

BOROUGH OF SCHWENKSVILLE, PA
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Affidavit of Residency & Swearing in of New Council Members:

Mayor Joe Giunta swore in new council members Todd Larsen and Philip Berardi.

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

Present, Lee Ann Miller, Darren Rash, 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: Craig Dunham

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: by the assembly

Since the Council has three new members, Ms. Miller asked that they each introduce themselves and say a few words.

Darren Rash lives at 812 Mine Hill Road. Darren moved to Schwenksville in 2007. Darren previously served on the Schwenksville Zoning Hearing Board. Darren currently serves on the Schwenksville Planning Committee and Park & Recreation Board.

Philip Berardi lives at 160 Centennial Street for two years and has lived in the area all his life. Philip is a member of the Schwenksville Fire Company.

Todd Larsen lives at 160 Fourth Street since 2002. Todd served on the Schwenksville Zoning Hearing Board since 2010.

There is also a vacancy for Council President. Ms. Miller is the Vice President and is temporarily conducting the meetings until Council can reorganize.

MINUTES: Defer the December 4, 2014; Joint Meeting with Planning Commission Minutes and the January 8, 2015 minutes for approval until the March 12, 2015 Council meeting.

Appointments & Organizational Business:

Todd Larsen submitted his letter of resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board effective February 2, 2015. Mrs. Klepfer read Todd's resignation letter. It was **accepted unanimously** by Council.

Glen Umberger submitted his letter of intent for appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Umberger lives on Pennypacker Drive and has been a resident for 20 years. Mr. Umberger serves on the Revitalization Task Force. He will attend the March council meeting to introduce himself.

Motioned by Todd Larsen and **seconded** by Darren Rash to appoint Glen Umberger to the Zoning Hearing Board term ending in 2016. All in favor, **Motion carried 4-0.**

From the Floor – Residents requested to be on the agenda:

Lauren and Jerry Giannini of 910B Summit Avenue purchased this home January 28, 2015. The Giannini's would like to have the address changed so that it does not have a letter behind it. 910 Summit Avenue already exists and the next numbered home is 912. The address may be changed to 914 Summit Avenue, which would be out of sequence. They have talked with the Collegeville Post Office & Emergency Personnel. Council made it clear to the Gianninis that the number would have to be placed on the building and on the mailbox for clarification for emergency personnel to find the home. Mrs. Klepfer will notify all agencies about the change in the address. **Motioned** by Darren Rash and **seconded** by Todd Larsen to renumber 910B Summit Avenue to 914 Summit Avenue. All in favor, **Motion carried 4-0.**

Ms. Miller asked Mark Brasch to give his report for the Fire Company so that he could go back to training.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT – Mark Brasch: report for January 2015 there were 12-Calls, 62-Firefighters Responded and 622- Minutes in service. Mr. Brasch also submitted the 2014 yearly incident report.

Barbara Augustine – 41 Main St. and building across Rt. 29 – Bruce Augustine attended the meeting on behalf of Ms. Augustine. Ms. Augustine has her property for sale, which includes the block building located at the entrance to Schwenksville on the north side of Main Street. Mr. Augustine states that Ms. Augustine is proposing to sell the property with the block building to the Borough for more parking. Ms. Miller said that this is a real estate matter and will be discussed at a future Executive Session meeting.

South Main Street Project:

Update on Plan Revision: Ms. Miller stated that we would focus on South Main Street Project. The residents all received a letter that listed items that have already been made to the design, or are a topic for discussion this evening. There is also a Comment Log, that we have been working on for some time and it is posted on the Borough Website. When Council decided to pursue this project, we knew that the block would present many challenges and those challenges needed to be resolved. Therefore, we wanted to see what we could do to help the block. We were not prepared for some of the things that resulted, in particular the extreme resistance on part of the residents. Ms. Miller, speaking for Council, stated that Council wants to assure residents that every member on Council that has served has had the best interest and the purest motives in trying to pursue the South Main Street Improvement Project. Every member has listened and heard all of the comments, and unfortunately, one of the functions of government it to try to make difficult decisions as to how to

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meet the needs of the various different groups, in this case the residents of South Main Street and the Community as a whole. Countless hours and effort and engineering fees were spent and will continue to be spent trying to meet as many of the residents' concerns as we can. Unfortunately, it has also been a very upsetting experience for the Borough, Borough Officials and staff as well as the residents. Ms. Miller stated "I think if I could give you two words to think about in relation to this process they would be compassion and compromise."

