



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**March 2, 2016**

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7PM BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT M. STANTON.
2. INVOCATION – REVEREND DAI MORGAN
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE – DAVID PETRARCA
4. ROLL CALL – P. GIONTA – HERE, D. PETRARCA – HERE, J. GROSE – HERE, D. RAPP – HERE, T. WARD – HERE, D. SWARTZWELDER – HERE, M. STANTON- HERE. M. BUSCH – ABSENT.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT
  - a. Reverend Dai Morgan:
    - i. Swissvale Ministerium has a fire relief fund available and they are taking donations.
  - b. Eric Baldwin:
    - i. Became Fire Department Chaplin several months ago. A fund has been set up with the Swissvale Fire Department. Check and money order are currently being accepted. Make the check out to the Swissvale fire department and the memo should read Fire Relief Fund.
    - ii. The fire department is working with the American Red Cross to coordinate efforts to collect material donations. At this time those donations can be dropped off either at the Rivercity Church or at the Braddock or Wilksburg free stores. There is no way to get specific information about the ages and sizes of the people/children affected by the fire in order to protect their identities.

6. AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1.) Motion by P. Gionta to approve **Ordinance 16-01** establishing a shade tree advisory committee, setting forth the number and qualifications of board members and outlining the responsibilities of the committee. Second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
- 2.) Motion by P. Gionta to approve **Ordinance 16-02** amending Chapter 15, Part 2, Section 15-211 of the Swissvale Borough Code to establish a stop intersection on Washington Street intersecting Palmer Street in the Eastbound direction of travel. Second by D. Petrarca. All ayes, motion carries.
- 3.) Motion by P. Gionta to approve **Ordinance 16-03** increasing the indebtedness of the Borough of Swissvale in the amount of \$1.5 million for Capital Improvements. Second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
- 4.) Motion by P. Gionta to approve **Resolution 16-04** approving the acquisition and subsequent disposition of numerous parcels of vacant property known as block and lot number 177-S-204 would be in accordance with the comprehensive plan of the municipality. Second by D. Petrarca. Roll Call: P. Gionta – yes, D. Petrarca – yes, J. Grose – abstain, D. Rapp – yes, T. Ward – yes, M. Stanton – yes. All ayes and one abstention, motion carries.
- 5.) Motion by D. Petrarca to approve **Resolution 16-05** approving the adoption of the Allegheny County 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan as the official Mitigation Plan of the Borough of Swissvale. Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
- 6.) Motion by P. Gionta to hire part-time policeman, Nathan Smith, at a rate of \$15.50 per hour. Second by T. Ward. Roll Call: P. Gionta – yes, D. Petrarca – yes, J. Grose – yes, D. Rapp – yes, T. Ward – yes, M. Stanton – yes. All ayes, motion carries.

7. Finance Report – Councilman David Petrarca

- Paid Bills as of **February 29, 2016** in the amount of \$247,376.88
- Unpaid Bills as of **February 29, 2016** in the amount of \$160,568.22
- Motion to approve the finance report by D. Petrarca. P. Gionta as second. All ayes, motion carries.

8. Police Report – Councilwoman Patricia Gionta

- a. Report on file in Borough Manager's Office

- b. Police Department is working on a system that allows people to identify recovered stolen items. They will be working with the company Anti Theft Dots; they produce stickers that have microscopic property markers that can be scanned once the property has been recovered.
- c. Asst Chief Watson would like to thank the policemen that were on hand the night of the fire. Sgt. Hahn, Lt. Lisovich, Officer Kalogeris, and Officer King. All were central in the relief efforts that night.
- d. Officer Robert Gowens was sworn in by Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder.

9. Code and Fire Report – Councilwoman Michele Stanton

Assistant Fire Chief Deleonibus-

- a. Continued inspections across the borough. Reiterated importance of smoke detectors in resident's homes.
- b. Community CPR Class will be held Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 9am – 12pm at the fire station.
- c. Six firefighters are taking Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Certification Class. This will allow the fire department to have more interactions with citizens and will help us improve our ISO-PPC score.

Chief Wilhelm-

- d. There was a large fire Tuesday night but due to the efforts of the Swissvale Fire and Volunteer Fire Departments as well as the 11 other fire departments, everyone was safely removed from the building and the fire was relatively contained. Chief Wilhelm would like to thank the Police Department for their assistance that night and early the next morning. It was necessary for the building to be immediately demolished and the police came out to offer an escort to the excavator. Duquesne Light was able to come in and restore power to those affected. There was one injury reported from Edgewood Fire Department. He was struck by a piece of falling debris from the building due to the extreme winds. He was taken to the hospital treated, released, and came back to the scene of the fire. Also thanked the DPW for their assistance for this event as well.
- e. Outstanding complaint- 2200 Block of South Braddock Ave the make-shift stair covers were removed by the owner
- f. 2320 Patterson has been demolished at the homeowner's expense. This property has been an ongoing code issue for nearly 10 years.

10. Public Works Report – Councilman David Petrarca

- a. On File in borough manager's office
- b. Councilman D. Petrarca would like to file a motion to hire Michael Gilson for a full time position in the department of public works. Start date will be Monday March 7, 2016. Council woman J. Grose at second. Roll Call: P.

