



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

July 1, 2020

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm.
 2. Roll Call – C. Ansell- here; W. Scales- here; M. Stanton- here; W. Price- here; D. Petrarca- here; S. Alfonso-Wells- here; Mayor Swartzwelder- here; President A. Salisbury- here
 3. Public Comment
 - a. Alina Harbourne- Made several inquiries about policies and procedures of the Swissvale Police Department. Chief Watson's responses to these questions are included in his Police Report located at #7 on the Agenda.
 - b. Jourdan Hicks- Objected to the removal of parking spaces on Delaware Avenue.
 - c. Delbert Williams- Expressed the difficulty he has in turning left off Peggy Lou Lane.
 - d. Resident of 7816 Sailor Place Apt 5- Is in favor of the proposed parking restriction to ensure unimpeded ingress and egress of Peggy Lou Lane.
 - e. Matt Maners of 1926 Delaware Ave- Agrees with decision to limit parking on Delaware Avenue, but proposed suggestions to maximize available parking.
 4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes from the Meeting on Wednesday, June 3, 2020
Motion- S. Alfonso-Wells. 2nd by C. Ansell. All ayes. Motion carries.
 5. Agenda Items:
 - a. Motion to approve **Resolution 20-09** approving a 4-Year lease-purchase agreement and related documents with U.S. Bank Equipment Finance to provide Police Body Cameras and related software and accessories at a cost of \$30,850.00.
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Motion by W. Price. 2nd by C. Ansell.

Roll call: C. Ansell- yes; W. Scales- yes; M. Stanton- yes; W. Price- yes; D. Petrarca- yes; S. Alfonso-Wells- yes; President A. Salisbury- yes

Motion carries.

- i. Payments would be approximately \$8,000 per year for 4 years.
 - ii. The cost includes software to manage the video and training.
 - iii. Files would be stored on a local server where they will remain for a minimum of 90 days, which is consistent with the standard set by Allegheny County's District Attorney's office policies.
 - iv. Officers are required to have cameras on during calls.
 - v. Average life span of cameras is 5 to 7 years.
- b. Motion to approve **Ordinance 20-02**, amending Chapter 15, Part 4, Section 15-402 of the Swissvale Borough Code to prohibit parking at all times on the north side of Delaware Avenue from a point 95 feet to the west of Union Street, extending 90 feet to the west.

Motion by S. Alfonso-Wells. 2nd by C. Ansell.

Roll call: C. Ansell- yes; W. Scales- yes; M. Stanton- yes; W. Price- yes; D. Petrarca- yes; S. Alfonso-Wells- yes; President A. Salisbury- yes. Motion carries.

- i. This change is necessary to allow unimpeded access to Peggy Lou Lane by Public Works, and Emergency Services vehicles as well as the residents who reside there.
 - ii. Lines can be painted to maximize available parking once spaces are eliminated.
- c. Motion to approve the Workers Compensation Policy for Borough employees from August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021 with Brickstreet Mutual Insurance Company in the amount of \$215,347.00.

Motion by S. Alfonso-Wells. 2nd C. Ansell.

Roll call: C. Ansell- yes; W.Scales- yes; M. Stanton- yes; W. Price- yes; D. Petrarca- yes; S. Alfonso-Wells- yes; President A. Salisbury- yes. Motion carries.

- i. Amount has increased \$40,000 because of the number of open claims.
- d. Motion to approve the Workers Compensation Policy for Volunteer Firefighters from August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021 with the State Worker's Compensation Fund (SWIF) in the amount of \$26,855.00. Motion by M. Stanton. 2nd by S. Alfonso-Wells.
Roll call: C. Ansell- yes; W. Scales- yes; M. Stanton- yes; W. Price- yes; D. Petrarca- yes; S. Alfonso-Wells- yes; President A. Salisbury- yes. Motion carries.
 - i. Must have a separate policy for volunteer firefighters.
- e. Motion to appoint Alta Mercurio and Kristina Rajakovich as Junior Council Members.
Motion by C. Ansell. 2nd by W. Scales. President Salisbury abstained. All ayes. Motion carries.

6. Finance Report – D. Petrarca

- Paid Bills as of **June 30, 2020** in the amount of **\$858,498.05**
- Unpaid Bills as of **June 30, 2020** in the amount of **\$31,144.30**
Motion by D. Petrarca. 2nd by C. Ansell. All ayes. Motion carries.

