

BOROUGH OFFICERS

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DENEEN SWARTZWELDER

Borough Manager

GREG BACHY

Solicitor

ROBERT L. MCTIERNAN



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BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE COUNCIL AGENDA JULY 26, 2023 7:00 P.M.

1. AGENDA MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:01 P.M.
2. ROLL CALL – Present: C. Ansell; W. Scales; W. Price; J. Miser; F. Quinn; A. Stribling; Mayor Swartzwelder; Absent: S. Alfonso Wells
3. PUBLIC COMMENT –
 - Francine Matey (2226 LaCrosse) - Food Pantry concerns over losing the current location where the Food Pantry operates. Asked Council to consider various possible solutions.
 - Erin Hinson (7334 Varsity) - Concerns about condition of Varsity Road.
4. PRESENTATION OF BOROUGH BUILDING PLANS BY CORE ARCHITECTS
5. AGENDA ITEMS
 - a. Discuss a resolution for the RACP Grant.
 - i. The RACP Grant (\$2.5 million) for funding the new Borough Building construction requires the Borough to pass a resolution to commit the match funds for the project and commit to interim financing for the project. This is a revision of a prior resolution.
 - b. Discuss a resolution for the Commonwealth Finance Authority Multi-Modal Fund Grant.
 - i. The Commonwealth Finance Authority Multi-Modal Fund grant program is open and accepting applications. Mr. Bachy proposed applying for funding to continue the streetscape project onto Monongahela Avenue, starting with the area from Washington Street to Church Street. This would include decorative lighting, street trees, handicapped curbs and improved crosswalks.
 - c. Discuss the Crossing Guard Contract.
 - i. Positive negotiations occurred between the Borough and Teamsters Local 205 concerning the Crossing Guards Contract which expires on August 31, 2023. A copy of the highlights of the tentative agreement was provided to Council.

Terms included in the 5-year agreement were, \$.60 an hour increase, increased uniform allowance, bereavement leave changes, removed residency requirement, and the addition of family and medical leave. The crossing guards will be voting on the terms of the contract.

- d. Discuss Vacant Property Registrations.
 - i. The Borough has previously used the company ProChamps to participate in the Vacant Property Registration program. ProChamps recently went out of business, so the Borough needs a new company who does vacant property registries. Chief Wilhelm and Mr. Bachy spoke to The WS Group and they are offering the same agreement that was offered by ProChamps.
- e. Discuss hiring of Part-Time Firefighters
 - i. Chief Wilhelm and the Fire Committee will be interviewing several applicants for part-time firefighter positions and would like to hire at the August 2, 2023 meeting. Hiring more part-time firefighters will help to fill needed shifts in the schedule and will not impact the Borough's budget.
- f. Discuss relocation of the Veteran's Memorial.
 - i. Council was asked to consider relocating the Veterans Monument at the current Borough Building to the Church Street Parklet. Council directed the Building Committee to discuss the matter at their monthly meeting. The consensus of Council was that the monument should stay at the Borough Building site. The architect is working to determine the best location for the monument.
- g. Discuss the traffic signal at Monongahela Avenue and Washington Street.
 - i. The Administration Office received complaints about the traffic signal at Monongahela and Washington. Now that the Washington Street Bridge is closed, some residents feel that the light is too long when there is minimal traffic coming off of Washington Street.
 - ii. Discussion of possible options by Council. Flashing the signals on Monongahela Avenue may encourage drivers to speed from Church Street to the Rankin line. Gibson Thomas Engineering recommended installing a temporary three-way stop at this location. However, PennDOT permits all traffic signals, the Borough may have to file for an amended permit for this intersection. Gibson Thomas will provide more information.
 - iii. C. Ansell expressed concern for the safety of the school students who use that intersection as a bus stop.
 - iv. Consensus by Council to not make any changes at this time.
- h. Discuss returning to in-person meetings.
 - i. Mr. Bachy provided background to the discussion and possible locations for meeting in-person. No consensus was reached on a location.
 - ii. Discussion by Council. Council will take more time to consider additional sites.
- i. Discuss painting handicapped spaces in the Business District with graphics in the parking spaces.

