



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

October 7, 2020

1. Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM.
 2. Roll Call – S. Alfonso Wells – here, C. Ansell – here, D. Petrarca – here, W. Price – here, W. Scales – here, M. Stanton – here, D. Swartzwelder – here, and A. Salisbury – here.
 3. Public Comment –
 - a. Frank Berry: Mr. Berry is concerned about trees lifting the sidewalks on Church Street and South Braddock Avenue. Mr. Bachy is working with public works and code enforcement to address the issue.
 4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes from the Agenda Meeting on August 26, 2020 and Regular Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2020.
 - a. Motion by S. Alfonso Wells, second by C. Ansell. All ayes, motion carries.
 5. Agenda Items:
 - a. Motion on **Resolution 2020-13** to submit a Community Development Block Grant application requesting funding for the replacement of the sanitary sewer line on Denniston Avenue. Motion by D. Petrarca, second by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes, motion carries.
 - b. Motion on **Resolution 2020-14** approving a Vacant Property Recovery Program application at 2320 Buena Vista Street. Motion by C. Ansell, second by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes, motion carries.
 - c. Motion on the Revised Rules and Regulations of the Civil Service Commission.
 - i. Mr. Janocsko was present to review the revisions with council and answer their questions.
 - ii. Motion by W. Price, second by W. Scales. All ayes, motion carries.
-

- d. Motion to appoint Jocelyn Tucker as the temporary Open Records Officer. Motion by D. Petrarca, second by W. Price. All ayes, motion carries.
 - e. Motion to temporarily increase the hourly wage of Administrative Assistant Dione Hood by \$5.00/hr. while she is performing part of the duties of the former Finance Director, retroactive to September 17, 2020. Motion by S. Alfonso Well, second by C. Ansell. All ayes, motion carries.
 - f. Motion to temporarily increase the hourly wage of Administrative Assistant Jocelyn Tucker by \$5.00/hr. while she is performing part of the duties of the former Finance Director, retroactive to September 17, 2020. Motion by W. Price, second by S. Alfonso Wells. M. Stanton abstains. Six ayes and one abstention, motion carries.
 - g. Motion on the recommendation of the DPW Committee and lease/purchase a 2019 Ford F-550 4x4 Dump Truck from C. Harper Ford and Push N Pull under the Co-Stars purchasing program in the total amount of \$76,810.00 with five annual payments of \$16,826.66. Motion by D. Petrarca, second by M. Stanton. All ayes, motion carries.
 - h. Motion on the recommendation of the Fire Committee and lease/purchase two, 2020 Ford Rangers from C. Harper Ford under the Co-Stars purchasing program in the total amount of \$47,332.00 with four annual payments of \$12,759.31. Motion by M. Stanton, second by D. Petrarca. 4 ayes, 2 nays, motion carries.
 - i. Motion on the recommendation of the Police Committee and lease/purchase two Ford Interceptor Utilities (one for K-9 and one for patrol) from C. Harper Ford under the Co-Stars purchasing program in the total amount of \$100,182.00 with four annual lease payments of \$27,006.12. Motion by W. Scales, second by C. Ansell. All ayes, motion carries.
 - j. Motion on the recommendation of the Police Committee to hire Part-Time Patrol Officers at the contractual rate of \$17.75/hr. The patrol officers to be hired are Benjamin Stone and Natalie Richards.
 - i. Motion by S. Alfonso Wells and second by M. Stanton to hire Benjamin Stone. Roll Call: D. Petrarca – yes, W. Price – yes, S. Alfonso Wells – yes, W. Scales – yes, M. Stanton – yes, C. Ansell – yes, and A. Salisbury – yes.
 - ii. Motion by S. Alfonso Wells and second by M. Stanton to hire Natalie Richards. Roll Call: D. Petrarca – yes, W. Price – yes, S. Alfonso
-

Wells – yes, W. Scales – yes, M. Stanton – yes, C. Ansell – yes, and A. Salisbury – yes.

6. Finance Report – David Petrarca

- Paid Bills as of **September 30, 2020** in the amount of **\$825,029.15**
- Unpaid Bills as of **September 30, 2020** in the amount of **\$23,912.09**
- Motion by D. Petrarca, second by M. Stanton. All ayes, motion carries.
- The finance committee will be meeting in late October to finalize a draft of the 2021 Budget. It will be presented to council early November and the public at the November 18th council meeting.