"Compromise: understanding and appreciating the viewpoints of everyone; this would apply to the residents and to Council. Compromise: be willing to give up certain points off view to achieve other goals and that would apply to all of us. Now at this time, we do have some proposals on the agenda up for discussion tonight and I will turn the meeting over to the Mayor for that discussion. Recently we have received word that several people raised the issue of conflict of interest in regards to myself and to my family's ownership of the property known in the community as the Lumber Yard. It is the vacant lot about half a block north of here. It is a full block away from the South Main Street Project. As a Councilperson even though I do not feel that there is a conflict of interest, technically or significantly in any way, it is my responsibility to recuse myself from a proceeding if there would be the impression of conflict of interest. Therefore, that is what I am going to do with the project from now on and Mr. Mayor if you would please take over."

Mayor Giunta read the following statement: "Tonight we are going to review items that have been revised on the proposed plan for South Main Street. This will include two proposed changes that are a direct response to comments from residents. Both represent some compromise to optimum conditions desired for safety and ease of use of the roadway and parking, but do represent an improvement to existing conditions. Improvement of existing conditions for safety reasons is a key goal of this project.

All of the decisions made throughout this project have been an attempt to balance the needs and desires residents with those of the community at large, for a safer driving and parking situation—all while maintaining as many parking spots as possible. In short, we are trying to apply PennDOT's 21st Century standards to the Borough's 19th Century streets."

Review of Plan Revisions – Dave Leh, Borough Engineer: The plan has not changed much. One large change is the crosswalk at the Augustine property from the garage to the residential side, at the common line between the Augustine property and the McMullen property. Unfortunately, this is what they call a mid-block crossing and there is a high threshold for volume that we do not meet. We need proof for PennDOT that this is a high volume pedestrian crossing location to justify having a mid-block crosswalk. PennDOT will not approve the mid-block crosswalk on Main Street at this location so this is off the plan.

Placed on the plan formally is a dedicated handicap parking space in front of the Kowalski property. This will be marked with a handicap decal.

There is a storm inlet on the east side in front of the Prichard property. PennDOT is allowing the inlet to stay and the pavement will be adjusted.

PennDot approved painting on the road on the North bound side “25 MPH”.

Additional parking, previously all the parking spaces were 22 feet long to allow for maneuvering. The minimum length for the plan would be 20 feet. With this plan the North bound side will gain one parking space and the South bound will gain one parking space. The area highlighted in orange on the Eastside is the Handy driveway, this will not be blocked by a parking space, but it will hinder their site distance. There has been no response by the Handy’s as of the February 12, 2015 Council meeting. On the southbound side, the McMullen’s driveway opening can be narrowed and they will still be able to park two cars side by side. The McMullen’s have talked to Mrs. Klepfer and have agreed to accept the plan to adjusting their driveway for the project. We have gone from the previous plan of 15 parking spaces at 22 feet to 17 parking spaces at a mix of 20 and 22 feet length parking spaces.

Mayor Giunta asked if the audience had any questions, comments, or concerns regarding these two additional parking spaces. Linda Wilde stated that she cannot speak for Jeannie Catton who is not here tonight, but stated she is sure she will be happy that her spot has been preserved. She did not see anything that would affect the safety by removing Ms. Catton’s spot like it was previously, she did not see how parking there affected safety. Linda is glad that someone made an effort as far as that goes. Mayor Giunta asked if there was any input from Council members. Council had no comments. Mayor Giunta called for a motion to accept the proposed parking plan as presented to us tonight to revise the plan, which will allow additional parking to 17 parking spaces and closing the spaces from 22 feet to 20 feet. **Motioned** by Darren Rash, and **seconded** by Todd Larsen. Vote 3-0 with Ms. Miller abstaining. **Motion carried.**

Review of Plan Option to avoid 18’ Right-of-Way Acquisition: Dave Leh, Borough Engineer:

The first drawing is the existing condition on the Southbound Main Street between the Liberty Ministries property (west side) and Prichard property (east side). The dimensions indicate on these cross-sections will vary greatly at other locations. The sidewalk width on the existing condition is 4 feet wide, the parking birth is 8 feet wide, and the travel lane is 10 feet wide. Northbound travel lane is 9 feet wide, parking birth is 8 feet wide, and the sidewalk is 6 feet wide.

One proposed option would be 4-foot wide sidewalk, 8 foot parking birth and 11-foot travel lane (southbound) 11-foot travel lane, 8-foot wide parking birth and 4foot 5 inch sidewalk; this is accomplished by a 3foot wide existing sidewalk plus adding 18 inches to the sidewalk, this will give 3 more feet for the travel lane.

A second alternative has not been formally shown to PennDot but if we reduced parking stalls on both sides to 7.25 feet, we would be reducing each parking stall by 9.5 inches. Net result we would be holding the existing back of the curb, we would no longer be widening the sidewalk onto the property owners on the northbound side, and it would only be moving the curb back 1.5 feet instead of 3 feet. This would make a much tighter cart way and there will not be as much room for parking as we would in the other scenario. This reduces the amount of area we would have to work outside of the sidewalk area. Mayor Giunta stated that the existing option that no one is happy with

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obviously, because we want to change things for the better. Mayor Giunta asked Mr. Leh to give us the pros and cons of all points of views regarding Option 1 and Option 2.

