



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

November 6, 2019

1. Meeting called to order at 7pm.
2. Invocation – Pastor Dennis Handley
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Councilman Tim Ward
4. Roll Call – S. Alfonso- Wells- Here; D. Petrarca- Here; J. Grose- Here; T. Ward- Here; A. Salisbury- Here; Mayor Swartzwelder- Here; President Stanton- Here; D. Rapp arrived at 7:03pm
5. Public Comment –
 - A. Abby Godolli- Outreach Coordinator at the Human Services Center- 519 Penn Ave, Turtle Creek, PA
 - i. Ms. Godolli reported that she is looking for volunteers to prepare taxes and greet people at the center on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. No experience is necessary and free training is provided.
 - ii. Ms. Godolli also reported on the World Aids Day event taking place on December 4 at McKeesport Family Center from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. There will be hot dogs, information about HIV and free HIV testing. This event is free and open to the public.
 - B. Hollen Barmer of 7930 St. Lawrence Ave
 - i. Ms. Barmer expressed anger over the handling of the racist graffiti incident at the playground near the busway. She would like the Borough to do better when handling racist incidents.

C. Carol Steen of 1201 LaClair St.

- i. Ms. Steen is concerned that the Borough is marking perfectly healthy trees for removal for no reason. She would like an explanation since many of the residents who live by the trees spend their own money to maintain them.
- ii. Ms. Steen also expressed concern about being left in the dark about the new Borough building.

D. Rachel Thompson of 7113 Schoyer Ave

- i. Ms. Thompson congratulated the newly elected council members.
- ii. Ms. Thompson also expressed concern over the handling of the racist graffiti incident. She feels that Swissvale should have taken responsibility and treated the incident as a hate crime rather than minor property damage. Ms. Thompson felt it would have been treated differently if it was a crime against white people.
- iii. Ms. Thompson feels public should have good estimates in hand for the new Borough Building.

E. Jenna Colby of 7618 Roslyn St.

- i. Ms. Colby expressed concern over the lack of lights outside the polling place at the Borough Building, which caused the building to appear closed after dark. Many people who came to vote became confused and left.

F. William Price of 2009 Noble St.

- i. Mr. Price expressed concern over rumors he overheard that Council is rushing to vote on the new Borough Building before 3 Council members leave. He wants a moratorium until the newly elected Council members are in place.

G. Miranda Crotsley of 7930 St. Lawrence

- i. Ms. Crotsley feels that the public and Council should see a line by line accounting of the new Borough Building Project before any decisions are made.

- ii. Ms. Crotsley also expressed discontentment over the Borough's lack of public response concerning the racist graffiti incident.

H. Ed Goldbach of 1715 Tonette

- i. Mr. Goldbach expressed concern over fireworks being launched every year on July 4th at the corner of Aurelius and McClure and most recently on September 17, 2019.
 - 1. Chief Watson advised him to call the police to address the issue. No action can be taken unless the perpetrators are caught in the act.
 - 2. Video can be introduced as evidence, but the witness must testify in court.
 - 3. It is possible to have increased police presence around this problematic address.

6. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes from the Agenda meeting on August 28, 2019, the Agenda meeting on September 25, 2019, the Regular meeting on September 4, 2019, and the Regular meeting on October 2, 2019. Motion by D. Petrarca, second by T. Ward. All ayes- Motion carries.

7. Agenda Items –

A. Motion on a Conditional Use request by Roundz Lounge to operate a nightclub at 1814 South Braddock Avenue with the following conditions:

- i. The establishment shall be closed by 2 am nightly.
- ii. An off-site parking lease must be obtained and maintained while the nightclub is in operation.
- iii. Applicant agrees to take steps to control noise to ensure that nearby residents are not disturbed.

- 1. Motion tabled until the applicant provides a copy of the parking lease.

B. Motion to approve **Resolution #19-19** to apply for Community Development Block Grant funding in the amount of \$20,000.00 to install

five handicapped accessible curb ramps on Noble Street. Motion by T. Ward, second by D. Petrarca. All ayes, motion carries.

