

Schwenksville Borough
Council Meeting
November 14, 2019

Council President Darren Rash called the Schwenksville Borough Council meeting on November 14, 2019 to order at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall, 140 Main Street, Schwenksville, PA 19473.

Present, Darren Rash, Lee Ann Miller, Sarah Knickerbocker, Chris Melville, Maureen Harte and Mayor Joe Giunta.

Also, present, Wendy Feiss McKenna Esquire, Engineer Dave Leh, P.E., Anne Klepfer, Borough Manager and Secretary-Treasurer Gail Phillips.

Absent:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: By the Assembly

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Mayor's Report: Mayor Giunta reported from the State Police for October 2019, 24 incidents. State Police were at Liberty Ministries. Several disturbances, traffic stops.

Police survey Results: The Borough received 88 responses, one of which was not included because it was incomplete. Eighty-five percent of those who responded indicated that they are property owners; 10 percent were tenants and 5% were business owners.

- 80% of the respondents are satisfied with the Pennsylvania State Police Services and coverage provided to Schwenksville Borough.
- 64% oppose participating in the formation of a Regional Police Department; 21% said it depends on the cost and 15% said the Borough should participate in forming a Regional Police Department.
- 70% oppose purchasing Police Services from Lower Frederick Township; 10% favor it; and 16% said it depends on cost.
- 74% of respondents would not support any tax increase for Police Services; 18% would support a 1-2 mill increase and 8% would support a 3-4 mill increase.
- If Pennsylvania starts charging for State Police Services, 44% support choosing whichever option is the least expensive; 31% support continuing with State Police Services; 16% support forming a regional police department; and 9% support purchasing police services from Lower Frederick Township.

The results of the survey in report form is available for public review at www.schwenksville-pa.org.

Fire Company Report: Mr. Melville reported 3 calls for the month. 30 total calls for the year.

Emergency Management Report: Mr. Melville reported the Limerick Drill will be November 19 starting at 4 or 4:30 PM

Fire Marshal – Mr. Melville reported one call for a small smoldering fire to the rear of New Eden Church.

Ambulance Report: Mrs. Phillips read the report for October 2019 stating Plymouth Community Ambulance responded to 5 calls at Greenfield and 16 calls for the Borough. PCAA Memberships are available anytime; please call 610-277-2776 & ask for the billing department.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: No comments

ENGINEER’S REPORT: Dave Leh, P.E. Project updates.

2017 CDBG Sidewalks are complete. Mr. William’s railing still needs repair and reseeding of lawn will be done again in the spring.

Rain Garden/Observation Deck Project: Gilmore recommends payment of two invoices for Gary Schneider in the amounts of \$8,100.00 and \$8,060.00. These are included with the bills to be approved tonight. Some work still needs to be finished include paving and installation of the sign boards.

TA Set Aside –All set with the constructability submission prior to Thanksgiving. Dave apologized for the set of plans that were sent out which omitted the bump outs at the intersection at Church and the intersection at Centennial streets. The bump outs are on the plans now and will be submitted to PennDOT. Council discussed improvements that could be done to the corner of Perkiomen Avenue and Main Street to improve the turning radius for vehicles turning right up Perkiomen Avenue. Additional right-of-way would need to be obtained and the pedestrian signal controls would need to be relocated. The consensus was that this work goes beyond the scope of the TA-Set-Aside grant which has already been stretched to include the ADA ramps that were deferred from the ARLE project. Ms. Miller reminded everyone that she has been advocating for this improvement since before the ARLE project was completed and feels strongly that if improvements are to be made to that intersection then they need to be comprehensive because we will be living with them for a long time. She asked Mr. Leh to inquire with Penndot if the ramp work at Perkiomen Avenue and Main Street could be deferred until such time as funds are available to do more comprehensive improvements. She also asked if in lieu of that whether temporary improvements such as flattening of the curb could be done to make it easier for vehicles turning up Perkiomen Avenue. Mr. Leh will follow up on these suggestions with PennDot and report back to Council.

Sinkhole- Centennial Street Property- Two quotes were received to fix the sink hole with 30 feet of pipe still waiting for one more quote. Received a quote from Floyd Hersh and RJ Sell.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Wendy Feiss McKenna, Esquire. Council has the Solicitor's report. This office prepared the legal notice for advertisement of the Zoning Ordinance for adoption for the December meeting and the ordinance has been submitted to the Mercury. She prepared the notice for the property owner with regards to the map amendment. Mrs. Klepfer has posted the notice at the property and mailed the letter to the property owner.

ACTION ITEMS – MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES:

Minutes: Dispense with the reading of the October 10, 2019 and approve the minutes of October 10, 2019. **Motion** by Chris Melville and **seconded** by Maureen Harte as amended. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Treasurer's Report: Gail Phillips submitted the Treasurer report for the period ending October 31, 2019, the current invoices due for payment total \$60,657.45. This includes \$24,640.15 from the General Fund, \$10,426.24 payroll and taxes \$23,987.44 from Capital Fund and, \$867.32 from Construction Fund, and \$736.30 from Liquid Fuels. **Motion** by Sarah Knickerbocker **second** Chris Melville to pay the invoices and payroll totaling \$60,657.45. All in favor, **Motion carried 5-0.**

Draft 2020 Budget -Authorize for Advertisement of Adoption and Public Comment and Authorize for Advertisement of Adoption of the **Tax Ordinance** – with no increase. **Motion** Lee Ann Miller **second** Sarah Knickerbocker to authorize for advertisement the Draft 2020 Budget and the Tax Ordinance for public comments and adoption at the December Council Meeting All in favor. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Manager's Report – Anne Klepfer

Finance Report: Mrs. Klepfer read the Financial Report for the Period January 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019 Total Income for General Fund and Liquid Fuels Funds was \$592,424.22 and Total Expenditures was \$544,935.53 for a net gain of \$47,488.69. General Fund experienced a net gain of \$56,196.26. General Fund Assets total \$449,657.54; Capital Fund Assets total \$31,027.32; Liquid Fuels Fund Assets total \$52,643.22 and Fire Museum Fund Assets of \$19,358.15, 300 Main Street Construction Fund Assets equal \$12,070.03 for a combined Assets total of \$565,756.26.

