

BOROUGH OF SCHWENKSVILLE, PA
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2015

Council President Darren Rash called the Schwenksville Borough Council meeting on November 12, 2015 to order at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall, 140 Main Street, Schwenksville, PA 19473.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: by the assembly

Present, Darren Rash, Lee Ann Miller, Todd Larsen, Phil Berardi, Greg Pocius, and Mayor Joe Giunta.

Also, present, Blake Dunbar Jr., Esquire Dave Leh, Borough Engineer, Anne Klepfer, Borough Manager, and Secretary-Treasurer Gail Phillips.

Absent:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Jim Rodgers from the Central Perkiomen Rotary Club reported that the Halloween Parade had 8 registered groups, 92 on site registrants and 66 on line registrants. The club distributed 700 hot dogs, 600 soft pretzels, 1000+ candy bars, etc. There was a suggestion that the parade needed something/someone to start the parade, suggestions includes the Mayor in an open car or Council on a hayride or Firetruck. Council thanked Jim, Rotary, and the Boy Scouts for the success of the parade. One complaint from a mother that she thought the hearse was not appropriate for the parade as it scared the children.

Mayor's Report, Mayor Giunta reported the State Police stats for October 2015 were 18 incidents. Trooper Wright and Mayor Giunta met with the Spring Mount Condo Association on November 10, 2015. Mayor Giunta and Trooper Wright told them to come to the Council meetings. Their one concern is that there are no "NO PARKING" signs on Forest Lane. Mrs. Klepfer will follow up on the "No Parking" signs, however Forest Lane is not listed in the Ordinance iterating no parking locations and she believes any "NO PARKING" signs were installed by the Home Owners Association before the road was ordained.

Mayor Giunta will also be getting in touch with Alan Detweiler the President of the Park Place Association "Pennypacker Drive".

Mr. Rash and Mayor Giunta met with the Fire Company on November 9th. The Fire Company needs more volunteers. Mr. Keyser will be more involved and will communicate with Council.

Mayor Giunta met with Derrick Overby from Univest Bank. Mr. Overby agreed to participate in the Economic Development Group.

Mayor Giunta met with Kathy Kiernan a member of the Collegeville Economic Development Corporation. Ms. Kiernan shared some ideas, which he will share at the next Revitalization meeting.

Mayor Giunta preformed three marriage ceremonies in 2015.

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Comments regarding the Public Safety Committee's discussion with Lower Frederick Township regarding shared police services. Mayor Giunta suggests a question regarding whether or not Schwenksville should contract for local police services should go on the ballot as a referendum for the voters. This is a costly expense; Council needs to hold town hall meetings to discuss with voters. The Mayor feels this expense should not be in the 2016 budget until the public engagement process has taken its course.

Fire Company Report – Report was read by Mayor Giunta; for the month of October 2015 there were 7 calls, 44 Firefighters Responded, 140 Minutes in Service. Three calls in Schwenksville, two Vehicle Accidents, and one Fire Alarm. Three Calls in Perkiomen Township, 2 Structures, 1 Fire alarm in Upper Salford Township.

Ambulance Report, No report

Audience: None

Minutes: Dispense with the reading of the October 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes and approve the October 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes as presented, **Motioned** by Lee Ann Miller and **seconded** by Phil Berardi. All in favor, **Motion carried 5-0.**

Treasurer Report:

Treasurer report submitted and payment of the Borough November 2015 bills, totaling \$47,011.47. **Motion** by Greg Pocius and **seconded** by Phil Berardi to approve the treasurer report and to pay the bills totaling \$47,011.47. All in favor, **Motion carried 5-0.**

Collegetown Halloween Parade – Schwenksville Fire Police needed for the parade. **Motioned** by Phil Berardi and **seconded** by Greg Pocius to approve the Schwenksville Fire Police to help with the Collegetown Halloween Parade. All in favor, **Motion carried 5-0.**

Resolution No. 2015-20 – Authorizing the Application of a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Multi-modal Fund Grant in the amount of \$131,060.00 and designating the Borough Manager and Council President to execute all documents and agreements. **Motioned** by Todd Larsen and **seconded** by Phil Berardi authorizing the Borough Manager and Council President to execute all document and agreements for Resolution No. 2015-20. All in favor, **Motion carried 5-0.**

