

## **BOROUGH OFFICERS**

*Mayor*

DENEEN SWARTZWELDER

*Borough Manager*

GREG BACHY

*Solicitor*

ROBERT L. MCTIERNAN



## **BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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ANGELA D. STRIBLING

### **BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE COUNCIL AGENDA MAY 31, 2023 7:00 P.M.**

6:30 p.m. – Interviews for Human Relations Commission

7:00 p.m. – Agenda Meeting

1. AGENDA MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:20 P.M.
2. ROLL CALL – Present: C. Ansell; W. Scales; S. Alfonso Wells; W. Price; J. Miser; F. Quinn; A. Stribling; Mayor Swartzwelder
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
  - i. Emily Mercurio (2014 LaCrosse St.) - Asked Council to create an anti-idling ordinance for non-diesel vehicles in residential areas. Asked Council to create an ordinance that requires parking lots at shopping centers to have clearly marked parking spaces and traffic markings for vehicles and pedestrians.
  - ii. Stephanie Mayer-Staley, Aiden Mayer-Staley and Jace Mayer-Staley (7634 Westmoreland Ave) – Comments regarding the installation of a basketball hoop in the Borough.
4. PRESENTATION – Vacant Lots Project
  - i. Dawna Cerney and Susan Lucas from Youngstown State University and University of Pittsburgh gave a presentation on the vacant lot mapping and assessment happening in Swissvale.
5. AGENDA ITEMS
  - a. Discuss the Municipal Building property Consolidation Plan
    - i. The Planning Commission met on May 25<sup>th</sup> to review the proposed subdivision plan for the Borough Building property. There are currently seven (7) lots that comprise this property where the former Borough Building is located. Prior to development of the new building all of the lots must be combined as the proposed building will be located on

more than one lot which is not permitted. The consolidation plan was prepared by LSSE, Inc. who are the Civil Engineers and Surveyors for the project and was reviewed for compliance with the Subdivision Ordinance by Glenn Engineering. The Planning Commission reviewed and unanimously recommended approval of the proposed consolidation plan. A copy of the subdivision was provided to Council for review.

- b. Discuss the Municipal Building Site Plan
  - i. The Planning Commission also reviewed the proposed site plan for the Borough Building property. LSSE, Inc. prepared the site plan and all other required documents including the Storm Water Management Plan, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan and Geotechnical Reports. Glen Engineering has reviewed all of the documents for compliance with the applicable ordinances and worked with LSSE to address any issues they have found. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed site plan with a 5-1 vote.
- c. Discuss a resolution for a GROW Grant
  - i. The Borough is in the process of completing a GROW Grant application to ALCOSAN for funding of the first phase of the separation of the storm and sanitary sewer system in the M-48 drainage area. The first step in the project would be to bore under the railroad tracks at the base of the hill below Memorial Park in order to allow a discharge point toward the Monongahela River for the storm water flows. The application is requesting \$287,725 in funding for the project.
- d. Discuss a resolution to apply for Act 152 funding for demolitions
  - i. Allegheny County has announced that the Act 152 program for demolitions is currently open and accepting applications until June 16<sup>th</sup>. This program is funded by the additional \$15.00 per deed recorded in Allegheny County. In order to apply, the Borough must pass a resolution requesting funding. This program will usually fund \$50,000 to \$75,000 in demolitions per municipality.
  - ii. Mr. Bachy provided a list of proposed properties.
  - iii. Chief Wilhelm confirmed that most of the properties are owned by defunct LLCs.
- e. Discuss a Slums and Blight Resolution
  - i. In order to apply for the Act 152 funding, Council must pass a slums and blight resolution declaring that the properties to be demolished meet the criteria of the Act 152 program.
- f. Discuss adoption of a debt ordinance under the Local Government Unit Debt Act

