

Schwenksville Borough Council Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 7PM via Zoom

Council President Darren Rash called the Schwenksville Borough Council meeting on April 9, 2020 to order at 7:00 PM via ZOOM, 140 Main Street, Schwenksville, PA 19473.

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

Also, present, Engineer Dave Leh, Solicitor Wendy McKenna, Borough Manager Anne Klepfer and Borough Secretary-Treasurer Gail Phillips.

Absent:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: By the Assembly

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS & Special Business

Meeting Announcements from Darren Rash: I want to thank everybody for attending. Given the circumstances this will be our first virtual meeting. I have a feeling it'll be a few more months like this so we'll see what happens. Let us start things off with a moment of silence for Jim Keyser who passed away from this horrible disease that we're dealing with and let's just give him a moment of silence. Thank you.

Darren asked Chris Melville if he has anything to say as he knew Jim better than anybody. Chris told Darren thank you for doing that and for those that may be new here Jim was the Fire Chief for Schwenksville for a very long time as well as a member of the Schwenksville Fire Company since he was a little kid as his father was Fire Chief and this has been in his family. He also served as Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough as well. Jim was a great asset to the Borough and he never would have said no to anything that we needed from him at the Firehouse or the greater community. He was definitely a great asset that will be greatly missed. Thank you, Chris.

Due to the Coronavirus, Covid-10 restrictions apply in public gatherings and the ineffectiveness of social distancing in Borough Hall. Schwenksville Borough will be conducting monthly Borough Hall Council Meetings online. Borough Hall is closed to the public until further notice. Online meetings are permitted in accordance with the emergency declarations for the pandemic. Online attendance is provided to the public and public comments can be made during the public forum as usual. The meeting will be recorded, and meeting minutes will be kept as usual. The written meeting minutes will be the official record of the meeting after they are approved at the next Council meeting.

Joe Zlomek from The Schwenksville Post, Mr. President may I ask a question? Yes, Mr. Zlomek asked if the meetings that are recorded will be posted on the Borough website? Mrs. Klepfer was recognized, under these circumstances, we are posting the entire meeting recording because the governor's office for local government services has asked that we try to make everything as accessible to the public as possible. If you're unable to attend in person at 7 PM

you can watch the recording of the meeting. Once the meeting minutes have been approved, we'll take it down but until then we'll put this video up. Mr. Zlomek asked, do you know when you'll post it? Mrs. Klepfer, I can probably post it tomorrow. Mr. Zlomek responded, I don't want to rush you, but my thinking is we might as well include it in the story and say that it's up for people to see. Mrs. Klepfer responded she should be able to have it on the website by 2pm tomorrow. Whenever you get it done just if you would send me an email and I'll make sure it gets included.

Resolution #2020-08 – Emergency Declaration. **Motion** Chris Melville **second** Sarah Knickerbocker to adopt Resolution 2020-08 ratifying an Emergency Declaration due to the Coronavirus (aka COVID-19).
All in favor. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Resolution #2020-09 – Move the Discount Period Back.
Council reviewed a model Resolution provided by Montgomery County to extend the discount period for payment of Real Estate Taxes. However, Council decided that they would rather leave the discount period as currently calculated through April 31, 2020 and instead extend the Face Value Period by thirty days through the end of July. By motion of Maureen Harte and second by Chris Melville, Council voted unanimously to adopt a revised Resolution 2020-09 that will effectively leave the Discount Period as currently calculated but extend the Face Value Period through July 31, 2020. Council asked Solicitor Wendy McKenna to revise the Resolution accordingly. Tom Laconis clarified that to receive a 2% Discount, payment must be received or (legibly) Post Marked by April 30, 2020.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Giunta reported from the State Police for March 2020, 106 incidents most of these are the security checks for the Elementary School.

Joe also commented about the generosity of a business on Main Street. Mrs. Klepfer explained that Dan and Lori Moes owners of DJM which operates as a modeling and plan company, started printing 3D face shields for Healthcare workers. They are distributing them to Hospitals and Healthcare facilities that request them. Chris also said that they donated some to the Fire Company. Anne also made a personal request for the face shields to go to an ICU in Connecticut. Mayor Joe would please like to see this mentioned in the E-newsletter. Anne said she certainly will with their permission.

Fire Company/Fire Marshall/EMC/Ambulance Reports: Chris Melville reported Emergency Management Monitoring of the COVID-19 situation has occurred. Daily check-ins with the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety occurs with daily summary briefings sent out by the county.

Presently, Schwenksville has 2 positive cases of COVID-19. They are outlined below. 25 March – 43-year-old female 27 March – 39-year-old male.

21 March – Waiver was submitted to the DCED for an exemption from Governor Wolf’s mandate to cease construction activities to allow Uhrig Construction Company to continue work on the 300 Main Street Renovations.

Fire Marshal 9 March – The Fire Marshal, Lower Frederick and Perkiomen Fire companies were dispatched to an unknown type fire and explosion in the area of 556 Main Street. An investigation found an exploded small propane tank along the bank of the creek to the rear of 576 Main Street. PSP was contacted, and the PSP Fire Marshal and Borough Fire Marshal conducted a joint investigation and found further charred materials. The incident was turned over to the PSP Fire Marshal for further investigation.

Total Fire Calls March 2020: 2 Total Fire Calls year-to-date: 3

EMS Calls Borough Total: 12 (2 of these calls were handled by outside agencies) Greenfield Total: 7

Public Forum- Nothing from the public

Engineer’s Report:

Pleasant View Avenue and Highland Avenue Bids, lowest bid is from T. Schiefer Contractors for \$58,735.38. Chris Melville **moved** to award the contract for Pleasant View Avenue and Highland Avenue Road Improvements to T. Schiefer Contractors for \$58,735.38. The motion was **seconded** by Lee Ann Miller and **was approved unanimously**.

