

BOROUGH OF SCHWENKSVILLE, PA
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 12, 2015

Council Vice President Lee Miller called the Schwenksville Borough Council meeting on March 12, 2015 to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Lee Ann Miller, Darren Rash, Craig Dunham, Todd Larsen, Philip Berardi, and Mayor Joe Giunta.

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

Absent:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: by the assembly

MINUTES:

- a. Dispense with the reading of the December 4, Joint Meeting with Planning Commission Minutes and approve the December 4, 2014 Joint Meeting minutes, as presented. **Motioned** by Darren Rash and **seconded** by Philip Berardi. All in favor, **Motion carried 5-0.**
- b. Dispense with the reading of the January 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes and approve the January 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes, as presented. **Motioned** by Philip Berardi and **seconded** by Darren Rash. All in favor, **Motion carried 5-0.**
- c. Dispense with the reading of the February 5, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes and approve the February 5, 2015 Special meeting Minutes. **Motioned** by Todd Larsen and **seconded** by Philip Berardi. All in favor, **Motion carried 5-0.**
- d. Dispense with the reading of the February 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes and approve the February 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes. **Motioned** by Todd Larsen and **seconded** by Darren Rash. All in favor, **Motion carried 5-0.**

VACANCIES:

Craig Dunham addressed Council and stated he has sold his home and is moving out of Schwenksville, Craig told Council that this is his last meeting and he is resigning from Council effective now March 12, 2015. **Motioned** by Darren Rash regretfully accept Craig Dunham's resignation from Council **second** by Philip Berardi. All in favor, **Motion carried 4-0.**

Ms. Miller and Council thanked Craig for his time on Council and wish him and his family well.

Applicants for Vacancies: Introduction of Glenn Umberger who was appointed to the Zoning Hearing Board at the February Council Meeting. Mr. Umberger was born and raised in Lebanon County PA. Graduate of Shippensburg University with a bachelors in Science and Criminal Justice. He has been a deputy Sheriff in Lebanon County for 8 years, veteran of Desert Shield and Desert Storm. This May, Glenn will have 30 years in the military and is still active in the Army Reserves. On the civilian side Glenn works for the Department of the Army and is the senior supervisor for

the Army Reserve Legal Command, which is a National Command. Glenn moved to Schwenksville in 1993 and has enjoyed Schwenksville; volunteers were needed so Glenn volunteered for the Revitalization Task Force. Glenn is the State Senior Vice Commander for the Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign War. In June Glenn will take command of the Pennsylvania delegation, which is 94,000 Combat Veterans.

Introduction of Greg Pocius: Greg submitted a letter of intent for the open position on Council. Greg was elected as one of the Auditors in 2003, serves on the Schwenksville Borough Authority as Treasurer. Greg is also a member of the Parks and Recreation Board. Greg has lived in the Borough since 2003 is married, has three children, and is Vice President of Finance at First Niagara Bank. Greg will resign as auditor if appointed to the position on Council.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Mark Brash was not in attendance. Question asked to Philip Berardi about the smoke detectors. Mr. Berardi said that a letter was going out to all residents.

FROM THE FLOOR: No comments.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND TREASURERS REPORT:

Gail Phillips reported that for the period ending February 28, 2015, the current invoices due for payment total \$64,633.74. This includes \$36,970.58 from the General Fund, \$2,230.45 from the Liquid Fuels Account, \$8,640.71 from payroll and \$16,792.00 from Capital Fund. **Motion** by Philip Berardi and **seconded** by Todd Larsen to pay the bills totaling \$64,633.74. All in favor, **Motion carried 4-0.**

Auditor's letter

Gail Philips read the Auditor's letter for the year ending December 31, 2014.

FINANCE REPORT: Mrs. Klepfer's report: For the period January 1, 2014 through February 28, 2015, Total Income for General Fund and Liquid Fuels Funds was \$43,780.71 and Total Expenditures was \$58,728.58 for a net loss of \$14,947.87. General Fund experienced a net loss of \$14,088.08. Assets: General Fund Assets Total \$258,029.79; Capital Fund Assets total \$4,582.03; and Liquid Fuels Fund Assets total \$15,143.70 for a combined Assets total of \$277,755.52.

ENGINEERS REPORT – Dave Leh reported that the S Main Street plans were submitted back to PennDot for their review and we should have the permit back within 30 days. The GoreCon meeting for the inspection of the sidewalk scheduled for tomorrow morning. The 2nd street paving project and storm water repair survey next week. The repaving and reconstruction of 2nd street will be from 153 2nd street through Maple and down to Church Street. We will re profile from Maple Street up to 153 2nd to get the water redirected back towards the curb line and into the inlet at the

corner of Maple and 2nd Street. The Handicap ramp on the North East corner of Maple Street is getting a lot of runoff because of the slope of the road, this will be re profiled, and we will reconstruct the intersection to have the water redirected down the gutter line on Maple Street.

SOLICITORS REPORT: Mr. Dunbar, Jr. he will be meeting with Matt Hess, a GoreCon representative and Mr. Leh for the inspection of the Borough Hall sidewalks.

