



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

November 4, 2020

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.
 2. Roll Call – W. Price- here; D. Petrarca- here; S. Alfonso Wells- here; C. Ansell- here; W. Scales- here; M. Stanton- here; Mayor Swartzwelder- here; President Salisbury- here.
 3. Public Comment- None
 4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes from the Agenda Meeting on September 30, 2020 and Regular Monthly Meeting on October 7, 2020 Motion by M. Stanton. 2nd by C. Ansell. All ayes. Motion carries.
 5. Agenda Items:
 - a. Motion to appoint Katherine Malsch as Borough Manager at an annual salary of \$75,000 with a starting date of November 30, 2020.
Motion by S. Alfonso Wells. 2nd by M. Stanton. All ayes. Motion carries.
 - b. Motion to approve an agreement with Ecotone Renewables to host a self-contained composting facility on Borough property.
Motion by S. Alfonso Wells. 2nd by C. Ansell. All ayes. Motion carries.
 6. Finance Report – David Petrarca
 - Paid Bills as of **October 31, 2020** in the amount of **\$810,236.34**
 - Unpaid Bills as of **October 31, 2020** in the amount of **\$6,775.60**Motion by D. Petrarca. 2nd by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes. Motion carries.
 7. Police Report – Chief Watson
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- a. The Police Department is working on a plan to distribute toys before Christmas. Council will be informed of plans before announcing publicly.

8. Code and Fire Report – Chief Wilhelm

- a. Code and Fire Report is on file in the Borough Manager's office.
- b. Chief Wilhelm reported positive progress with two blighted Borough properties.
 - i. 7711 Westmoreland Avenue- Owner is planning to get a building permit and is investing \$100,000 in renovations.
 - ii. 2115- 2117 Noble Street- Is under contract.
- c. CPR classes are limited to 6 participants. The Fire Department will hold as many classes as possible.

9. Public Works Report – Greg Bachy

a. Leaf Collection

- i. Leaf collection has begun and is behind schedule due to the high volume.
- ii. They will be collecting in Regent Square daily.
- iii. The schedule will follow the street sweeping schedule.
- iv. There will be no leaf collection on November 11th, 26th and 27th due to the holidays.
- v. Leaves contaminated with yard debris cannot be collected.

b. Garbage Collection

- i. Garbage collection will not be affected on November 11, 2020.
- ii. Garbage collection will be pushed back a day due to Thanksgiving. Thursday's and Friday's recycling will be collected on Friday.

10. C.O.G. Report – Weldianne Scales

- a. C.O.G. had a virtual meeting on October 22, 2020 at 6:30 pm.
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- i. There was a motion to approve bid results.
- ii. There was discussion about internet connectivity and where it is needed.
 - 1. S. Alfonso Wells also attended and provided insight from the feedback she received from the school district.
 - 2. There was discussion about the District Attorney's Office meeting with the Chief of Police to determine if Municipalities are willing to host hearings at the local Magistrate concerning the connectivity issue.
- iii. Mr. Allen Wagner, Commissioner for Ward 3 has started a radio program called *We Do 18*.
 - 1. Members of the community are invited to be on the program to have conversations about positive things happening in the Borough.
 - 2. Businesses are invited to discuss the services they provide.
 - 3. Councilwoman Scales will post this information on Facebook so that anyone interested in participating can reach out to Mr. Wagner.

11. CONNECT Report – Shawn Alfonso-Wells

- a. They are doing a simple research study and need 2 more Police Officers to participate.
 - i. Officers will be paid for their participation.
 - ii. Chief Watson said that we are signed up for the study.
- b. They are getting ready to implement the Leave Program.
 - i. Rich Fitzgerald and other members of CONNECT will be meeting with Boroughs that would like to participate.
 - ii. They would like small Boroughs to have the opportunity to participate.

12. President's Remarks – Abigail Salisbury

- a. President Salisbury requested that the budget be posted in pdf format to make it more accessible for people using screen readers.
- b. The Borough will be putting up a Christmas tree and decorations.
- c. President Salisbury requested that signs posted all over the Borough that say “We Buy Houses” be taken down.

13. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder

- a. Light Up Night has been cancelled, but we will be putting up a tree.
- b. Craft bags will be passed out to kids to decorate the tree.
- c. The Mayor welcomed Katherine Malsch as the new Borough Manager.
- d. The Swissvale Farmer’s Market ended on October 31, 2020. They are planning for next year.
- e. SEDCO Clean Up Day will be November 14, 2020 at 9 am. Meet at Goodfellas to get bags and gloves.
- f. There will not be an MVI Award dinner this year. The Mayor thanked Leland Scales for his hard work.
- g. The Rotary is distributing birthday kits for kids through the Swissvale Food Pantry.

14. Water Authority Report – Tracey Crombie-Collins

- a. The Water Authority Report was read into the record by President Salisbury. The report is on file in the Borough Manager’s office.

15. Planning Commission – Greg Bachy

- a. The Planning Commission has not met since the last meeting in September. They will meet again in December.

16. Solicitors Report – Robert McTiernan

- a. Mr. McTiernan reported on the Consent Order in the Engineer’s Report involving sanitary sewers and shared lines with Alcosan.
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- i. Solicitors will meet on November 11, 2020 to have final review of the agreements before presenting them to Council.

17. Engineers Report –

- a. The Engineer's Report is on file in Borough Manager's office.

18. Borough Manager Report – Greg Bachy

- a. Mr. Bachy met with the Finance Committee on Monday to discuss the 2021 budget.
- b. Mr. Bachy would like Council to review the budget prior to the public presentation.
- c. The budget will be presented to the public at the meeting on November 18, 2020.
- d. Council agreed to start the budget presentation at 6:30 pm on November 18, 2020.

19. Unfinished Business

- a. The marijuana policy is not ready to be made into a resolution yet. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

20. New Business

- a. President Salisbury would like the Hiring Committee to work on a timeline for hiring a Finance Director.
 - b. President Salisbury wants to put together a Borough Building Committee to move the project forward.
 - i. Councilwoman Scales nominated herself and Councilman Price to serve on this Committee because they are both real estate attorneys.
 - ii. Anyone else wanting to serve on the Committee should email President Salisbury.
 - c. Motion to make Mayor Swartzwelder the Swissvale representative of the Enterprise Zone.
Motion by M. Stanton. 2nd by W. Price. All ayes. Motion carries.
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- d. Councilman Ansell would like to send an open letter on behalf of Council to the Peters Township School Board and to WPIAL, concerning the racially insensitive incident at the playoff game.

21. Motion to adjourn at 8:23 pm.

