

BOROUGH OFFICERS

Mayor
DENEEN SWARTZWELDER

Borough Manager
GREG BACHY

Solicitor
ROBERT L. MCTIERNAN



BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHRISTOPHER ANSELL - *President*
WELDIANNE SCALES - *Vice President*
Members
SHAWN ALFONSO WELLS
JOSHUA MISER
WILLIAM C. PRICE, JR.
ANGELA D. STRIBLING

BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE AGENDA MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 22, 2023 7:00 P.M.

1. AGENDA MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:04 P.M.
2. COMMENTS FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE ABIGAIL SALISBURY
 - a. A. Salisbury encouraged Council to reach out to her office at any time. She thanked everyone on Council for the last 5 years and the opportunity to serve. She wished everyone well.
 - b. C. Ansell thanked A. Salisbury for her work and presented her with a recognition of service award.
 - c. Mayor Swartzwelder thanked A. Salisbury. She wished her luck and commented that Ms. Salisbury would to “great things.”
 - d. S. Alfonso Wells also expressed thanks.
3. ROLL CALL – Present: C. Ansell; W. Scales; S. Alfonso Wells; W. Price; J. Miser; A. Stribling; Mayor Swartzwelder
4. PUBLIC COMMENT –
 - a. Gib Miller – Mr. Miller shared plans for the Shade Tree Advisory Committee. The SSTAC applied for Tree City USA for 7th year and hope to hear back soon. Two separate tree plantings took place in 2022. The Committee fulfilled resident street tree requests through Tree Pittsburgh. There will be tree giveaways coming up this year as well.
 - i. Mayor Swartzwelder thanked Mr. Miller and the SSTAC for their work, which is often not recognized.
5. AGENDA ITEMS
 - a. Presentation of plaques to outstanding members of the Community in recognition of Black History Month
 - i. W. Scales provided background on the history of recognizing members of the community during February, Black History Month.
 - ii. Alex Beasley – Beasley Plumbing
 1. W. Scales read a biography for Beasley Plumbing.
 - iii. A. Beasley expressed appreciation for the acknowledgement.

- iv. Tim Jones – Salon Blue
 - 1. W. Price read a biography for T. Jones.
 - 2. T. Jones expressed appreciation for the acknowledgement.
 - 3. A. Stribling shared words of encouragement and praise.
- v. Congresswoman Summer Lee (not present)
 - 1. S. Alfonso Wells read a biography for Summer Lee.
- b. Discuss renewal of contract with Sable Kennels
 - i. The Sable Kennel monthly contract fee increased from \$150 - \$200. Chief Watson noted that the police have had no notable issues with Sable Kennels in the past. Mr. McTiernan is reviewing the contract.
 - ii. Discussion by Council.
- c. Discuss ratification of the Part-Time Police Contract
 - i. Mr. Bachy held three negotiating sessions with the part-time Police Officers. The biggest issue of concern was wages. The new contract proposes an increase from \$18.75 to \$22.00 with increases over the next 5 years, with no wage increase for 2022.
 - ii. There was an increase in uniform allowance and addition of MLK Day and Juneteenth as holidays.
 - iii. Detail time would be paid at time and a half whether or not the officer has already worked 40 hours.
 - iv. The current part-time officers have already approved the contract.
- d. Discuss scheduling a public hearing for a conditional use request
 - i. There is a conditional use request from Top Tier Venues to open a Catering Hall/Event Venue at 1703 Monongahela Avenue. The Planning Commission is meeting at 6:00 p.m. on February 23, 2023.
 - ii. Mr. Bachy proposed setting the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on March 22nd.
- e. Discuss biennial approval to promulgate Emergency Operations Plan for Emergency Management
 - i. Chief Wilhelm provided background on the requirement to approve the Emergency Operations Plan. There are no changes from the previous edition. Allegheny County must receive a copy.
 - ii. S. Alfonso Wells asked about resident evacuation shelters. Chief Wilhelm provided more information. S. Alfonso Wells thanked Mr. Wilhelm for his work.
 - iii. C. Ansell restated that members of Council can stop by the Fire Station to view the document.
- f. Discuss possibility of returning to in-person meetings
 - i. C. Ansell opened discussion, and provided background for Council meeting virtually. He noted the lack of a meeting location as the reason for remaining virtual.
 - ii. J. Miser spoke in favor of meeting in person and asked about security concerns with restricting access to the entirety of the school building.

