

BOROUGH OF SCHWENKSVILLE
COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2012

Council President Arthur Fairclough at 7:00 PM called the Schwenksville Borough Council meeting on October 11, 2012 to order.

Present, Arthur Fairclough, Lee Ann Miller and Lisa Dull. Ray Yeanish arrived at 7:25 PM. Mayor Joe Giunta was also present.

Also, present David Leh, Borough Engineer, Solicitor Blanke Dunbar, Esquire and Anne Klepfer, Borough Manager.

Absent: Rudy Micsko.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: By the Assembly

MINUTES:

Dispense with the reading of the September 13, 2012 Council minutes and approve the September 13, 2012 Council minutes. Motioned by Lisa Dull and seconded by Lee Ann Miller. All were in favor and the motion carried.

AUDIENCE: Roy Miller of 320 Centennial Street extended reiterated that the drainage on Miller Street is still a problem and as a result Miller Street needs to be repaired. He asked the Council to keep it in mind during the budgeting process. Mr. Miller also inquired about the status of Centennial and the culvert. Mr. Fairclough advised Mr. Miller that the budget plans for a contribution to a proposed capital project fund earmarked for Centennial but it is the Borough's hope that the current situation lasts long enough to save up more money or secure a grant.

Bryan D. Lukens Sr. of 920 Summit Avenue was present to follow up on a letter dated October 2, 2012. Unfortunately, this letter was not forwarded to Council & Mayor ahead of the meeting, however, Mrs. Klepfer did discuss the concerns with members of Council and the Mayor did speak with Mr. Lukens about his concerns.

Mr. Lukens stated that he is concerned for the safety of his three children and the children of several other families who use the school bus stop on Summit Ave at Hillcrest Ave and have to walk in the street from Woodland Ave to Hillcrest Ave because there are no sidewalks. There is a 25 mph speed limit sign and a stop sign on Summit Ave but there is no stop sign on Woodland Ave, no sidewalks, no traffic calming or restrictions. During rush hours he has noticed cars racing up Woodland Avenue ignoring the speed limit and turning down Summit Ave and racing to Game Farm Road. There have been several ideas tossed around and he would greatly appreciate anything the Borough can do to improve the safety for those traveling to the bus stop.

Mr. Fairclough suggested one option would be to make Woodland Ave "One Way". Other members of Council were not in favor of this because of the impact on the residents who live there and the concerns voiced by the emergency personnel. Mr. Lukens suggested that perhaps

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the traffic up Woodland could be restricted only during morning and afternoon school transportation hours.

The Council discussed placing a stop sign on Summit Avenue at the Hillcrest Ave "T" intersection. Mrs. Klepfer stated that the Borough can place stop signs up where needed but there are suggested criteria contained in PennDot warrants for the use of stop signs.

Mayor Giunta suggested the Borough conduct a traffic study.

The Council also discussed the feasibility of installing sidewalks from Woodland Ave to Hillcrest Ave along Summit Avenue. Borough Engineer Dave Leh indicated that he would need to determine existing Right-of-way conditions and whether additional right-of-way would be needed; prepare a cost estimate for the sidewalk and curbing in order for the Borough to evaluate that option. There might be grant money available through a Safe Route to Schools program. Council would like the Borough Engineer and Manager to also look into the stop-sign option and the cost of flashing lights to attach to stop signs. Another option for Mrs. Klepfer to research would be to install soft rumble strips as a traffic calming measure.

Mayor Joe Giunta thanked Mr. Lukens for bringing his concerns before the Borough. He advised Mr. Lukens that the Borough will pursue this further and evaluation options to address his concerns. He cautioned that it takes patience and perseverance.

Mr. Lukens thanked the Council & Mayor for listening to his concerns and for taking time to discuss solutions.

Mayor Giunta asked Council if they would be interested in having a member of the State Police Barracks attend Schwenksville Council Meetings. He will look into it.

SPECIAL BUSINESS- By motion of Lee Ann Miller and second by Lisa Dull, Mr. Terry Mummert was appointed to the Zoning Hearing Board to fill a vacancy for a term ending 12/31/2012. Council thanked Mr. Mummert for his interest in serving on the Zoning Hearing Board.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND TREASURERS REPORT: Mrs. Klepfer reported that for the period ending September 30, 2012, the current invoices due for payment total \$29,530.81. This includes \$19,023.52 from the General Fund, \$1,608.68 from the Liquid Fuels Account, \$8,898.61 from payroll. Motioned by Ray Yeanish and seconded by Lisa Dull to pay the bills totaling \$29,530.81. All were in favor and the motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT: Rudy Micsko was absent. Mr. Fairclough reported total income \$616,904.75 expenses \$441,508.73, net income \$175,396.02.

The 2013 Draft Budget has been prepared for Council to review and contemplate over the next month. Mr. Fairclough indicated that the total budget figure is up to \$813,808 due to several grant projects being implemented in 2013 and also because the budget format has been modified

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to help monitor the grant projects better and improve planning for use of Liquid Fuels dollars. The Budget proposed includes a separate Capital Projects Fund and Liquid Fuels Fund budget. No property tax increase is proposed in the current draft of the budget. The General Fund also projects increases in Earned Income Tax revenue and Real Estate Transfer Tax as well as proceeds from the cable television franchise agreements.

