



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

September 5, 2018

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
 2. Invocation – Dennis Handley
 3. Pledge of Allegiance – Councilman Tim Ward
 4. Roll Call – P. Gionta – here, D. Petrarca – absent, J. Grose – here, T. Ward – here, D. Swartzwelder – here, A. Salisbury – here, M. Stanton – here, D. Rapp – here
 5. Public Comment
 - a. Paul Yesko (7698 Evans) – Mr. Yesko commended Swissvale Police Officers for their professionalism and coordination during the Rose family funeral procession. He also commended the Rose family and those who attended the funeral. He identified a problem of speeding traffic on Evans Street. He asked if the borough could install road bumps, post more signage or post an officer to issue citations to deter speeding. Additionally, he asked if there is an ordinance to fine trashy looking properties and where can residents report such issues. Mr. Wilhelm responded that such issues can be reported to code enforcement in the fire department. D. Rapp cited several traffic calming techniques that he is aware of. He suggested investigating traffic calming methods and the costs associated with them. Mr. Bachy clarified that a traffic engineering study must be done in order to place speed bumps on public property. The cost would be between \$6,000 and \$7,000 for a study and between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to install one speed bump. Chief Watson stated that the police do assign traffic detail in the area as officers are available and will continue to do so.
 - b. Dan Buch – Mr. Buch came on behalf of Lenore Wossidlo. Ms. Wossidlo wanted to offer her services in Autism awareness training.
 6. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes for the *Agenda Meeting* on June 27, 2018 and July 25, 2018 and the *Regular Council Meeting* on July 11, 2018 and August 1, 2018. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by D. Rapp. All ayes, motion carries.
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7. AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Motion to accept the high bid of \$11,600.00 for the sale of a 2008 Ford F-550 Dump Truck to Eddie Troup. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by T. Ward. All ayes, motion carries.
 - b. Motion to accept the high bid of \$13,700.00 for the sale of a 2008 Land Rover to Toby Carlson. Moved by T. Ward, Second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
 - c. Motion to accept the high bid of \$1,150.00 for the sale of a 2006 Ford Crown Victoria to David Zacchia. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
 - d. Motion to accept the high bid of \$16,055.00 for the sale of a 2005 Freightliner to Stephen Doyle. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
 - e. Motion to approve the purchase of a 2005 Massey Ferguson Tractor with a 20 foot boom flail mower from Somerset Township, Washington County in the amount of \$19,000.00. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
 - f. Motion to authorize the demolition and removal of the following nuisance and dangerous structures:
 - i. 2329 South Braddock Avenue
 - ii. 2337 South Braddock Avenue
 - iii. 2427 South Braddock Avenue
 - iv. 2432 South Braddock Avenue
 - v. 2435 South Braddock Avenue
 - vi. 2609 South Braddock Avenue
 - vii. 2611 South Braddock Avenue
 - viii. 2115 Noble Street
 - ix. 2117 Noble Street
 - x. 2109 Monongahela Avenue
 - xi. 2111 Hudson Street
 - xii. 2113 Hudson Street
 - xiii. 2115 Hudson Street
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- xiv. 2200 Lehigh Street
- xv. 7430 Duquesne Avenue
- xvi. A. Salisbury asked if there was any update on the 2115-2117 Noble Street properties. There was not. T. Ward commented that he felt that the borough should focus on demolishing the properties on S. Braddock Avenue because it is a major corridor if funds are not available to demolish all of the structures. Mr. Wilhelm responded that the borough should be able to demolish all 15 properties by spreading the work over two budget years. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.

g. Motion to approve Ordinance 18-01 amending the Recreation Board Ordinance.

i. Motion tabled for further discussion.

h. Motion to appoint Shift Commander Michael Volpe to the position of Assistant Fire Chief at an annual salary of \$61,600. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by D. Petrarca. All ayes, motion carries.

i. Mayor Swartzwelder led M. Volpe in the oath of office.

8. Finance Report – Councilman Tim Ward

- Paid Bills as of **August 31, 2018** in the amount of \$ 502,299.21.
- Unpaid Bills as of **August 31, 2018** in the amount of \$ 69,885.43.
- Motion to approve the financial report by T. Ward, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.

9. Police Report – Councilwoman Patricia Gionta, Chief Watson

- a. Report is on file in the Borough Manager's Office.
- b. Chief Watson reported that the Civilian's Police Academy is postponed until the spring due to low interest. The administration office is calling those who applied to let them know. Council discussed options for increasing interest in the future. D. Rapp asked if another "Coffee with Cops" event would be scheduled. Chief Watson affirmed that there would be one on a Saturday in the fall.

10. Code and Fire Report – Councilwoman Michele Stanton, Chief Wilhelm

- a. Report is on file in the Borough Manager's Office.
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- b. Mr. Wilhelm stated that there was a structure fire in a row house at 2243 ½ Hawthorne Avenue on Friday evening. The fire was contained and there were no injuries.
- c. Chief Jones of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire contacted Mr. Wilhelm to report that Engine House 19 in Swisshelm Park will be undergoing major renovations beginning in October. Chief Jones asked if their crews could be accommodated at the Swissvale Fire Station during the 2-3 month of work. The Volunteer Fire Department and the solicitor are being included in the conversation.
- d. The Fire Department is getting ready to submit state certification for fire fighters in the voluntary recognition program. The department has 100% certification. Out of the nearly 2,400 departments in the state, only 33 have that ranking and only 3 of the 183 in Allegheny County. Mr. Wilhelm mentioned that there were 206 fire departments in Allegheny County nearly 10 years ago and since then 23 companies have gone away. Swissvale is fortunate to have the community support to continue fire service coverage. T. Ward stated that he requested an organizational chart for the fire department at the last executive session. He thanked Mr. Wilhelm for providing a very detailed, professional chart.