- C. Motion to award a contract to Sciarretti Site Development & Paving Company in the amount of \$49,180.28 for the Lilmont Drive Storm Sewer Slip Lining project. Motion by D. Petrarca, second by T. Ward. All ayes, motion carries.
- D. Motion to award a contract to Plavchak Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$216,450.00 for the Streetscape Phase 2B Project. Motion by T. Ward, second by D. Petrarca. All ayes, motion carries.
- E. Motion to hire Solomon Morris as a Second-Class Operator in the Department of Public Works at the contractual rate of \$17.11 per hour. Motion by D. Petrarca, second by T. Ward. All ayes, motion carries.
- F. Motion to approve **Resolution #19-20** for a VPRP side yard application for Parcel 235-E-007. Motion by D. Petrarca, second by T. Ward. All ayes, motion carries.
- G. Motion to approve **Resolution #19-21** to authorize participation in a joint grant application with the Boroughs of Braddock Hills and Edgewood for funding through the PA Small Water and Sewer Program to fund improvements required prior to the takeover of certain sanitary sewer lines by Alcosan as part of the Alcosan Regionalization program. Motion by D. Petrarca, second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.

8. Finance Report – Councilman Tim Ward

- A. Paid bills as of October 31st, 2019 in the amount of \$ 688,573.98.
- B. Unpaid bills as of October 31st, 2019 in the amount of \$ 111,989.27.
 - i. Motion by T. Ward, second by J. Grose. All ayes- Motion carries.

9. Police Report- Chief Watson

- A. Police report is on file in the Borough manager's office.
- B. Chief Watson addressed the racist vandalism at the parklet near the Roslyn St. Station
 - i. Chief Watson reported the incident immediately to the Chief of Port Authority Police when he became aware of it.

- ii. Chief Watson stated that the Police Department takes all threats seriously and understands why people are upset about the nature of these statements.
- iii. The Police Department is looking into the situation over the next couple of days and will provide more information as it is available.

C. The Swissvale Police Department received a Platinum Award for Traffic Safety from AAA.

10. Code and Fire Report- Asst. Chief Volpe

- A. Code and Fire Report is on file in the Borough Manager's Office.
- B. The next CPR class is Saturday November 16 starting at 9am. If anyone wants to sign up, please call the Fire Station
- C. 4 members of the Fire Department attended a joint training held by the Department of Public Safety for the City of Pittsburgh.
 - i. The training consisted of a lecture and hands on drills involving treating and extricating people from an active shooter situation.
 - ii. Asst. Chief Volpe hopes to get all 22 career members of the Fire Department through the training

11. Public Works Report- Councilman David Petrarca

A. Veteran's Day

- i. The Borough office will be closed on Veteran's Day, but garbage will be collected as scheduled.
- ii. Recycling will be one day late but will be picked up by Friday.

B. Leaf Collection

- i. Leaf collection began Friday, November 1, 2019 and will continue through Friday, December 6, 2019 weather permitting.
- ii. We cannot take trees or contaminated leaves.
- iii. All leaves must be raked into the street by 7am on collection day.

- iv. Cars don't have to be moved, but if a car is parked too close to the leaves, they can't be picked up.

C. Snow and Ice Removal

- i. Snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours of snowfall.
- ii. DPW crews are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to keep roads safe and passable.
- iii. Please observe parking restrictions posted on streets and alleys so the Borough can safely plow and salt all streets and alleys in a timely manner.
- iv. Please park in a garage or driveway if you have one available.
- v. Park as close to the curb as possible so trucks have room to maneuver between the cars and pull in mirrors.
- vi. Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code prohibits parking within 15 feet of an intersection of a public street, including alleys. It is critical that this law be followed, as snow plows cannot enter or exit any alley if someone is parked too close to the intersection.
- vii. Please do not tailgate or attempt to pass snow plow while they are plowing and salting.
- viii. It takes crews approximately 3 hours to salt and plow every road in the Borough once. No roads will be plowed a second time with exception of main roads until all roads are salted at least once.
- ix. Alleys will not be plowed or salted until all main roads are passable.

D. Public Works Report is available in the Borough Office for public inspection.

E. Mr. Bachy reported that in June we received notification that we were awarded a grant from the Automated Red-Light Enforcement

Program to replace the traffic signal and controller at the intersection of Waverly and S. Braddock.

- i. Penn Dot is asking Council to pass a resolution to authorize Mr. Bachy to sign all documents between Penn Dot and the Borough. Motion by D. Petrarca, second by T. Ward. All ayes, motion carries.

12. Outstanding Complaints – none

13. C.O.G Report – Shawn Alfonso-Wells

- A. Ms. Alfonso-Wells reported that last C.O.G meeting was fascinating and encourages new members to attend.
- B. Open positions will be filled by nominees in January.
- C. The Vactor Program has a new vehicle for cleaning out the sewers.
 - i. The Borough can rent this machine for 15 days for \$17,000.
- D. Ms. Alfonso-Wells also reported that the Executive Director said Chief Watson and Chief Wilhelm did an excellent job at the Police Training.