Ray Yeanish thanked Arthur Fairclough and Rudy Micsko for the amount of detail and effort they put in to improving the financial management of the Borough.

ENGINEERS REPORT –Mr. Leh reported on Summit Avenue from Woodland Ave to the Borough line. Following up on Mr. Canignani's request for assistance from the Borough for getting the road dedicated and repaired, Mr. Leh inspected the road to determine the extent of the project. The existing private lane is variable width between 12' and 15' wide and is approximately 550 lineal feet. It needs full re-building and would require widening it to 20' minimum with curbing on both sides for drainage and stormwater management. Since it is a private road, it is suspected that the deeds probably go to the center of the road, which means right-of-way would need to be given to the Borough. A ball park estimate would be between \$110,000 and \$130,000 in cost.

Ray Yeanish indicated that the next step would be setting up a meeting to see if all affected properties have interest in doing this. After the information and a sketch is presented to the affected property owners, Mr. Canignani could approach his neighbors and try to gain support for the project.

Borough Council directed Engineer Leh to prepare a sketch of the proposed road reconstruction and determine right-of-way needs. Once the sketch is ready, Mr. Klepfer will prepare a letter to affected property owners for Council to review and send out to set up a meeting.

Montgomery Avenue: Lee Ann Miller brought up the Montgomery Avenue project and the desire to review where it left off and try a similar approach to getting it to move forward. She suggested a meeting with herself, Ray Yeanish, Engineer Leh and Mrs. Klepfer to review this project.

Mr. Leh reported that he has not been contacted by Liberty Ministries to review their paving project and has no update on that item.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT -Blake Dunbar, Esquire reported that the Sewer Lateral Ordinance #370 is ready for adoption following a public hearing. Solicitor Blake summarized the Ordinance that provides for the inspection and possible replacement of private sewer service laterals. The Ordinance is proposed to address infiltration of stormwater and would require inspection and possible repair following a) a change in title; b) construction on the sewer main; c) upon inspection by Borough or Authority following up on a problem. The Ordinance was advertised in accordance with law in the Pottstown Mercury, a copy was provided to the Montgomery County Law Library and it was available at Borough Hall.

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A Public Hearing was convened at 8:15 PM. Mr. Roy Miller of 320 Centennial Street stated that he thinks the I&I problem is more likely in the sewer main lines themselves.

Terry Mummert of 2134 Forest Lane asked for clarification of when what would trigger the inspection in the case of construction on the main lines. If the conveyance line to which the private sewer service lateral is connected, replaced or repaired, sewer laterals would need to be inspected.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:23 PM.

MOTIONED BY LISA DULL AND SECONDED BY RAY YEANISH TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 370: THE SEWER LATERAL ORDINANCE WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2013. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT - Jim Keyser read the report from Mark Brasch as follows, for the Month of September, 6 – Calls, 23- Firefighters Responded, and 140 – Minutes in service.

Jim Keyser also reported an incident report submitted by Fire Chief Mark Brasch for the injuries that occurred during a water rescue advance lines certification training class. The report is available for Council & Mayor.

AMBULANCE REPORT- Jean Houpt read the report for the month of September 2012; there were 2 calls for Schwenksville and 12 calls for Greenfield of Perkiomen Valley.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Joe Giunta gave the State Police Report. He reported 31 incidents for the month of September. Mayor Giunta commented that the number of violations issued seems light.

Mayor Giunta reviewed his correspondence with the State Police regarding a complaint about loitering, littering, fighting and drug-use. He emphasized that residents must call the State Police when the problem is occurring and must have specifics, video, photographs, names, dates and times. In this particular case the complaint is regarding a location in a private development. He will arrange for the State Police to attend a forthcoming Homeowner's Association meeting.

The Borough also received a letter complaining about the S-curve on Perkiomen Avenue at Fourth Street. He has requested accident statistics for that intersection and was told that his request is being processed.

The Borough has also requested that the State Police patrol or observe the school zone at Schwenksville Elementary School due to complaints of reckless disregard for the school zone.

Lee Ann Miller noted that the school zone striping needs to be resurfaced.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT – Anne Klepfer reports:

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Woodland Ave/Summit Ave Traffic Safety Concerns: This subject was adequately discussed under the public comment portion of the meeting.

Fall Newsletter – Mrs. Klepfer confirmed that the Fall Edition was ready for printing and mailing.

Correspondence – No correspondence for discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE: Ms. Miller reported that the Committee has been split into two subcommittees. One subcommittee will be working on the Ordinance Amendments and another will be focused more on research. Pam Ruoff has agreed to head up the research committee and Laura Adie will serve on both sub-committees.

REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE: Ms. Miller reported that the task force is still working on a concept and plans to meet again in November or early December.

ACTIVITY COMMITTEE: Lisa Dull reported that the committee met to review 2012 activities. Community Day 2013 is scheduled for Saturday, May 4th, 2013 and they already have bands scheduled for the Music in the Meadow concert series.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Nothing to report.

STREETS AND LIGHTS: Mr. Yeanish agreed to accompany Mrs. Klepfer on a road inspection.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

Next meeting will be November 8, 2012 @ 7:00 PM

It was motioned by Ray Yeanish and seconded by Lisa Dull to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Klepfer
Borough Manager