- iii. S. Alfonso Wells expressed concerns about adequate ventilation.
- iv. A. Stribling asked about the ability to evacuate in the case of emergency. She shared concerns for the physical safety of Council Members.
- v. C. Ansell stated that the potential location is near the front door. There is a route of egress if Council needed to exit for executive session. He suggested that air purifiers be added to the room as an extra precaution.

6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. POLICE – Chief Watson

- i. Chief Watson commented on the tragic loss of life that took place earlier in the month. He thanked the Allegheny County Homicide Unit for their quick response. Chief Watson also credited the on-duty Swissvale Fire Fighters who responded to the medical call and discovered the victims.
- ii. Off. Loureiro was hired Full-Time in Forest Hills. Chief Watson congratulated Off. Loureiro and stated that he will be missed.
- iii. J. Miser thanked all police officers and Chief Watson for their work in difficult situations.

b. CODE and FIRE – Chief Wilhelm

- i. Chief Wilhelm thanked Chief Watson for the recognition of the fire fighter, first responders. He credited Firefighter John Munsie for taking the extra initiative and effort when he felt something was not right about the call.
- ii. Fish Fry season has started.
- iii. In December three members of the department were moved to full time. The Fire Department is accepting applications for the position of Fire Marshall.
- iv. Congratulated Asst. Chief Volpe on the birth of his 3rd child.

c. PUBLIC WORKS – Jordan D’Ambrosio

- i. Crews are working to install new disabled parking signs.
- ii. Pothole patching is happening about twice per week as weather permits.
- iii. April 22nd is the annual community Clean Up Day.
- iv. Street Sweeping begins in April.

d. BOROUGH MANAGER – Greg Bachy

- i. There is now a vacancy on Council as A. Salisbury has resigned. Any resident interested in being appointed to the vacant seat should submit a resume and letter of interest by noon on February 28th. Interviews of potential candidates will take place on Wednesday, March 1st at 6 p.m. before the Council Meeting. Council will appoint a new member at the March 22nd meeting so as to fill the vacancy within 30 days.
- ii. The regular April meeting will be Monday, April 3rd to avoid Passover.
- iii. In January, Council passed an ordinance to create the Human Relations Commission. The new commission has been advertised. Interested

residents should submit an application by March 31st. Interviews will take place at the end of April and positions will be appointed in May.

- e. COUNCIL PRESIDENT – President Ansell
 - i. C. Ansell initiated discussion about reinstating commenting on YouTube.
 - 1. Discussion by Council. W. Scales noted discussions she has had with other elected officials outside of Swissvale. Live commenting is not utilized in other communities.
 - ii. Council will meet in Executive Session after the meeting.
 - iii. C. Ansell wished residents who are celebrating to have a blessed Lenten Sacrifice.
- f. SOLICITOR – Robert McTiernan
 - i. Mr. McTiernan noted that he has submitted the solicitor’s letter and that the Borough should be receiving the TAN loan shortly.

7. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- a. S. Alfonso Wells noted that there are meetings coming up with CONNECT about Transportation Improvements.
- b. J. Miser thanked residents for reaching out to the PRT about the potential cuts to the P3 route. The service cuts have been removed from the proposal. Council also sent a letter to urge that the cuts were removed.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:03 P.M. Moved by J. Miser. 2nd by S. Alfonso Wells. All ayes. Motion carries.