11. Public Works Report – Councilman David Petrarca, Mr. Greg Bachy

- a. Report is on file in the Borough Manager's Office.
- b. The Street Sweeper will be back in service next week. Cars will again be ticketed beginning September 10.
- c. D. Petrarca reminded the public that leaf collection does not begin until November. The street sweeper is not able to pick up leaves and will go around piles in the street higher than 6 inches. He asked residents to not sweep leaves into the street until November 1. J. Grose asked if collection can begin any earlier. Mr. Bachy stated that it takes 2/3 of the DPW crew to do leaf collection which takes men away from other jobs. He cited sewer work as an area that needs priority and focus at this time and he would be reluctant to change the schedule.
- d. Mr. Bachy and the DPW thanked council for approving the purchase of the boom mower. The purchase will save man hours and increase productivity.

12. Outstanding Complaints Report – None

13. C.O.G. Report – Councilman Tim Ward

- a. Meetings will resume at the end of the month.
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14. President's Remarks – President Stanton

- a. President Stanton reminded everyone of the annual Car Cruise and Corn Roast on Sunday from 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. which benefits the Police K-9 unit and the Volunteer Fire Department.
- b. M. Stanton mentioned that September 11 is the 17th anniversary of 9/11/01.

15. Mayor's Report – Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder

- a. This Saturday is the monthly SEDCO Clean Up Day, meeting at the Farmer's Market at 10 a.m. for supplies and T-shirts.
- b. SEDCO will be selling mums as a fundraiser at the Farmer's Market on September 22.
- c. A local business meeting will be held on September 11 at 2 p.m. at the fire station.
- d. There is one correction in newsletter: Trick-Or-Treat is on Wednesday, October 31, not Tuesday.
- e. Mayor Swartzwelder gave special thanks to Clyde for his presentation on Swissvale at the school house apartments on McClure Avenue and for all that he does for the borough. She stated that Crystal Ross, the real estate agent, has offered to give council members a tour. There are already 3 of 18 units under preliminary commitment and 30 people are on a list of interest. Completion of construction on the units is expected in the spring.

16. Water Authority Report – Tracey Crombie-Collins

- a. Report is on file in the Borough Manager's Office.
 - b. The Water Authority met on August 14. The Authority is interviewing new engineering firms to represent the Water Authority.
 - c. The 2017 Financial Statements were audited. There were two items that continued to roll over: Segregation of duties and the manual billing adjustment process.
 - d. The PA DEP put in a compliance order for nonrevenue water loss. Kunkle Water Efficiency is being hired to look into meeting compliance.
 - e. The budget to actual comparison came out last month and is on file.
 - f. There were 58 breaks between the June and August meeting; 5 were in Swissvale.
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17. Planning Commission – Greg Bachy

- a. No report.

18. Solicitor Report – Robert McTiernan

- a. Nothing to add to agenda items.

19. Engineer Report – Robert Zischkau

- a. Both paving contractors have come back and made necessary corrections to defects which occurred during paving projects.
- b. The engineer's office received notification that final restoration was performed at the former LGAR home on Woodstock Avenue.

20. Borough Manager Report – Clyde Wilhelm

- a. Mr. Wilhelm reported that the borough is working on the budget. The income and disbursements for the year have been fairly balanced. He noted that the current garbage fee collected is down around \$50,000 from previous years and delinquent real estate taxes and property taxes are also down. Mr. Wilhelm is investigating these issues and has scheduled a meeting with Keystone Collections. He noted that there was an issue where the Magistrate was dismissing cases when units were vacant. He will contact Judge Caulfield's office and explain that the ordinance does not allow for the waiving of fees for vacant units.
 - b. The administration is preparing to get RFPs for a codification update. The last one was in 2005. There have been many resolutions and ordinances passed since then. This expense was included in the budget.
 - c. Mr. Wilhelm stated with Chief Watson that Officer Zacchia's K-9, Brando, is near retirement age. They are preparing to acquire a replacement. Chief Watson is working out the details and will keep Mr. Wilhelm informed.
 - d. The land bank board of directors meeting was held on September 5 and the advisory board directed them to send the letter starting the process of acquiring Hohman's Cleaners property as soon as 60 days from September 6. The land bank insurance carrier has agreed to insure the property, not including environmental liability coverage. They were able to get Act 3 liability clarified from the DEP. Concurrently; KU Resources is securing the final Act 2 process and SIA designation. Mr. Wilhelm spoke with Mark Patrick regarding the SIA designation and the state does not need any additional information. Mr. Ward expressed his disappointment at the pace with which the land bank has moved. The process has taken over three years. He suggested rethinking the borough's commitment
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to the land bank in 2019. President Stanton also voiced her frustrations. Mr. Wilhelm stated that he has been working with the solicitor's office on a parallel path if the land bank does not come through.

21. Unfinished Business

- a. None

22. New Business

- a. J. Grose announced that EastShore is having a kick off with Tom Murphy speaking at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 4. She invited all of council and admin.
- b. D. Rapp commended the staff for the minutes that were approved.
- c. Mr. Wilhelm reminded everyone that the October Agenda Meeting will be held on October 24, not October 31.
- d. President Stanton stated that council met on August 1 and August 29 for personnel and legal matters.

23. Motion to adjourn. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.

24. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.