14. President's Remarks

- A. President Stanton commented on the racist graffiti at the Roslyn St. playground.
 - i. President Stanton stated that we are not going to have that in this community.
 - ii. She is going to do everything she can while on council to make sure that racism and sexism does not flourish in this community.
 - iii. President Stanton told Chief Watson that she was not happy with the back and forth concerning whether the Borough or Port Authority was responsible for handling the incident.

15. Mayor's Report

- A. Mayor Swartzwelder commented on the racist graffiti at the Roslyn St. playground.
 - i. Mayor Swartzwelder thanked whoever painted over it and brought it to our attention.

- ii. She also apologized for how the incident was handled and stated that we are a diverse community who will not tolerate this.
 - iii. Mayor Swartzwelder stated that she has met with Chief Watson several times about the incident and they are investigating to find out the timeline of what happened.
- B. Chief Matt Porter of the Port Authority Police was present and issued a public apology for how the incident was initially handled.
- i. Chief Porter stated that officers were dispatched to the incident as soon as he learned of it on Sunday afternoon.
 - ii. He confirmed that the Roslyn St. parklet is Port Authority's property.
 - iii. There will be cameras installed at the Roslyn St. Station within the next 3 months.
 - iv. Chief Porter also stated that he has a great working relationship with our Police Chief and will insure that communication is improved as well.

16. Water Authority Report – Tracey Crombie-Collins

- A. Ms. Crombie-Collins reported that at the meeting on October 22, 2019, the Board is entertaining a bylaw change to reorder the way the agenda rolls out.
- B. The Water Loss Report was presented to the Board and is on file in the Borough Office.
 - i. Part of the package on file is the Alert System Report for the Woodstock Kenmawr Bridge Project that happened in August.
 - 1. The alert system was used to make 3 sets of calls from August 1, 3 and 4 and three more sets on August 21, 24, and 25 and then each night of the construction.
 - 2. 41 accounts were alerted of the hours of construction.

- a. 23 messages were left on answering machines, 7 no answer, 11 received a live response where somebody answered.

C. Ms. Crombie-Collins also reported that there was 1 water main break since the last report.

17. Planning Commission – Greg Bachy

A. Mr. Bachy reported that he will follow up with Mr. Brooks to let him know the Conditional Use issue was tabled.

- i. Mr. Brooks needs to submit a parking lease to be considered for the December 4, 2019 council meeting.

18. Solicitor's Report – Gavin Robb- No Report

19. Engineer's Report – Robert Zischkau-No Report

20. Borough Manager's Report – Clyde Wilhelm

A. Mr. Wilhelm reported that he received a call from Senator Costa informing us that on November 12, 2019, the CFA will be announcing grant awards.

- i. Senator Costa has gotten us another 100,000 towards the trail project through the GDEF grant that we applied for.
- ii. He also got us 3 grants totaling 375,000 for that project.
- iii. We will also be getting awarded another CFA grant for 115,000 for the continuation of the Streetscape project on Noble St.

B. Ms. Salisbury expressed concerns about the role the Busch Brothers is playing in the Borough Building Project and wanted to know a timeline for voting on the project.

- i. Mr. Wilhelm confirmed that the owners of the shopping center are taking care of relocating Busch Brothers and that Mr. Busch is not receiving any money as compensation.
- ii. Mr. Wilhelm also confirmed that he does not have a timeline to present for the vote, as 95% of his time is currently consumed by budget preparations.

C. Ms. Salisbury inquired about the pending address changes.

- i. Mr. Wilhelm that we will send notifications to affected addresses with a date that they can come and address council if they have any concerns.

21. New Business

- A. Mr. Rapp reported that the Woodland Hills School District has recently instituted a Call to Climate Change Action Committee and would like to see the Borough do the same.
- B. Mr. Rapp also reported that Penn Dot is having a public meeting Wednesday, November 13, 2019 concerning the replacement of the bridge over Frick Park.
 - i. The open house and public meeting will be from 5: 30 to 7 at the Frick Environmental Center.
- C. Mr. Rapp would like to see more timely information posted to the front page of the Borough's Website concerning the Dickson School.
- D. President Stanton reported that Council met in Executive Session on October 2, 2019 and October 30, 2019 for legal and personnel matters.
- E. President Stanton reminded everyone that the next Council meeting has been changed to November 20, 2019.

22. Motion to Adjourn: motion by S. Alfonso-Wells, second by D. Petrarca. All ayes, motion carries.

23. Meeting Adjourned at 8:13pm.