7. Police Report – Chief Watson

- a. The Police Report is on File in the Administrative Office
- b. With the assistance of the Allegheny County Homicide Detectives the actor of the shooting that took place at Wilson's Nite Out has been identified and arrested.
- c. Ms. Stanton asked Chief Watson what the Police Department can do when Wilson's Nite Out violates the COVID-19 Regulations on closing time and occupancy limits. Chief Watson responded that any violations of the COVID-19 regulations have to be reported to the Allegheny County Health Department. Otherwise the Police Department has increased patrols in the area and started issuing parking tickets for parking violations.
- d. Mr. Wilhelm has received complaints from the public that patrons of Wilson's Nite Out are parking on the empty lots in the 2000 block of Monongahela Avenue. He went out during the day and found lots of litter including empty beer bottles and to-go drink cups. A section of that space is owned by Swissvale Borough and we don't need anyone getting hurt there. Mr. Bachy will be ordering no parking signs for that area.

8. Code and Fire Report – Chief Wilhelm

- a. The Code and Fire Report is on File in the Administrative Office
 - b. Mr. Wilhelm recognized the following police officers and firefighters for their efforts in three life saving calls in four weeks:
 - i. Police Officer Gus Bondi
 - ii. Police Officer David Zacchia
-

- iii. Fire Shift Commander Jared Amos
 - iv. Fire Shift Commander Benjamin Rudd
 - v. Fire Marshal D.J. Glancy
 - vi. Firefighter Robert Brannagan
 - vii. Firefighter Josh Carlini
 - viii. Firefighter Robert Fry
 - ix. Firefighter Brad Sablocik
- c. It has been a busy month for property maintenance. There were 111 property maintenance door tags and mailed warnings this month, 64 of which were resolved within the same month. An additional 25 notices from previous months were also resolved.
- d. The final fall fish fry of the year will take place this Friday, October 9, 2020. The special for this month's fish fry is stuffed cabbage.
- e. A resident had questions regarding the status of 7711 Westmoreland Avenue which has been abandoned for some time. Chief Wilhelm is familiar with the property. It was sold a couple of years ago without the code enforcement department's knowledge. The new owner took off the boards that had been previously installed by DPW and starting working on the building without obtaining any permits. It's been difficult to get them to maintain the property or respond to violation notices. Chief Wilhelm is likely going to have this property added to a future demolition list.

9. Public Works Report – Greg Bachy

- a. The Public Works Report is on File in the Administrative Office
- b. Leaf collection will start on November 2nd following the street sweeping schedule. Please have all leaves swept into the street before 7 am on collection day. Anything other than leaves cannot be collected so any contaminated piles will be left behind.

10. C.O.G. Report – Weldianne Scales

- a. The COG met virtually on September 24th.
 - b. They are working on a new software program called ENFORCE that would be used for code enforcement programs.
 - c. CONNECT is working with Rankin, Braddock, and North Braddock to plan for police regionalization.
-

- d. The COG vactor program is still in effect and municipalities are encouraged to participate.
- e. The COG is disbanding their public works program and will be passing out their equipment to interested municipalities.
- f. The COG has been working with Urban Design Choice. They are working on a study on the impediments to housing choice. They are seeking public input from people who live in the TCV COG area. They will be having meetings in the coming weeks and residents are encouraged to participate.
- g. DCED grant funds are available for blight remediation. Mr. Bachy explained that Swissvale is taking advantage of these funds.
- h. The TCV COG is interested in partnering with CONNECT in their Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program. They are planning to study the effects that the program will have on the current social welfare system in Pittsburgh to ensure that the system is robust enough to handle an increased workload.
- i. A future glass recycling event is being held in Plum.

11. CONNECT Report – Shawn Alfonso-Wells

- a. Ms. Alfonso Wells attended the formal induction ceremony for Swissvale Borough.
- b. CONNECT is researching apps that municipalities can use for communication.
- c. CONNECT is creating a regional finance manager position to help smaller communities that don't have their own finance officers.
- d. Ms. Alfonso Wells is on the pilot program committee that is helping to get the LEAD Program started.
- e. Ms. Alfonso Wells attended a meeting on urban planning.

