meet last month but they will be meeting in June to discuss the portion of Carrie Furnace Land Development that falls in Swissvale. They currently plan to raise the grade of the land and install a storm water management system. They are looking to install two detention ponds and tying those into the existing storm water system. They aren't planning to pave it at this time. This proposal will set the available plots of land for later development.

18. Solicitor's Report – Robert McTiernan – nothing to report

19. Engineer's Report – Robert Zischkau

1. Attended an ALCOSAN meeting for the proposed repairs for the regionalization takeover for the lines in M47/9 mile run. Mr. Zischkau is compiling a list of required repairs. A report will be ready in the next two to three weeks to determine what costs the borough will be responsible for and what will be paid by Braddock Hills.

20. Borough Manager's Report – Clyde Wilhelm

1. The restatement of the Police pension will be advertised so that council will vote on it at the July legislative meeting.
2. Mr. Wilhelm would like to thank the Department of Public Works for all their help at Memorial Park this last week. They were instrumental in getting the park ready for Community Days.

3. Mr. Wilhelm has requested to meet with council at the end of this meeting to discuss matters of personnel.

21. Unfinished Business

22. New Business

23. Council President Stanton stated for the record that council met in executive session on May 29th and will meet on June 5th to discuss matters of legal and personnel.

24. Motion to Adjourn – P. Gionta, second J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.

25. Meeting Adjourned at 8:01pm.