Option 1 – This is the existing plan submitted to PennDOT with the 8-foot wide parking births, this is the safest scenario that gives the most room for the traveling public to navigate through the street, and it gives the most room for those parked in the parking births to navigate in and out of their vehicles. This is clearly the safest option. The negative is it involves the greatest encroachment outside of the existing sidewalk area. It requires us to move the sidewalk back 18 inches in certain locations to achieve that. The vehicles are encroaching the sidewalk by parking halfway onto the sidewalk at this time.

Option 2 – the parking births would be 7.25 feet, which gives less room. The lane width would still be 11 feet. The parking births would be narrower and would make it more difficult for vehicles to travel through and it would be more difficult to get in and out of vehicles. It would give us the opportunity to stay within the existing sidewalk area. Mayor Giunta asked if there would still be a requirement to exercise the right of eminent domain and taking of existing property. Mr. Leh says it would for no other reason than for the handicap space, which needs to be 8 feet to meet the ADA requirements. Mayor Giunta asked the audience if there were any questions. Mr. Augustine wanted to know under Option 1 whose properties would be affected by eminent domain. Due to the requirement for an 8' wide lane for the handicap space, the parking lane would be tapered down to 7.25 feet. The Kowalski, Prichard, and Smyth properties in lessening degrees are the affected properties. Ms. Wilde asked for clarification. Mr. Leh indicated that the Prichard and Kowalski properties are affected because the distance for the handicap space needs to taper down to the 7.25'. Mr. Smyth asked about the storm drain. Mr. Leh indicated the storm drain will sit flush and the pavement will be re-graded to direct the water towards the inlet.

Mayor Giunta asked if there was any input from Council members. Council had no comments, Mr. Rash has an opinion that the residents have already opted for Option 1 because they are already parking 2-3 feet over the existing curb now, which makes them feel safe. Mrs. Knickerbocker explained that only about three cars parking on the sidewalk. She will talk to them and ask that they not park on the curb in the future.

Mayor Giunta in order to move things along asked Council to entertain a motion to either reconsider the 18 inch Right of Way Acquisition and go with the proposed Option 2 which would lessen the Right of Way Acquisition, or Option 1 as originally proposed. **Motioned** by Todd Larsen and **seconded** by Philip Berardi to accept Option 1 with the 8 foot parking lanes. Vote 3-0 with Ms. Miller abstaining. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Giunta asked if there were any more comments or questions about South Main Street. Mrs. Knickerbocker wanted clarification on the left turn lane from Main Street onto Perkiomen Avenue. The study done by the engineer did not meet the requirements to adjust signal timing without lane modifications so the modified turn-lane proposed by PennDOT has not changed.

Ms. Wilde remarked about the sump pump drain that comes out of the retaining wall at 65 Main Street. Mr. Leh will look at the water runoff. Ms. Wilde responded to the Mayor's affirmation that there is an existing 25 MPH Speed Ahead sign for traffic entering the Borough in the Northbound

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Route 29 lane, by indicating that it was an electronic sign she had requested. Mayor Giunta will bring this subject up at the next Regional Planning Commission meeting.

Mayor Giunta turned the meeting back over to Ms. Miller.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND TREASURERS REPORT:

Gail Phillips reported that for the period ending January 31, 2015 the current invoices due for payment total \$42,735.93. This includes \$16,480.87 from the General Fund, \$860.04 from the Liquid Fuels Account, \$12,062.86 from payroll and \$13,332.16 from Capital Fund. **Motion** by Darren Rash and **seconded** by Philip Berardi to pay the bills totaling \$42,735.93. All in favor, **Motion carried 4-0.**

Bank Signatures:

Resolution 2015-07 needs a motion for the new signatures for all bank accounts approved at the January meeting to include Gail L. Phillips, Lee Ann Miller, and Darren W. Rash as signatories. **Motion** by Todd Larsen **seconded** Philip Berardi to adopt Resolution 2015-07, Gail L. Phillips, Lee Ann Miller, and Darren W. Rash for all bank accounts. All in favor, **Motion carried 4-0.**

Motion needed for signatures Gail L. Phillips, Lee Ann Miller, and Daren W. Rash on all Plgit accounts. **Motioned** by Todd Larsen, **seconded** Philip Berardi, to approve the signatures for all Plgit accounts. All in favor, **Motion carried 4-0.**

FINANCE REPORT: Mrs. Klepfer's report: For the period January 1, 2015 through January 31, 2015, Total Income for General Fund and Liquid Fuels Funds was \$7,705.62 and Total Expenditures was \$19,986.36 for a net loss of \$12,280.74. General Fund experienced a net loss of \$12,280.99. Assets: General Fund Assets Total \$262,647.32; Capital Fund Assets total \$19,163.73; and Liquid Fuels Fund Assets total \$16,003.74 for a combined Assets total of \$318,707.68.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Dave Leh has nothing else to report.