- i. Council has already accepted the proposed terms and conditions of the borrowing for the Borough Building. The next step in the process is to adopt an ordinance taking formal action to authorize the incurring of nonelectoral debt through the issuance of a General Obligation Note. The Ordinance has been advertised by the Note Counsel and can be adopted.
- g. Discuss ratification of the Salt Bid with Cargill, Inc.
  - i. Cargill, Inc. has agreed to exercise its option in the salt contract to supply salt to the SHACOG member municipalities for an additional year under the terms of the existing contract. However, Cargill has not exercised its rights to the fuel surcharge and the CPI adjustment, so the cost per ton will actually decrease from \$88.96/ton to \$85.85/ton. Cargill has also agreed to store any quantities of salt the Borough did not purchase last winter until December 31<sup>st</sup> at no charge. This is a ratification of the contract.
  - ii. Mr. Price asked about the relocation of the salt bin during the construction of the new Borough Building. Mr. Bachy will bring a recommendation to Council.
- h. Discuss a Master Services Agreement with Green Edge Tech for the EV Charging stations
  - i. Green Edge Tech has provided a revised agreement that they feel addresses Mr. McTiernan's concerns with the original draft. The revised agreement has been sent to Mr. Mctiernan for his review.
  - ii. S. Alfonso Wells shared her concerns with the previous contract. She has not reviewed the new contract.
  - iii. C. Ansell thanked Mr. McTiernan and expressed hope that the partnership will move forward.
- i. Discuss returning to in-person meetings
  - i. Discussion concerning whether to return to in-person meetings.
  - ii. C. Ansell provided background on the discussion to return to in-person meetings. C. Ansell and Mr. Bachy are in conversations with the school district to find an appropriate location.
  - iii. A hybrid option was discussed. Live streaming will continue.
- j. Discuss Roberts Rules of Order
  - i. Discussion on Roberts Rules of Order and how to best facilitate meetings.
  - ii. Mr. Price recommended that Council officially adopt some form of Rules of Order. Adding a supplemental set of rules to comply with Pennsylvania Law was suggested.
  - iii. Mr. McTiernan will research what other local municipalities have used.

## 6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

### a. POLICE – Chief Watson

- a. Chief Watson commented on the shooting that took place at the NM Mart on Noble Street. Gave praise to the responding officers and the fire department for their response.
- b. C. Ansell commented on a program at the Pittsburgh Mennonite Church which will collect firearms and turn them into gardening tools.
- c. C. Ansell asked Chief Watson if residents should still call 911 since County Dispatch is having staffing issues. Chief Watson affirmed that residents should always call 911.

### b. CODE and FIRE – Chief Wilhelm

- a. Chief Wilhelm also commented on the response to the shooting at the NM Mart. He commended the police and other responding officers for rendering aid to the victims.
- b. Chief Wilhelm commended Firefighters Munsie and Cook for a life they saved last week.
- c. The Fire Department acquired new equipment and gear through a grant.
- d. The Fire Department is hiring to fill a vacancy.
- e. Code complaints have increased.
- f. Chief Wilhelm asked Council to consider changing the company the Borough uses for vacant property tracking.
- g. Chief Wilhelm received the honor of an invitation and a scholarship to attend the National Fire Protection Association Conference as the representative from Pennsylvania.

### c. PUBLIC WORKS – Jordan D'Ambrosio

- a. The annual Hard to Dispose of Event had a good turn out despite rain.
  - i. C. Ansell thanked the Public Works employees for their work in the pouring rain.
- b. The Street Sweeper was down for repairs.
- c. J. Miser expressed thanks to the Public Works employees for navigating around the large amount of work happening in the Regent Square Area.

### d. BOROUGH MANAGER - Greg Bachy

- a. Mr. Bachy commended Mr. D'Ambrosio for the line painting on S. Braddock Ave being completed.
- b. Mr. Bachy responded to Dr. Mercurio comments about an anti-idling ordinance and parking space markings. Chief Wilhelm volunteered to contact the owner of the shopping center about having the parking lot repainted.
- c. Mr. Bachy will reach out to the Universal Academy about updating their basketball hoop.
- d. Mr. Bachy commented on possible traffic calming methods around the Borough.
- e. Mr. Bachy discussed the fire at 7709 Francis Street. The house was a total loss and the owners does not have insurance. He recommended

having the Borough engineer take a look at the structure and move toward demolition.

- f. The TriCOG landbank will be marketing two properties on Buena Vista and asked the Borough to wave the 60-day waiting period.

e. COUNCIL PRESIDENT – President Ansell

- a. Council will meet in executive session after the meeting for matters of litigation.
- b. C. Ansell mentioned that the Farmer’s Market is kicking off.
- c. C. Ansell invited W. Scales to discuss the upcoming Juneteenth and Pride Celebrations. W. Scales provided details and invited everyone to volunteer and to attend.

f. SOLICITOR – Robert McTiernan

- a. All items were covered in the agenda.
- b. Tucker Arensberg will be a platinum sponsor of the Juneteenth Celebration.

7. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- a. W. Scales asked for an update on the bamboo ordinance that was passed. Chief Wilhelm confirmed that a complaint has been received and that Code Enforcement has responded by issuing a citation.
- b. W. Scales asked about a sidewalk issue by the CLASS building. Mr. Bachy and the Edgewood Borough Manager went to observe the problems. The problems are in the roadway in the parking lot located in the Edgewood part of the lot. Edgewood is working on patching and providing a more permanent solution.
- c. W. Scales asked to provide an update to the public on the Washington Street bridge.

- 8. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE AGENDA MEETING AT 9:49 P.M. Moved by W. Scales, 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Stribling. All Ayes, motion carries.