

BOROUGH OF SCHWENKSVILLE, PA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Council President Arthur Fairclough at 7:30 PM called the Schwenksville Borough Council meeting on February 10, 2011 to order.

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

Also, present Blake Dunbar, Jr. Esq., Mike Galla Borough Manager, Gail Phillips Council Secretary.

Absent

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** By the Assembly

**MINUTES:** Dispense with the reading of the January 13, 2011 minutes and approve the January 13, 2011 minutes. Motioned by Rudy Micsko and seconded by Maureen Giacomucci. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Appointment of Engineer: Mike Galla, Arthur Fairclough and Ray Yeanish conducted interviews with potential engineering firms.

The committee recommended Gilmore and Associates for appointment as the Borough Engineering firm.

**MOTIONED BY RAY YEANISH AND SECONDED BY RUDY MICKSKO TO APPOINT GILMORE AND ASSOCIATES AS THE SCHWENKSVILLE BOROUGH ENGINEERING FIRM. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND MOTION CARRIED. (Lee Ann Miller abstained from the vote).**

David Leh from Gilmore & Associates was present to accept the appointment as the Borough Engineer.

Borough Council thanked Carroll Engineering and Ken Yerger for their service to the Borough as the Engineer.

**AUDIENCE:**

All business owners received a letter from the Borough requesting their attendance at the Borough Council meeting to discuss the sign ordinance.

BOROUGH OF SCHWENKSVILLE, PA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Four business owners attended the meeting, Al Manning of Schwenksville Investment Properties, LLC. Richard Mariner Univest Property manager, John Scioli, owner of John's Old School New Skool Barber Shop and David Friel owner, of The Gold Post.

Mr. Manning has concerns about the size of signs allowed and that the current regulations only allow signs of 8 square feet. He suggests that buildings with more than 800 square feet should be permitted to have signs that are 20-25 square feet. Council will consider changes.

Mr. Mariner told Council that they are happy with the size of the Univest sign and how it is illuminated. Mr. Galla responded that the Univest sign is grandfathered and will not have to be changed.

John Scioli was upset that he was being singled out after receiving a letter about his signs. Mr. Galla explained to Mr. Scioli he was not the only business to receive a letter. Mr. Scioli has too many signs hanging on the outside of the building and is in violation of the sign ordinance.

David Friel had two signs that were "flag like" and was told they are a violation of the sign ordinance. Mr. Friel would like to use those signs as they attract business.

Council will take into consideration all of the concerns of the business owners when drafting a new sign ordinance. Mr. Fairclough thanked the business owners for their time and concerns.

Lee Ann Miller also congratulated John Scioli for his successful business. Mr. Scioli was very thankful for the acknowledgement.

Mr. Robert Duda of 902 Summit Ave. has a concern about the number of dogs his neighbor keeps, concerns with the noise and waste left in the yard and on the deck. Borough Council, Borough Manager and Mayor Giunta have been talking with Mr. Duda about the problem with his neighbor. Mr. Duda asked about an ordinance to limit the number of dogs per property. Mayor Giunta responded that an ordinance should be made regarding the number of animals allowed at a property.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND TREASURERS REPORT:**

Gail Phillips reported that for the period ending January 31, 2011, the current invoices due for payment total \$21,747.18. This includes \$9,863.25 from the General Fund, \$3,618.01 from the Liquid Fuels Account, and \$8,265.92 from payroll. Motioned by Ray Yeanish and seconded by Rudy Micsko to pay the bills totaling \$21,747.18. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Electric and Gas Supplier change update:

BOROUGH OF SCHWENKSVILLE, PA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2011

The Borough is now using Titan Gas and Liberty Power for the Street Lights, Traffic Lights and for Borough Hall gas and electric. The new rates will be saving the Borough an estimated \$ 230.76 for 2011 for the traffic and streetlights. The new bill for Borough Hall was not available at the time of the meeting.

**FINANCE REPORT:** Rudy reviewed the January 2011 financial report with Council. Totals for the end of January – Assets \$530,647.35, Liabilities \$65,675.92, Equity \$464,971.43. Total Income \$10,031.33, Expenses \$47,875.57, Net Loss (\$37,844.24).

**ENGINEERS REPORT** – No Report

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT** – Blake Dunbar, Jr. reported that the letter Sue Ellen Nolan-Greeby requested for the Examination of the Financial Statements of Schwenksville Borough for the audit has been forwarded to her and a copy to the Borough.

Mike Galla is waiting for a response from the Caramenico's regarding the Maintenance Agreement for the access and parking deeds of easements.

The \$100,000.00 General Obligation Note settlement date is Friday, February 25, 2011. This loan is to offset the \$116,000 payment to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) for Police Pension obligations.

**FIRE COMPANY REPORT:** Chief Jim Keyser read his report as follows, for the Month of January 2011, 6 calls, 61 men in service for a total of 2:33 minutes in service.

Jim Keyser also provided Council a copy of the year-end financials for the Fire Company.