Centennial Street Stormwater Repair: Jim Kenney has the pipe and will start work this week weather permitting.

Main Street Pedestrian Study: PennDOT is looking at the ADA Compliance at Maple Street and Main Street for the 15ft from intersection to the first parking space south side. Signs will be posted. Council asked Mr. Leh if he could ask for an exemption from the sign requirement as there are too many signs in the area.

Solicitor’s Report: Ordinance #401 – Road Restoration Ordinance Amendment. This Ordinance was advertised. The Ordinance is for repealing Ordinance #387, Chapter 143, Streets and Sidewalks, Article IV, Street Standards, Excavations and permits of the Schwenksville Borough Code of Ordinances and re-enacting Chapter 143, Streets and Sidewalks, Article IV, Street Standards, Excavations and Permits. Public Comments were asked for and there were none.

Motion Lee Ann Miller **second** Sarah Knickerbocker to adopt Ordinance #40. **Motion carried 4-0.** Note: Maureen Harte was disconnected from ZOOM and was unable to vote.

Pandemic Subject: 300 Main Street contractor Uhrig Construction, Inc. did not need a waiver from the State to continue working on the municipal contract. A letter was sent to Uhrig Construction to proceed with work safely under the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control. Thank to Governor Wolfs Office and Marcy Toepel for their help with this matter. Uhrig pursued the waiver anyway which was eventually granted.

Action Items – Motion’s, Resolutions, Authorizations:

Approval of the February 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes and March 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes, correction to January 6, 2020 organization Meeting Minutes to reflect appointment of Sarah Knickerbocker to Park and Recreation Board. **Motion** Sarah Knickerbocker **second** Chris Melville. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Treasurer’s Report: Gail Phillips submitted the Treasurer report for the period ending March 31, 2020, the current invoices due for payment total \$120,670.39. This includes \$17,412.20 from the General Fund, \$12,832.95 payroll and taxes \$5,311.29 from Capital Fund and, \$75,967.49 from Construction Fund, and \$9,146.46 from Liquid Fuels. **Motion** by Chris Melville **second** Sarah Knickerbocker to pay the invoices and payroll totaling \$120,670.39. **Motion carried 3-0** with Lee Ann Miller abstaining from the vote as she is part owner of the adjacent property at 250 Main Street.

Note: Maureen Harte rejoined meeting.

300 Main Street Renovation Project Action Items:

Approval of change orders:

#9 Drain for Fire Co. Museum frontage for \$724.68, **#10** for \$233 additional for Concrete Testing. **Motion** Chris Melville **second** Sarah Knickerbocker to approve the change orders. **Motion carried 4-0** with Lee Ann Miller abstaining from the vote as she is part owner of the adjacent property at 250 Main Street.

#11 for elimination of Electrical Panels from Meeting Room. **Motion** Chris Melville **second** Sarah Knickerbocker to approve #11 with no price increase. **Motion carried 4-0** with Lee Ann Miller abstaining from the vote as she is part owner of the adjacent property at 250 Main Street. [Editorial note: the numbering changed subsequently and this CO is being renumbered]

Uhrig Payment #3 - \$100,806.30 (\$75,416.99 Borough, \$23,289.31 Univest). **Motion** Sarah Knickerbocker **second** Maureen Harte to approve payment #3 for \$100,806.30 **Motion carried 4-0** with Lee Ann Miller abstaining from the vote as she is part owner of the adjacent property at 250 Main Street.

Award of Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract – Armour & Sons Electric Inc. Annual Maintenance Inspection and Reporting \$575 annually for 3 years. **Motion** Lee Ann Miller **second** Sarah Knickerbocker to award contract to Armour & Sons Electric Inc. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Award of Landscaping Contract – Hackman Landscaping – **Motion** Sarah Knickerbocker **second** Maureen Harte to award the contract to Hackman Landscaping. **Motion carried 4-0** with Chris Melville abstaining as Kris Hackman owner of Hackman Landscaping is Chris’s friend.

Manager’s Report

Finance Report- For the fiscal period January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 Total Income for General Fund and Liquid Fuels Fund was \$97,655.76 and Total Expenditures was \$170,925.46 for a net loss of \$73,269.70. General Fund experienced a net loss of \$69,933.23. Assets: General Fund Assets total \$233,993.51; Capital Fund Assets total \$10,448.64; Liquid Fuels Fund Assets total \$47,789.07; and Fire Museum Fund Assets of \$19,472.97; 300 Main Street Construction Fund Assets equal \$19,046.34 for a combined Assets total of \$320,301.89.

Laconis & Gamon Electric – Deferred

Committee Reports: No Reports

Other Business:

Tax Anticipation Note from Univest with a \$750 bank fee and solicitor cost. **Motion** Lee Ann Miller **second** Chris Melville to authorize Mrs. Klepfer to apply for a Tax Anticipation Note not to exceed \$100,000 from Univest. Wendy McKenna will handle the authorizing with the DCED. All in favor. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Adjournment:

Chris Melville made the **motion, second** Sarah Knickerbocker to adjourn the ZOOM meeting at 8:16 pm. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Next Meeting(s):

May 7, 2020 Planning Commission 7:00pm place to Be determined
May 14, 2020 Borough Council Meeting 7:00pm via ZOOM

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail L Phillips
Secretary/Treasurer