AMBULANCE REPORT- Gail Phillips read the report for the month of February 2015; there were 6 calls for Schwenksville and 11 calls for Greenfield of Perkiomen Valley.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Giunta read the report from The State Police for the month of February 2015, indicating 19 incidents. The mayor would like to talk about the theft of the Speed Display sign and the graffiti on public and private property within the Borough. We need to be concerned and do something about it. Council should consider cameras in certain locations within the Borough. A car wash business spent approximately \$2,400 for three cameras, computer, screen, transmitting. Mayor Giunta would like Council to consider the purchase of the cameras. The State Police patrol the trail. The State Police Bike Patrol is not funded by the state; they seek donations for the purchase of the bikes and uniforms. Mayor Giunta will talk with the two banks in town about the installation of cameras.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT:

Meadow Park Master Plan & Related Grants:

*Resolution 2015-08 –2015 PECO Green Region Open Space program for the Meadow Park Phase II improvements project: internal walking trail application. **Motion** by Darren Rash **second** by Philip Berardi to approve this project estimated at \$22,898 and authorizes application to the PECO Green Region Open Space Program for \$10,000 and if the application is granted the Borough commits to the expenditure of a combination matching funds and in-kind Services totaling \$12, 898.00. All in favor, **Motion carried 4-0.***

Schuylkill River Restoration Grant is for stormwater management improvements necessary to offset the construction of the internal walking trail and other site improvements for the Meadow Park Phase II improvement project. **Motioned** by Todd Larsen and **seconded** by Philip Berardi to authorize Mrs. Klepfer to send a letter of intent for the Schuylkill River Restoration Grant. All in favor, **Motion carried 4-0.**

175 Second Street Sewer Lateral – Craig Dunham asked to address Council

At 8:16pm, Craig Dunham asked to address Council about the sewer lateral inspection for his property. Mr. Dunham had Palermo Plumbing do the sewer lateral; he spent 4 hours trying to find his way down to the lateral. The lateral runs underneath the driveway and there are a couple of offsets and the vent line comes up in my front yard, he cannot get his camera down the vent line into the lateral to even look at it. The vents are too tight and the camera is not flexible enough to get into it. After talking with the authority, they recommend going from the Main back into the lateral. Palermo Plumbing is not equipped and cannot do it. Palermo Plumbing is coming back to try again and turn over any video to the Water Authority. Mr. Dunham is asking Council that if

there is no way to inspect this pipe without excavating it, Mr. Dunham is asking for a waiver and bypass of the physical inspection and the burden of excavating just to take a look at it. A discussion was held and the Sewer Lateral Ordinance was discussed. Section 128 -11 Inspection required upon transfer of properties letter A. Council states specifically for 175 2nd Street; that after two (2) attempts to video the line, if the plumber is able to attest that the failure to provide a videotape is not due to a structural deficiency in the line, and there are no indications of deficiency, owners shall not be required to excavate to provide a videotape in order to be compliant. **Motioned** by Darren Rash and **seconded** by Philip Berardi to grant the waiver to Mr. Dunham as stated. All in favor, **Motion carried 4-0.**

The Community Development Block Grant Resolution: Resolution for the 2015 application is due by April 17. A project needs to be picked and a suggestion is one that has the least amount of engineering involved. Summit Avenue North might be a good project, Upgrading streetlights to LED lighting, Second Street South of Perkiomen Avenue. This will be on the Agenda for the April meeting. Other projects to consider are Walnut Street, and Maple Street on the eastside is deteriorating.

Draft Ordinances: SALDO, Property Maintenance, Streets, and Sidewalks Draft Ordinances are for your review. The Planning Commission is still reviewing the ordinances also.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMISSION: Darren Rash explained that this is an appointed advisory board. The board has five members and takes requests from Borough Council for review of things such as Ordinances, Comprehensive Plans, and Zoning Hearing Board applications. Brian Olszak is the Montgomery County Planner that attends the meetings and is currently helping to rewrite the Borough Zoning Ordinance. It also has parking requirements that needed updating. The Commission reviews projects and gives recommendations to Council.

ZONING HEARING BOARD: Todd Larsen gave a background on this board; the board has three members and an appointed solicitor. They hear applicants requesting a variance from the Zoning Ordinance where the ordinance inflicts unnecessary hardship upon the applicant. The board looks at five criteria; the property has to have unique characteristics, applicants should not have created hardship through their own actions, variance does not change the essential characteristics of the neighborhood or area. Examples are: flood plan issues, stormwater issues, erosion issues and because of the circumstances, it would be impossible to develop. In addition, the board is obligated to extend the only minimal acceptable variance. The Zoning Hearing Board also hears requests for interpretations of the Zoning, Appeals of the Zoning Officer and applications for Special Exception.

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD: Darren Rash is the Chairman of this Board. It meets four times a year and the meetings need to be advertised. The activities Committee is now a subcommittee of the Park & Rec. Board. The Board has met once but was one member short to select officers. We are working with the activity committee to get Community Day going. Peter Grauer is heading the Meadow Park Maintenance and will be setting up Park cleanup day.

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Activity Committee will be meeting again on April 7. A special meeting will be held so that the Borough Manager can review the Master Park Plan and the Fire Company will be invited to attend.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE: Lee Ann met with the committee to review with them the research they have been working on. The old post office building that is in the parking lot next to the Fire Company, it could be used as a museum that people can walk up to and read about. The committee has been asked to provide historical documentation that would make this a worthwhile thing to do.

REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE: The Task Force is in need of another Council member. The next meetings are March 31 and May 5. The focus is to finish the Plan for Main Street, which has been in progress for almost two years. The Task Force also plans another Town Hall meeting in the fall to update the residents.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: No Report

STREETS AND LIGHTS: the electrician has been called to look at five streets lights that are not working.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 7:00 pm

It was **motioned** by Philip Berardi and **seconded** by Todd Larsen **to adjourn** the meeting at **9:40 pm**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail L. Phillips
Secretary