7. Police Report – Chief Watson

- a. Fireworks complaints are up by 394%. Citations are being given.
 - b. We have some leads on the homicide that occurred at Noble Mart. Council will be updated when more information is available.
 - c. Chief Watson addressed the public comment submitted by Alina Harbourne.
 - i. Several of the “8 Can’t Wait” policies are already in use. We are looking to review and update the use of force policy.
 - d. Dogs are prohibited at Memorial Park. People are encouraged to pick up after their dogs’ waste elsewhere in the Borough and to call 911 if they witness violators.
 - i. Council discussed providing bags throughout the Borough for dog waste.
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8. Code and Fire Report – Chief Wilhelm

- a. Code Enforcement Office has been busy issuing violation notices for high grass. Over 90 notices have been issued.
- b. There was a late-night fire on Highland. 2 elderly residents were hospitalized for severe smoke inhalation. The home was destroyed.
- c. The Fire Safety Program has worked over the years to reduce fires.

9. Public Works Report – Dave Petrarca

- a. The Public Works Report is available in the Borough Manager's Office and online.

- b. Personnel

- i. A Public Works employee on the garbage crew resigned effective June 12,2020.

- 1. Another senior employee has moved into the spot until a replacement can be hired.

- 2. Mr. Bachy and Councilman Petrarca are proposing leaving the position vacant for now to save money due to decreased revenue from Covid 19.

- 3. Mr. Bachy will continue to monitor revenues and expenses and will inform Council when his budget can handle another hire.

- ii. A second employee has been on workers comp since October of 2019 and cannot operate vehicles or equipment.

- c. Borough Parks

- i. All Borough parks are open to the public.

- ii. High touch surfaces and rest rooms are being sanitized daily with disinfectant fogger in addition to normal cleaning.

- iii. Parks will remain open if Allegheny County is in the Green Phase of the Pennsylvania Reopening Plan. If the County return to the Yellow Phase, parks will close as per the Governor's directive.

10.C.O.G. Report – Weldianne Scales

- a. A virtual meeting was held last week. Several potential grant opportunities were discussed including the Blight Remediation Grant and the Vactor Program.
 - i. Mr. Wilhelm advised that we actively participate in the Vactor Program.
 - ii. Mr. Wilhelm advised that we are participating in the COG Blight Remediation Grant

11.CONNECT Report – Shawn Alfonso-Wells

- a. Last meeting was cancelled.

12.President’s Remarks – Abigail Salisbury

- a. Council members received a Facilities Report from the Borough Manager in response to the unresolved building issues.
- b. To foster transparency in communications between the police, Council and the community, President Salisbury wants to create a Community Police Liaison to work with the Police Committee.
- c. Swissvale will be celebrating its 125th (Quasquicentennial) Anniversary in 2023. Council discussed creating a committee of community members who have an interest in local history to manage a celebratory event for the occasion.

13. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder

- a. Farmer’s Market is cancelled for July 4, 2020.
- b. The Mayor addressed the problematic firework situation and assured that no Swissvale Public Officials or their families have any fireworks.

14.Water Authority Report – Tracey Crombie-Collins

- a. Report is on file in the Borough Manager’s Office.

15.Planning Commission – Greg Bachy- No report

16.Solicitor Report – Robert McTiernan- No report.

17. Engineer Report – No report

18. Borough Manager Report – Clyde Wilhelm

- a. All members of Council were provided with the report on options for facilities. Council should contact Mr. Wilhelm with questions.
- b. Mr. Wilhelm met with Mr. Bachy to discuss ways to reduce expenses considering the expected decrease in earned income revenue due to Covid 19.

19. Unfinished Business

- a. Motion to nominate Blaze Brevar to the Civil Service Commission.
Motion by M. Stanton. 2nd by D. Petrarca.
Roll call: C. Ansell- yes; W. Scales- yes; M. Stanton- yes- W. Price- yes; D. Petrarca- yes; S. Alfonso-Wells- yes, President A. Salisbury- yes. Motion carries.
- b. Councilman Ansell stated that results of the 2020 Borough Manager Community Survey will be made available to the public.
- c. Councilwoman Scales requested that Council make a resolution to make Juneteenth a Borough holiday. Solicitor McTiernan has wording which he will provide to Council to vote on at the next meeting.

20. New Business

- a. Councilwoman Scales reported that the Police Committee has been meeting to define goals and an overall agenda.
 - i. The committee is excited about the new body cams and is working with the Chief to get the police to engage more with the community.
- b. Councilwoman Scales encourages residents who are interested in becoming Crime Watch Block Captains to contact her directly.
- c. President Salisbury was informed by a resident of problematic language in the Zoning Ordinance regarding sexual activities.
 - i. The situation will be added to a future agenda for discussion.

21. Motion to adjourn M. Stanton. 2nd by S. Alfoso-Wells. All ayes. Motion carries.

22. Meeting adjourned at 9:21pm.