Website – Mrs. Klepfer is recommending that the Borough engage a company to redesign the Borough's website. She sought proposals from leading companies that specialize in municipal websites and she has included the annual cost in the 2020 draft budget. It has been seven years since the Borough's website was launched. She believes a new website will achieve the following goals: improve transparency and make it easier for residents to follow along without having to search for updates or documents; improve efficiency by making it easier for staff to update; by providing for electronic application submissions and payments; by allowing our

social media to be updated simultaneously with the website and by archiving and coordinating the newsletter; bring the website into compliance with ADA laws and the Sunshine Act and make it easier for people to respond to RTK requests by making the most sought after information readily available; make it mobile friendly to facilitate things like the Historic Walking Tour and improved readability and accessibility; and make it a better tool for promoting Borough Events and Programs as well as highlighting local businesses or organizations.

Both quotes are under the cost threshold requiring formal quotes or bids. The cost for design, hosting and technical assistance and maintenance services is \$4,500 for three years and \$2,500 thereafter, including a design update after the third year. Mrs. Klepfer would like to take suggestions regarding what features are desired from the Revitalization Task Force, Historical Committee and Council and asked that Council start looking at the neighboring municipal websites to see which features we like. Mrs. Klepfer would like to make the first payment this year. Mrs. Klepfer will give council the full proposal and the list of their clients for approval at the December Meeting.

Brian Pippert asked from the audience whether the public will be consulted or allowed to participate in the design of the website. Council said they would take that question/suggestion under advisement but suggested instead that after reviewing other websites anyone could submit their suggestions to Mrs. Klepfer.

Draft Ordinance: Amendments to ARTICLE IV Street Standards, Excavations and Permits – Mrs. Klepfer is still receiving comments from Council. This is also being reviewed by a Montgomery County Planner under our contract.

Draft Ordinance: Dog/Pet Waste – Deferred to another time.

Zoning Ordinance Update: This was covered under the Solicitor's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Property Committee Report

Bids for 300 Main Street Renovation – Resolution No. 2019-22: A RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH THE SCOPE AND BUDGET FOR THE 300 MAIN STREET RENOVATION PROJECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS OF THE FUNDING APPROVAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

Mr. Melville reported that the bids were received for 300 Main Street. The property committee met with the architects on Tuesday November 12th. They reviewed the bids and determined the low bidder being Uhrig at \$922,611 with selected alternates. Rich's office is confident that they are a very capable company to do this project. We reviewed the items and alternates.

Alternate 1 - the exterior side walls with windows. **Property Committee recommends accepting alternate 1.**

Alternate 2 - the add install display cases in the Community Room. **Property Committee recommends rejecting this alternate and seeking a quote from a Co-Stars vendor to furnish the display cases in the Community Room.**

Alternate 3 - Install display cases for the Meeting Room which is tied into Alternate 6 which is the deduct for the cosmetic door relocation to the meeting room. **The committee rejected Alternate 3 and accepted deduct for alternate 6.**

Alternate 4 -finishing second bathroom. **Property Committee recommends accepting this alternate 4 because the additional cost was minor.**

Alternate 5 – Natural cut stone instead of the manufactured stone. **Property Committee recommends rejecting alternate #5.**

Alternate 6 – the Meeting Room Door Relocation & Front Façade adjustment. **Property Committee recommends rejecting alternate #6.**

Alternate 7 – is a technical add on to add lining to the duct work to HVAC in the Community Room. **Property Committee recommends accepting alternate 7.**

Motion Sarah Knickerbocker **second** Chris Melville to adopt Resolution No. 2019-22 based on the bids opened on November 7, 2019. **Motion carried 4-1** with Ms. Miller abstaining from the vote as she is a co-owner of the property at 250 Main Street.

A special meeting to award the bid will be held Monday November 25, 2019 at 7pm as we are still waiting for the new phone quote and the quote from the Pennsylvania Corrections Industry for the display cabinets. **Motion** Maureen Harte **second** Sarah Knickerbocker to advertise the Monday November 25th meeting. All in favor. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Ms. Miller asked the Council to consider foregoing the second bathroom or turning one of them into another indoor-outdoor bathroom. She also strongly suggests that the bottom panel of the garage doors be a solid panel.

Revitalization Task Force: Meeting December 3rd at 7pm and will be reviewing the final Historical sign boards for the Observation Deck.

Other Business: None

Adjournment - Motion Sarah Knickerbocker **second** Chris Melville to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm. **Motion carried 5-0.**

NEXT MEETING(S):

Schwenksville Borough
Council Meeting
November 14, 2019

December 5, 2019 Planning Commission 7:00pm @ Borough Hall
December 12, 2019 Borough Council Meeting 7:00pm @ Borough Hall

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail L Phillips
Secretary/Treasurer