



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

December 18, 2019

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7PM.
2. INVOCATION- Deacon Ron Demblowski
3. PLEGE OF ALLEGIENCE
4. ROLL CALL – S. Alfonso-Wells- Here; D. Petrarca- Here; J. Grose- Here; D. Rapp- Here; T. Ward- Here; A. Salisbury- Here; Mayor Swartzwelder- Here; President Stanton- Here
5. PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment
6. AGENDA ITEMS:
 - a. Jamie Glasser, Board President of Woodland Hills School District discussed Library plans. Her colleagues Marilyn Scott and Terry Lawson from the School Board were also present.
 - i. The library needs capital improvements and wants to apply for the Keystone Library Grant.
 - ii. Because the library is owned by the school district, who is not eligible for the grant, the library is requesting the Borough's help in pursuing the Keystone Library Grant to help fund it.
 - iii. The library needs a signature from the Borough on a letter of interest, expressing intent to apply for the grant in April.
 - iv. The library intends to apply for \$725,000 of the possible \$750,000 that can be sought with the application.
 - v. Renovations are expected to cost approximately \$1.4 million. New construction would cost about the same.

- vi. Mr. McTiernan suggested council make a motion authorizing the President to sign the letter of intent and for the administration to work with the school district in the preparation of the grant.
 1. Motion by J. Grose. Second by S. Alfonso-Wells. All ayes. Motion carries.
- b. Motion to approve **Resolution 19-25** maintaining the tax rate for the fiscal year 2020 for general purposes at 8.0 mills.
 - i. Motion- D. Petrarca. Second- J. Grose. All ayes. Motion carries.
- c. Motion to approve **Resolution 19-26** adopting the Budget for 2020.
 - i. Motion- D. Petrarca. Second- T. Ward.
 - ii. Mr. Rapp posed question to clarify the Borough Manager salary.
 1. Mr. Wilhelm stated that he polled the salaries of several Borough Managers in the Steel Valley area to get a range of salary.
 - a. \$75K was a reasonable number on the higher end of comparable sized communities in the Steel Valley.
 - b. Healthcare costs are included in the budget.
 2. Mr. Rapp stated that the amount of information and the inclusion of the public and council in the development of the budget has been inadequate. We need to change the process.
 - iii. Roll Call vote: S. Alfonso- Wells-yes; D. Petrarca- yes; J. Grose- yes; D. Rapp-no; T. Ward- yes; A. Salisbury- yes; President Stanton- yes. Motion carries.
- d. Motion to approve **Resolution 19-27** approving the 2020 Tax Anticipation Note with First Commonwealth Bank in the amount of \$600,000.
 - i. Motion- T. Ward. Second- D. Petrarca. All ayes. Motion carries.
- e. Motion to approve the 2020 Meeting schedule for publication.
 - i. Mr. Wilhelm added a correction to the January 6, 2020 meeting.
 1. Meeting will start at 6:30 pm so that Judge Caulfield can swear in the new council members.
 2. President Stanton requested that Weldianne Scales be notified since she was not present.
 - ii. Mr. Wilhelm stated that November's meeting will be on November 18, 2020.

iii. Motion- J. Grose. Second- D. Petrarca. All ayes. Motion carries.

7. POLICE REPORT – CHIEF WATSON

a. Chief Watson recommended hiring David Fairley for the part time patrolman position.

i. Motion- T. Ward. Second- J. Grose. All ayes. Motion carries.

b. The first Crime Watch meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7pm in council chambers.

c. The police will be giving away gifts to children in need at the Borough Building on Monday, December 23, 2019 between 9am and 2pm.

i. The giveaway is only for Swissvale residents and parents must register their children in advance in person at the Administrative Office prior to the event.

8. CODE AND FIRE REPORT – CHIEF WILHELM- No report

9. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – COUNCILMAN DAVID PETRARCA- No report

10. BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT– CLYDE WILHELM

a. The Borough received a thank you card from Carol Palangio who helps run the Senior Center.

i. Each year, the Borough makes a contribution that they use for their Christmas party.

ii. We received the card with some photos that are available in the Borough Office for anyone who wishes to see them.

b. We should have about a \$500,000 surplus at the end of 2019.

11. SOLICITOR REPORT – ROBERT MCTIERNAN- No report

12. STATEMENT FROM S. ALFONSO-WELLS

a. Mrs. Alfonso-Wells would like Council to advertise openings for the different committees and commissions to get more community involvement.

b. Mrs. Alfonso-Wells stated that she enjoyed her time on Council and thanked everyone for giving her the opportunity to serve the community.

13. PLAQUE PRESENTATION – PRESIDENT STANTON

- a. President Stanton presented outgoing council members S. Alfonso-Wells, T. Ward and D. Rapp and former council member P. Gionta (not present) with award plaques thanking and commending them for their faithful, dedicated and selfless commitment to the citizens of Swissvale.

14. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion- T. Ward. Second- S. Alfonso-Wells.

15. MEETING ADJOURNED 7:27PM.