12. President's Remarks – Abigail Salisbury – no report

13. Mayor's Report – Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder

- a. SEDCO will be hosting another clean up day on Saturday October 10th. They will meet in the Goodfellas parking lot on McCague Street at 9 am.
 - b. SEDCO is participating in the WHSD HUGS 6ft trick or treat event on October 24th in the Intermediate School Parking Lot on Evans Street.
-

- c. The Swissvale Rotary Club is donating mobile WIFI hotspots to the Carnegie Free Library of Swissvale.
- d. The Swissvale Rotary Club is donating a new refrigerator to the Swissvale Community Food Pantry.
- e. The Farmers Market will continue every Saturday from 9 am – 1 pm through October 31st.
- f. Swissvale will have trick or treat on Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 5 pm – 7 pm. Residents are encouraged to observe the following CDC guidelines: wear face masks and/or gloves and maintain social distancing when necessary.

14. Water Authority Report – Tracey Crombie-Collins

- a. The Auditors presented the 2019 audit findings which were favorable, and they complimented the WPJWA Finance Department (attachment).
 - b. The 2021 budget process is beginning, the Finance Committee will meet 11/12 and the budget will be presented to the Board for final approval at the 11/24 meeting.
 - c. The 2020 budget is being impacted with \$100k a month in fee losses due to the pandemic moratorium. Approximately 10% of accounts are delinquent.
 - d. The Board authorized management to submit Community Development Block Grant Year 47 applications on 5 mainline replacements (none in Swissvale).
 - e. Management is meeting with Our Water Program and the Sierra Club to investigate a possible customer assistance program.
 - f. Clean-up after a water main break will be verified after 2 days in case more is needed; this was thanks to a customer's suggestion.
 - g. Authority is investigating PennVest grant/loan program for lead line replacement.
 - h. Some projects are being delayed due to supply chain delays tied to the pandemic.
 - i. Other business was conducted; the Agenda, Engineer's Report, Solicitor's Report and Report of Management are incorporated as part of this overview; Minutes will be available online after approval.
-

- j. The next Board meeting is 10/27, public participation may be in-person or by contacting the Authority by the day prior to the meeting.
- k. There were 50 breaks system-wide since the 8/11 meeting. There have been 3 main line breaks from 8/31 to 9/25, all temporary restoration is complete and final restoration will be scheduled for these breaks. The breaks in Swissvale were on: Palmer Street, McClure Avenue, and Irvine Street.
- l. Final restoration is complete for previous breaks on Blackhawk, Commercial, Aurelius Monongahela, Hampton, Milligan and Braddock.
- m. Restoration on Florence has not been complete due to a brick shortage.
- n. Residents are encouraged to sign up for emergency notifications at: www.wpjwa.com.
- o. The shut-off moratorium and suspension of WPJWA fees are still in place
- p. Drive-Thru window is available from 8 am to 4:15 pm, the lobby remains closed at this time
- q. Management has implemented processes based on CDC Pandemic Guidelines for the safety of the customers, staff and system

15. Planning Commission – Greg Bachy

- a. The Planning Commission met last month on September 17th to lay out a process for changes to the Zoning Ordinance. The plan was to have an October Meeting but Mr. Bachy is planning to postpone until November to have more time to draft all the necessary changes.

16. Solicitors Report – David Mongillo - none

17. Engineers Report – none

18. Borough Manager Report – Greg Bachy

- a. Mr. Ansell was curious on the status of the plans for the renovations to the McCague Street property. Mr. Bachy met with Mr. Zischkau, a civil engineer, a structural engineer, and an architect a week after the last council meeting. They discussed the previously drafted plans and made sure that everyone was on the same page. Mr. Zischkau felt that they could have a proposal within sixty days of their meeting which took place in the second week of September. Mr. Bachy thinks that the plans will be ready in November and then they can go out to bid.
-

- b. Mr. Bachy has put together an RFP for the current Borough Building. The RFPs were sent out to various engineering firms. The borough should start receiving bids soon. Council should be able to discuss and vote on these bids at next month's meetings.
- c. The finance committee met to start preparing for the 2021 budget. They will meet again in the last week of October. The draft budget will go out to council at the beginning of November and will be presented to the public on November 18th.

19. Unfinished Business

- a. Council has been conducting interviews for the Borough Manager position. They are holding off on hiring a Finance Director until after they have completed the search for a Borough Manager.

20. New Business

- a. Ms. Salisbury wants to look into the possible decriminalization of marijuana in the borough. She encouraged other council members to be proactive in bringing new legislation to the table.
- b. Ms. Stanton also wanted to look into legislation regarding protections for members of the LGBT community. Council had brought up the topic earlier this year but the pandemic sidelined many conversations.

21. Motion to adjourn by S. Alfonso Wells, second by C. Ansell. Meeting adjourned at 9:29 PM.