SOLICITORS REPORT: Solicitor Dunbar, reported that the meeting with GoreCon representatives would be scheduled when the weather improves.

Mrs. Klepfer has prepared a review letter for Dunkin Donuts, the Solicitor's office has reviewed and made modifications, and a letter has been sent to the proposed property owner setting forth zoning and other issues.

AMBULANCE REPORT- Gail Phillips read the report for the month of January 2014; there were 4 calls for Schwenksville and 17 calls for Greenfield of Perkiomen Valley.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Guinta read the report from The State Police for the month of January 2015, indicating 19 incidents. According to the Mercury, a suspect was apprehended in the incidents of smashing windows. Borough Hall reported to the State Police the graffiti that was sprayed on the trash fence behind Borough Hall.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT: Mrs. Klepfer reported:

Act 164 Tax Collector Certifications – Wendi Rowley needs to take six continuing education credits per year. She is asked to put any requests in writing for reimbursement of these classes. The legislation also encourages Tax Collectors to appoint a Deputy; Mrs. Rowley is asking council to approve the appointment of Karen Hill of 151 Third Street as the Deputy. **Motions** by Philip Berardi **second** Darren Rash to have Mrs. Phillips sign the form for Mrs. Rowley to approve Karen Hill as the Deputy Tax Collector. All in favor, **Motion carried 4-0.**

Borough Authority Agreement: This is an agreement for the Authority to continue serving the Borough and needs to be renewed. **Motion** Darren Rash **second** by Todd Larsen to approve the labor contract with Schwenksville Borough Authority. All in favor, **Motion carried 4-0.**

Complaint/Suggestion Procedure: All forms to be submitted to Mrs. Phillips. Mrs. Klepfer and Mrs. Phillips will review. Council will be notified if necessary. Please see web site for the new form and instruction sheet. Emails will be accepted but need the form information included, emails will be attached to the form. The action taken or response of the complaint/suggestion will be attached to the form/email. Under the Borough Managers Ordinance, it is the job of the manager to receive and respond to complaints and add suggestions and concerns, this will help address complaints or suggestions in an orderly fashion.

Storm Drains: A future grant application for consideration is rebuilding, fixing, or repairing inlets in the Borough. An evaluation of the inlets should be made during a survey. In addition they should be recorded by GPS and added to our official MS4 Map. This would allow us to figure out how many inlets are in the Borough and the how much it would cost to repair the inlets. This would help in applying for grants.

Mrs. Klepfer has talked with a Representative of District 6 from PennDot about the storm drains on Main Street. They will continue to inspect the storm drains on Main Street. The inlet in front of 65 Main Street has a broken bar. PennDot sweeps Main Street once a year. The Borough does the entire Borough twice a year. If we continue to street sweep, they will try to get the drains cleaned out and monitor them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE: The Committee would like some time at a council meeting to brief council on what they have been doing. One item is the fate of the building by the Fire Station. This building was once used as the post office. The committee would like to

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preserve the history and condition of the building. This could be used as an unmanned museum along the trail.

REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE: The Committee has not met in about a year. Montgomery County had a funded Revitalization effort. The Municipality had to have a revitalization plan to get any funding through grants. The Borough has taken advantage of that, however, several years ago it was discontinued. The last grant the Borough received was for the alleyway project.

ACTIVITY COMMITTEE: Community Day May 2, 2015. Application and save the date flyer will be emailed and placed on the website. Volunteers are welcome to help with set up and cleanup for the day.

Schwenksville Fire Company will host the Circus Sunday June 7, 2015. (Meadow Park)

Patriotic Order Sons of America and Boy Scouts will host the Flag Retirement (Meadow Park) Sunday June 14, 2015 at 2:00pm.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Repairs are complete on the hole in the eave on the south side roof of Borough Hall

STREETS AND LIGHTS: No Report

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD: The new Board met on January 22, 2015. Chairman, Darren Rash, Treasurer, Gail Phillips, Activity Liaison, Greg Pocus and Meadow Park Maintenance, Peter Grauer.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7:00 pm

It was **motioned** by Darren Rash and **seconded** by Todd Larsen **to adjourn** the meeting at **9:25 pm**. Council went into an Executive meeting to discuss a real estate matter. No official action was taken.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail L. Phillips
Secretary