- i. Police Committee has been discussing concerns over handicapped parking violations in the Business District. People are parking in the designated handicapped parking spaces without the required placard. Discussion about painting a handicapped parking graphic in each handicapped parking space in the Business District in addition to signs and blue curbs. There are approximately six (6) handicapped parking spaces in the Business District. The spots to be painted would be on Noble, Waverly, Washington and Monongahela. Discussion by Council. Consensus by Council to approve the painted street graphics.
- j. Discuss signage in the Business District directing motorists to the Municipal Parking Lot.
 - i. Council discussed improving the use of the Municipal Parking Lot behind Noble Street.
 - ii. W. Price suggested using large “Public Parking” signs to direct people to the municipal lots.
 - iii. Mr. Bachy will provide potential signage options to the Police Committee to consider.
 - iv. C. Ansell suggested creating a parking plan for the Borough lot use and include the Admin Staff in the discussions.

6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- a. POLICE – Chief Watson
 - i. Tuesday, August 8th is National Night Out. Several streets are having block parties, encourage neighbors to get out and meet other neighbors.
 - ii. The 125th anniversary celebration is happening on Saturday, July 29th. The police have posted the parade route and Swissvale Mile route with no parking signs.
 - iii. There is a trend of firearms being stolen from vehicles. Reminded residents to properly secure firearms and never leave them in vehicles.
- b. CODE and FIRE – Chief Wilhelm
 - i. There are 4 applicants for part-time fire fighters who will be interviewed by the Fire Committee.
 - ii. Thanked Chief Watson for getting vehicles removed from behind 2004-2006 Waverly.
 - iii. Reminded residents to observe parking regulations, such as not parking too close to corners and fire hydrants. Vehicles may be damaged if large fire apparatus need to come through.
 - iv. The Fire Department has “Challenge Coins” to commemorate the Quasquicentennial of the Borough and the Centennial of the Fire Department. They will be available for purchase at Community Day.
- c. PUBLIC WORKS – Jordan D’Ambrosio
 - i. Public Works has been busy preparing for Quasquicentennial events.
 - ii. Mr. D’Ambrosio responded to public comment about Varsity Rd. It is on the list for repaving. DPW will do some more temporary patching.
 - iii. Crews have put up all handicap signs. Curbs are currently being painted.

- iv. Questions from W. Scales about handicap spaces and meeting the Public Works Summer employees.
 - v. W. Price asked about removing old trolley tracks during the repaving process.
 - vi. C. Ansell asked the Public Works Committee to investigate traffic calming measures for various areas of the Borough and to bring a recommendation to Council.
- d. BOROUGH MANAGER - Greg Bachy
- i. Allegheny County has asked the borough to pass a resolution to opt in or opt out to CDBG Grant Funding for 2024-2026. Asked that this item be added to the agenda.
 - ii. Mr. Bachy completed 2 grant applications for funding of an electric garbage truck and an electric recycling truck through the Health Department. An additional grant application for continued street scape improvements will be completed this week.
 - iii. Shared the proposed location for the Darin Poindexter Memorial at Collingwood Park. Discussion by Council.
 - iv. Comments by S. Ansell regarding Quasquicentennial Activities.
- e. COUNCIL PRESIDENT – Chris Ansell
- i. Council will meet in executive session following the meeting for personnel items.
- f. SOLICITOR – Robert McTiernan
- i. Council will meet in executive session following the meeting for personnel items.
7. OTHER NEW BUSINESS
- a. W. Scales commented on attending the vacant lot training.
 - b. Chief Watson and the Police Committee have met with block captains and discussed the neighborhood watch program.
8. MOTION TO ADJOURN THE AGENDA MEETING AT 9:14 P.M. J. Miser, 2nd W. Scales. All ayes, motion carries.