

BOROUGH OF SCHWENKSVILLE, PA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
September 9, 2010

Council President Arthur Fairclough at 7:30 PM called the Schwenksville Borough Council meeting on September 9, 2010 to order.

Present, Arthur Fairclough, Rudy Micsko, Ray Yeanish, Lee Ann Miller and Mayor Joe Giunta.

Also, present Blake Dunbar, Jr. Esq., Mike Galla Borough Manager, Gail Phillips Council Secretary and Ken Yerger Carroll Engineering.

Absent; Maureen Giacomucci

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** by the assembly

**MINUTES:** Dispense with the reading of the August 12, 2010 minutes and approve the August 12, 2010 minutes, as presented with correction. Motioned by Rudy Micsko and seconded by Ray Yeanish. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**AUDIENCE:** Marcy Toepel, State Representative for the 147th District. Rep. Toepel has an office at 105 Memorial Road, Schwenksville, PA 19473. Rep Toepel told Council that the Spring Mount Road Bridge is on schedule to reopen at the end of October 2010. Arthur asked Rep. Toepel about the left turn signal @ Park Avenue and Main Street (RT. 29). Rep. Toepel talked with Penn Dot, they will look at the timing of the traffic light at Main Street, and Park Avenue after the bridge opens.

Arthur asked Rep. Toepel about the H2O grant. Mr. Fairclough stated that the Schwenksville Authority has asked for \$400,000, Mr. Bushnell stated that only 10% of the requested monies will be awarded.

Rep. Toepel also wanted to mention House Bill 2431 the consolidation of local government under the jurisdiction of the County Government. Rep. Toepel does not support the bill.

Rudy made a comment that Governor Rendell promised money from the casino's and would like to know when that money will filter into the real estate taxes. Rep. Toepel said it shows up on your tax bill.

Roy Miller 320 Centennial Street wanted to know if there are any regulations as far as woodstoves and resident letting it smolder over night causing a stink to disturb the neighbors.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND TREASURERS REPORT:** Motioned by Ray Yeanish and seconded by Rudy Micsko to pay the bills totaling \$45,039.68. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**FINANCE REPORT:** The Montgomery County Tax Collection Committee update. The management committee is working hard and has adopted Berkheimer to do the tax

BOROUGH OF SCHWENKSVILLE, PA  
COUNCIL MEETING

September 9, 2010

collection Countywide. The commission rate will be 1.39%, the lag time will be reduced substantially, and non-residential taxes will be paid over to us within seven days after

collection. County taxes for residential will be paid over within thirty days instead of quarterly.

Rudy reviewed the August 2010 financial report with Council. Totals for the end of August – Assets \$853,000, Liabilities \$75,000, Equity \$758,000. Total Income \$393,000 Expenses \$304,000, Net income \$89,000.

Police Retirement Account – the Borough is looking into securing a loan at a lower interest rate to pay off the Police pension of \$116,000, instead of paying it off in 10 years at 6 percent.

Rudy reported that he; Arthur and Mike have started working on the budget. The revenue side is completed and a tax increase of a quarter of a mil. increasing the Fire tax from .32 to .36 and the library tax from .08 to .1 is being explored.

**ENGINEERS REPORT:** Ken reported that he and Mike went to talk with the resident at Main and Maple Street about his concern that his basement is getting wet. The resident's concern was that water is coming down Maple Street and making a left turn into his yard. Picture shows pipe is rusted out on the bottom looking from Main Street to Library Lane. There is a small sinkhole next to the inlet at the corner of Maple and Main Street and needs to be opened up to see how far the pipe is rusted out and how much needs to be replaced.

The Authority is in the process of getting cameras for looking into the pipes for inspection.

Mike will work with Ken but suggests that Ken put together an accurate plan to mark which inlets/pipes have been replaced and which ones have not been replaced.

**SOLICITORS REPORT:** Blake Dunbar updated the status of the Alleyway- waiting for the Caramenicos and Hancock signed agreements.

The Ordinance amending the Schwenksville Borough Property Maintenance Code was adopted and a signed copy sent to the Montgomery County Law Library for their records.

A municipal lien was filed with the County in regards to outstanding trash and recycling charges.

Arthur asked Blake about the one item that the DEP would like all municipalities to have an ordinance for mandating that home sewer and cleanouts be inspected and wanted to know if Blake has seen any of that. Blake stated that, there has to be an inspection and certification just as you would a septic system.

Mike asked Blake who would do the inspection of the sewer lateral. Blake stated that an inspector should do that. Mike will find more information from other municipalities about how they handle the inspections.

**FIRE COMPANY REPORT:** Chief Jim Keyser read the report as follows, For the Month of August 2010 5 calls, 47 men in service for a total of 3:59 minutes in service.