2016 Draft Budget: Council had a discussion to increase the 2016 Real Estate tax by .5mil making the total General Fund tax rate 4.94 mill. Borough Council and Mayor Giunta agree to raise the tax a proposed .5 mill. The increase amounts approximately to a \$78.00 increase in the annual real estate tax paid to Schwenksville Borough for the median home-assessed value of \$156,000. This is a modest increase that will help with (1) Road projects that are coming in over budget and (2) maintenance activities that must be contracted out annually. **Motioned** by Lee Ann Miller and **seconded** by Greg Pocius to authorize the publication of the 2016 Budget with the .5 mill increase. All in favor, **Motion carried 5-0.**

Tax Rate Ordinance: Borough Council and Mayor Giunta agreed to raise the 2016 taxes to 4.94 mills General Fund and 5.4 mills total. **Motioned** by Greg Pocius and **seconded** by Phil Berardi to authorize the publication of Tax Rate Ordinance with the .5 mil increase. All in favor, **Motion carried 5-0.**

MANAGERS REPORT:

Mrs. Klepfer submitted her written reports prior to the meeting.

Financial Report: Mrs. Klepfer's financial report: For the period January 1, 2015 through October 31, 2015, Total Income for General Fund and Liquid Fuels Funds was \$473,773.58 and Total Expenditures was \$460,469.18 for a net gain of \$46,110.65. General Fund experienced a net loss of (\$1,495.21) Assets: General Fund Assets Total \$268,376.41 Capital Fund Assets total \$2,140.63 and Liquid Fuels Fund Assets total \$30,803.10 for a Combined Assets total of \$301,320.14.

Flood Plain Ordinance: The Modal Ordinance was reviewed by the Planning Commission with some recommendations. Mrs. Klepfer needs authorization to send the Flood Plain Ordinance back to the County Planners and FEMA. Council agrees to send the Ordinance to the County Planners and FEMA with the recommendations from the Planning Commission.

Grants (PECO, DEP) Mrs. Klepfer is asking for ideas for the use of the Grants. These are both Open Space Conservation type Grants. PECO allows in-kind services. One option is to have volunteers pull the invasive plants along the bank of the Park and then use the cash to buy replacement plants.

Another idea is signage and additional lighting for the park as the one concept left out of the Meadow Park Phase II scope of work was the Large Meadow Park sign.

Ms. Miller mentioned the access behind Moccias leading to the Park that is in need of improvements.

Mrs. Klepfer would like all feedback before the December Council Meeting as the Grant applications are due December 18 for the DEP grant and December 31 for the PECO Grant.

Storm drain cleaning: Mrs. Klepfer received quotes for the cleaning. While the quotes were on a per diem basis, the estimate to complete the entire basis was well above budget. Mrs. Klepfer is inclined to cap the project at two days and see how far they get. Mr. Pocius mentioned that North Wales Borough has the equipment; and might be willing to rent it to Schwenksville for cleaning the storm drains. Mr. Pocius will talk with Mrs. Klepfer. It can be added to the existing Maintenance Schedule such that the Borough is divided into zones which get cleaned every other year.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Conservation District Grant: Dave Leh reported that the Conservation District Grant Application for Low Volume Roads was approved for Miller/Boyer/Cedar Streets, waiting for formal approval. The project would propose the installation of porous pavement to help with the drainage.

Mr. Leh is asking Council for authorization to re-bid South Main Street Improvement Project for mid December 2015, open the bids in January, and award the bid in February. **Motioned** by Phil Berardi and **seconded** by Todd Larsen to authorize the re-bid of South Main Street Improvement Project. **Motion carried 4-0.** Ms. Miller is one of the owners of the property at 250 Main Street, which is currently under development. She is abstaining to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest in this matter.

SOLICITORS REPORT: Blake Dunbar, Jr. reported that his office submitted to Schwenksville Investment Properties attorney the Subdivision/Land Development Improvement and Maintenance Agreement and Financial Security Agreement. In addition, comments concerning the easements were submitted to the Schwenksville Investment Properties attorney.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property Committee:

Report submitted to Council.

Ms. Miller reported that the roof repairs are complete. Some wood repair still needed.

Behmerwald Nursery placed the River Rock and (2) bushes at the parking area beside the cottage to address maintenance and drainage issues.

Streets & Lights: No Report

OTHER BUSINESS: None

Motioned by Greg Pocius and **seconded** by Todd Larsen to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm.
Motion carried 5-0.

NEXT MEETING(S): December 4, 2015 Next Planning Commission Meeting
December 10, 2015 Borough Council Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail L. Phillips
Secretary

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