**AMBULANCE REPORT:** Jean Houpt reported for the month of January 2011 that they had nine calls for Schwenksville and nine for the Colonnade.

Jean also mentioned the 2011 membership drive coming soon.

**MAYORS REPORT:** Mayor Joe Giunta reported that the State Police calls for the month of January 2011 were 29. These calls included one vehicle theft, two disturbances, three domestic, six collisions and other violations. The stolen Liberty Ministries van was recovered.

**BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT** – Mike Galla reported the following,

**Property Maintenance Agreement -**

The Caramenico's have not submitted the signed easement documents. Mike asked for a motion to have Arthur sign the Property Maintenance Agreement that states the Borough would be responsible for the snow removal on the easement area and all costs pertaining to repair, repaving and resurfacing will be shared equally between the property owner and the Borough.

**MOTIONED BY RAY YEANISH AND SECONDED BY MAUREEN GIACOMUCCI FOR ARTHUR FAIRCLOUGH TO SIGN THE PROPERTY MAINTANENCE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE BOROUGH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SNOW REMOVAL ON THE EASEMENT AREA AND ALL COSTS PERTAINING TO REPAIR, REPAVING AND RESURFACING WILL BE SHARED EQUALLY BETWEEN THE PROPERTY OWNER AND THE BOROUGH. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION CARRIED. (Lee Ann Miller recused herself from this vote).**

**CDBG GRANT APPLICATION -**

The application is due on Friday April 1, 2011. The alleyway and the replacing of inlets and pipes are the two possible projects to submit for. Mike recommends that Council authorize the application of one of these projects for the 2011 CDBG Grant.

**MOTIONED BY RAY YEANISH AND SECONDED BY RUDY MICKSKO FOR MIKE GALLA TO APPLY FOR THE CDBG GRANT FOR THE ALLEYWAY PROJECT FOR 2011. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION CARRIED. (Lee Ann Miller recused herself from this vote).**

**DCNR GRANT APPLICATION** – Application for this Grant is due April 20, 2011. Mike Galla recommends that the Borough submit an application for Meadow Park. The Borough can apply for up to \$60,000 in funding and Mike will be meeting with Fran Rubert for DCNR on March 1 to discuss this project and will provide more information at the March meeting.

**DVRFA Loan Application Update** – The closing is scheduled for Friday February 25, 2011.

**February Zoning Hearing Board Applications –**

An application was received for 130 Game Farm Road to convert the commercial office space above the garage into one (1) residential apartment.

An application was received from the Fire Company at 300 Main Street for a sign variance.

**Correspondence**

The Borough received a letter from President Philip Jackson of Univest Bank thanking us for our continued business.

A letter for Rep. Marcy Toepel's office about prevailing wage act amendment, Mike will research more and report at the next meeting.

A letter from the Montgomery County Planning Commission stating their overall support for Phase two of the lumberyard project with a plan for minor changes and landscaping. Mike will supply the plan to Mr. Manning.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:** No Report

**REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE:** The committee met and reviewed where they are at with things in the Borough in terms of carrying out our Revitalization Plan. The committee determined that at the next meeting we would meet with the County Planner about Main Street.

Jeff Gross from Souderton Borough attended the joint Revitalization and Planning Commission Meeting. He thought the amenities such as the Perkiomen Creek and Trail make the Borough ripe for revitalization. He also recommended becoming partners with other communities because it helps with obtaining grant money.

Mr. Gross also suggested being media oriented and to get the word out about the steps the Borough is taking towards revitalization. Lee Ann and Maureen are discussing having an email list to get more information out regularly.

Mr. Gross suggested having a Zoning Task Force to look over the ordinances and make recommendations of things that are helpful and useful.

Schwenksville can be a member of the Main Street program and benefit from the information they have about things that have been accomplished in other communities.

**ACTIVITY COMMITTEE:** No Report

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE:** The light outside the door is out. Electrician will be called to replace.

**STREETS AND ROADS:** No Report

**STREET LIGHTING:** No Report

BOROUGH OF SCHWENKSVILLE, PA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2011

**ALLEY WAY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** We are still waiting on the signed easement agreements.

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD:** Meeting of the board will be Tuesday February 15 at 11:00am.

Watershed Cleanup Day for the Trail is April 16. Borough Cleanup Day for Meadow Park is April 16. Community Day is Saturday April 30.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Mayor Giunta asked about the speeding issue on Game Farm Road. Mike met with Lower Fredrick Manager and their engineer. Tamara gave Mike some documentation and some PENN DOT requirements.

The Borough Council discussed sign ordinance revisions. Mike recommends a drafting an ordinance with the recommendations from the business community about illumination of signs. The county Planner will draft the ordinance and send to the Schwenksville Planning Commission for review.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Authority is requesting a joint meeting with Council. Arthur will be emailing the list of dates for Council to choose.

Next meeting will be March 10, 2011 @ 7:30 PM

It was motioned by Ray Yeanish and seconded by Rudy Micsko to adjourn the meeting at 9:32PM. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gail L. Phillips  
Council Secretary