**AMBULANCE REPORT:** Gail Phillips read the report as follows, for the month of August 2010 13 calls for Schwenksville, 9 for the Colonnade, 12 for the Folk Festival. Jean Houpt member of the Ambulance Corp. asked Gail to inform Council that they purchased a new Ambulance and any funds would be welcomed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Joe Giunta reported we have received the Police Pension Audit.

53 incidents, 6-disturbances, 18-see officer, , 1- DUI .1 -liquor law underage consumption, 2-criminal mischief's, 5- burglary false alarms.

Perkiomen Watershed Award Banquet – Mayor Giunta suggested purchasing an ad for \$125.00.

**MOTIONED BY LEE ANN MILLER AND SECONDED BY RUDY MICKO TO PURCHASE A HALF PAGE AD FOR THE PERKIOMEN WATERSHED BANQUET PROGRAM. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT:** Mike Galla reported that he has received two quotes for the repair of the inlet at Miller and Centennial Street. The Pavement Group @ \$2,615.75 with a new concrete box and G. R. Patton Contracting Inc. @ \$2,850.00 plus \$215 for a new inlet top.

**MOTIONED BY RUDY MICKO AND SECONDED BY RAY YEANISH TO HAVE THE PAVEMENT GROUP REPAIR THE INLET WITH A NEW CONCRETE BOX @ CENTENNIAL STREET AND MILLER STREET FOR A COST OF \$2,615.75. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**Sign Ordinance – Planning Commission Recommendation**

The Planning Commission has been reviewing sections of the sign ordinance as requested by Borough Council.

The recommendation by the Planning Commission to use the example of the Town Center Ordinance from Montgomery County for Schwenksville's VC-2 District, allowing two signs on the front of the building and one in the back of the building. The ordinance

BOROUGH OF SCHWENKSVILLE, PA  
COUNCIL MEETING

September 9, 2010

does not permit freestanding marquee signs in the rear of the building. They want to change section 176.108.c "no sign shall project over a public walkway more than 36

inches from the curb line and the lower edge of the projecting sign shall not be less than 10 feet above the walkway level". The Planning Commission recommends that no sign shall project out from a façade more than 36 inches and keep the 10 feet height above the walkway level.

The Planning Commission wants to leave the 8 sq. ft. maximum requirement for a projecting sign, allow wall and window signs to be based off the percentage of the building façade.

Temporary signs may be up for two weeks and are allowed twice a year with a permit. These are existing requirements that the Planning Commission feels is accurate.

Planning Commission is still reviewing options for internally lit signs and the County Planner is working to obtain verbiage from other municipal ordinances.

**.PMRS Resolution**

Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System requires the municipality to pass a resolution approving the ten-year amortization period. Council would like to see if a loan can be acquired at a low interest rate and the resolution was not executed.

**Trash Bid**

Trash contract is scheduled to expire at the end of the year. Mike asked Council if they would like once a week or twice a week pickup. Council would like once a week pickup. Mike is working on the draft of the trash contract and would like to have Bob Brant's office review it and then advertise in order to award a new contract in November.

**Website Update**

The website is 80% complete. The Council minutes are up to date as of June of this year. All documents are on online so they can be accessed. Still working with the Authority to have them put a link on the Borough website.

Jim Rodgers from the Central Perkiomen Valley Rotary club has asked about the \$2,000 for the Halloween Parade Thursday October 28. The Council has put it in the budget and will pay the Rotary club after the receipts have been submitted to the secretary.

Lee Ann asked Mike about the painting of the cross walks in the Borough. Mike reported that the crosswalks are finished. Lee Ann would like to see the crosswalks all the same (ladder stripping). Lee Ann asked why the thermo plastic was not used on all the

BOROUGH OF SCHWENKSVILLE, PA  
COUNCIL MEETING

September 9, 2010

crosswalks. The thermo plastic for the crosswalks was only used on Church Street and Second Street for the repaving project.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:** Pam Ruoff has a meeting scheduled for Wednesday September 22, 2010 at 6:30 pm here at Borough Hall.

**REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE:** No Report

**ACTIVITY COMMITTEE: PROPERTY:** Lee Ann Miller said an estimated 300 people were at the Mango Men concert September 2, 2010.

Maureen Giacomucci will be the new chairperson for the Activity Committee.

**STREETS AND ROADS:** No Report

**STREET LIGHTING:** No Report

**ALLEY WAY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** No Report

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD:** Arthur showed Council concept plans for Meadow Park that he, Lee Ann and Phil from URD have been working on.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Pottstown Borough will host Borough Association Dinner meeting on Thursday September 23, 2010.

Next meeting will be October 14, 2010 @ 7:30 PM

It was motioned by Ray Yeanish and seconded by Rudy Micsko to adjourn the meeting at 9:57PM. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gail L. Phillips*

Gail L. Phillips  
Council Secretary