Gionta – yes, D. Petrarca – yes, J. Grose – yes, D. Rapp – yes, M. Stanton – yes. Motion carries.

- c. Commercial Garbage Rates: Director Bachy will meet with the solicitor's office to draft a resolution for next month's meeting
- d. Overall the borough has so far saved around \$21,000 since switching to in house garbage collection.

#### 11. Outstanding Complaints Report

None

#### 12. Economic Development Advisory Committee

- a. EDAC: Committee Members Councilpersons J. Grose, D. Rapp, and T. Ward met earlier in the week. They discussed the potential introduction of opening a Trader Joe's in Swissvale. In order to have a Trader Joe's the community needs to show evidence that they would like to have one so the EDAC committee put together a rough draft of a flier that would be posted around town to gain some support for a petition.

#### 13. C.O.G. Report – Councilman Darrell Rapp

- a. Land Bank: Creating policies and procedures to begin once they receive the okay from the county. Would like the participating communities to have a delegate and an alternate as well as a staff member as the main form of communication between them and the borough.

#### 14. President's Remarks – President Michele Stanton

- a. Council President Stanton addressed the recent discussions about trees. While trees are an integral and important part of our community, we seem to spend more time talking about trees than other more serious issues such as public safety. She reiterated that we need to keep our priorities in proper context.

#### 15. Mayor's Report – Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder

- a. Spring Newsletters are available. Thanks to Tracy Crombie for editing and publishing. They can be picked up
- b. 3/19 SEDCO will be having a clean up around Church Street and S. Braddock Ave. Everyone will meet at Goodfella's Bar (1915 McCague St.) at 9am.
- c. Swissvale's 21<sup>st</sup> annual Easter egg hunt will be on March 26 at 12pm at Memorial Park. No registration required.
- d. Parkway Flower Planting will be on Mother's Day May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am.
- e. Swissvale Farmers Market has moved to the lot behind Dickson School. Will start advertising soon.

#### 16. Water Authority Report – Anthony Russo Sr.

- a. Absent

17. Planning Commission – Veryl Lawson (absent)  
Clyde Wilhelm-
  - a. Draft has been sent to the commission for review and then there will be one more meeting before it is submitted to the county.
  
18. Solicitor Report – Robert McTiernan
  - a. Letter received from the human resources director regarding the senior citizen center run by Eastern Area Adult Services (EAAS). It was suggested that council members meet with the local director of EAAS to determine where the funds are going and determine how to move forward.
  - b. The stay of the Sheriff Sale for the Denniston School is still being fought. The purchaser filed a brief for the Judge to reconsider his order. The Solicitor's office is working on. They will also be working with the school district to find a way to move forward.
  - c. There will be a brief executive session following the meeting to discuss legal matters.
  
19. Engineer Report – Robert Zischkau
  - a. Bids received through Turtle Creek COG for the demolition of 7319 & 7320 Agnes St. Companies includes: Allen Demolition - \$21,100, Eveready Contracting - \$25,800, and AW McMahon - \$48,000. Mr. Zischkau is still following up with the background check on the business but has requested a motion to accept the bid from Allen Demolition. Motion by D. Petrarca, seconded by P. Gionta to accept the Bid from Allen Demolition. All ayes, motion carries.
  - b. Grant application for recreation improvements to Collingwood Park was submitted back in June/July. Awarding of the grants has been postponed and it seems that they will now be awarded mid-to-late May and there may be a new grant that the borough might want to look into for this purpose.
  
20. Borough Manager Report – Clyde Wilhelm
  - a. Requested a motion to approve, pending review and approval from the solicitor's office, to enter into an agreement with Community Champions for the Vacant Property Database Services. D. Petrarca makes the motion with T. Ward as second. All ayes, motion carries.
  - b. We have had numerous Inquiries regarding the Mattes property on Edgewood Avenue. Would council like to consider the sale of the property? Everyone on council agreed that it would be a good idea to get something developed there.
  - c. Will be investigating demolition costs to tear down the vacant properties on the corner of South Braddock and Church Streets.
  
21. Unfinished Business
  - a. Member of the audience has asked where donations can be sent. Informed that the Swissvale Ministerium and the Swissvale Volunteer Fire

Department have both set up funds to aid the victims of the Woodstock fire.

- b. Live Well Allegheny – D. Rapp brought up passing a resolution for the Borough's participation in the Live Well Allegheny Campaign. Motion by D. Rapp to adopt Resolution for the participation in this program, Second by J. Grose. All Ayes, motion carried. Manager Wilhelm indicated this would be Resolution 16-06.
- c. Reach Up Swissvale, a community health group from the Swissvale Baptist Church. They would like to post a link to a survey on the borough website. The survey asks questions about the health concerns of borough citizens and the information collected will be used to determine the types of events that Reach-Up holds. This way these classes are targeted to fit the exact concerns of Swissvale Residents.

22. New Business

- a. None

23. Motion to adjourn by D. Petrarca, second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.

24. Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.