

Schwenksville Borough  
Council Meeting  
Thursday December 10, 2020 at 7:00pm via ZOOM

Council President Darren Rash called the Schwenksville Borough Council Meeting on December 10, 2020 to order at 7:00 PM via ZOOM, 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:** Dispense with Salute to the Flag.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS & Special Business**

Meeting Announcements from Darren Rash: I want to thank everybody for attending.

Due to the Corona Virus Covid-19 Restrictions on public gatherings and the ineffectiveness of Social Distancing in Borough Hall, Schwenksville Borough will be conducting Monthly Borough Council Meetings On-line via Zoom.

Participants are asked to Authenticate by signing into Zoom to avoid "Zoom Bombers"  
Borough Hall is closed to the Public until further notice.

On-line Meetings are permitted in accordance with Emergency Declarations for a Pandemic.  
Public Comments during the Public Forum should be submitted via the Chat Feature.

On-line Attendance & Public Forum Comments and Questions are available On-line.  
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 a subsequent meeting.

**Mayor's Report:** Mr. Rash noted that the November 2020 report shows 53 incidents for the Borough reported by the State Police. Mayor Giunta is still concerned about the speeding.  
Marriages performed for the year 2020 – Two.

**Fire Company/Fire Marshal/EMC/Ambulance Reports:** Chris Melville

**Emergency Management** – Borough Emergency Operations Plan annual review completed and updated. Once signed by the County and the Borough EMC, copies will be printed for Borough Hall. This is not a public document.

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30 November Storm – No reported damage. The Perkiomen Creek did crest its' banks and flooded Park Avenue. One water rescue for individual who moved cones, barricades and caution tape and drove into the water.

**Fire Marshal – No Report**

**EMS Calls** Borough Total: 9 (3 calls handled by an outside agency)  
Greenfield Total: 3

**Public Forum** – Council received written comments about the draft budget and the tax increase. Approximately 20 residents were logged onto the Zoom Meeting. Seven residents submitted written comments about the budget. A summary is attached here to. Of people who raised their hand and were recognized, Mr. Brown of Centennial Street voiced concerns that a lot of people are affected by this tax increase and asked if maybe more expenses could be cut back instead of raising taxes. Council understands the concerns but also noted that the EIT is down and projected to continue to decline which has contributed to a budget shortfall in the revenue for the Borough.

**Engineer's Report:** Dave Leh reported on the Clearfield Ave curbing and drainage at a cost of \$4,000-\$5,000. Council indicated that they would defer to his judgement whether or not the curbing was needed to address stormwater concerns.

Observation Deck repairs were made. Still waiting on Gary Schneider to finish his adjustments to satisfy the building code.

Road Repairs – due to the Covid-19 virus hitting the employees hard at R. J. Sell they are putting the repairs on summit Avenue on hold until the Spring and will honor the price the Borough was given for the repairs.

**Solicitor's Report:** Wendy Feiss McKenna; Solicitors written report was given to Council.

The Settlement for 140 Main Street – Closing on December 11, 2020 with Jon Carrow. Settlement sheet calculated and signed.

The Settlement on the USDA Loan – Closing and signing the documents with Doug Raugh and the USDA on December 18, 2020.

**Action Items – Motion's, Resolutions, Authorizations:**

**Minutes:** Dispense with the reading of the October 8, 2020, November 12, 2020 and Special Meeting November 20, 2020 and approve the minutes of the October 8, 2020, November 12, 2020 and Special Meeting November 20, 2020 **Motion** Lee Ann Miller **second** Sarah Knickerbocker. All were in favor. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Gail Phillips submitted the Treasurer report for the period ending November 30, 2020, the current invoices due for payment total \$56,726.07. This includes \$31,342.70 from the General Fund, \$10,150.50 payroll and taxes \$14,224.93 from Capital Fund and \$1,006.94 from Liquid Fuels. **Motion** by Sarah Knickerbocker **second** Maureen Harte to pay the invoices and payroll totaling \$56,726.07. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**300 Main Street Renovation Project Action Items:**

**Payments:**

**Requisition#12-** \$5,199.64 Interest and Meeting Room Chairs. **Motion** Chris Melville **second** Sarah Knickerbocker to approve payments of \$5,199.64. **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.

**2021 Draft Budget Presentation** – Borough Manager Anne Klepfer presented the 2021 Draft Budget Summary as prepared by the Borough Finance Committee and presented to Borough Council last month for Authorization to advertise the 2021 Draft Budget which has a tax increase of 1.4 mill and to authorize to advertise the Tax Ordinance. All funds total \$1,165,685.00 and represents the smallest budget since 2016, indicative of a slowdown in activity. Having considered the public comments received and the concerns Council directed Mrs. Klepfer to revise the budget and re-advertise it and the Tax Ordinance by **Motion** by Sarah Knickerbocker to amend the previous proposed budget to reflect a 1 mill increase instead of the 1.4 mill increase **second** Lee Ann Miller. All in favor. **Motion carried 5-0.** The 2021 mill rate for Schwenksville Borough will be advertised as a total of 7.4 mill with 6.94 mill for General Fund, .36 mill for the Fire Company and .10 mill for the Library.

**Authorize Budget for Advertisement and Public Comment and also Authorize Advertisement of Tax Ordinance #404 – Motion** Sarah Knickerbocker **second** Chris Melville to authorize to advertise both the Draft Budget with the 1 mill Tax increase and the Tax Ordinance. All in favor. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Manager's Report**

**Finance Report-** For the fiscal period January 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020. Total Income for General Fund and Liquid Fuels Fund was \$608,883.79 and Total Expenditures was \$665,278.44 for a net loss of \$56,394.65. General Fund experienced a net loss of \$46,518.02. Assets: General Fund Assets total \$257,872.10; Capital Fund Assets total \$68,440.23; Liquid Fuels Fund Assets total \$39,377.03; and Fire Museum Fund Assets of \$18,270.45; 300 Main Street Construction Fund Assets equal \$15,615.59 for a combined Assets total of \$399,575.40.

**Montgomery Avenue** – This road is not an ordained road and the Borough is not responsible to maintain. The Borough will plow for Emergency vehicles to access if needed can get to the residents. Homeowners should maintain the road. This policy has been in place for many

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years. Unfortunately, the condition of the paved section of the private right-of-way is so poor, that it is becoming increasingly difficult for plows, emergency vehicles and the postman to access the private alley without damaging their vehicles. Council did not object to Mrs. Klepfer sending them a notice advising them of this problem and their responsibility to maintain it.

**Scheduling a joint meeting with the Authority** – Anne will talk with Mr. Sullivan about the joint meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

Historical Committee is grateful that the Albright Houses now have a home. Some are still on loan to Perkiomen Township. All will be displayed at Borough Hall. Committee is still working on the walking Tour and markers.

Revitalization Task Force has not met. Would like to get the public's input and updating the Revitalization Plan.

Park & Rec Board meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 9 am. Vendor hired to mow Meadow Park and mulching at Trailhead etc.

Property Committee is working on the punch list for 300 Main Street. Council was given their Access Codes. Building is still not open to the public.

Council and staff would like to thank Chris Melville for the many hours he has put in for the renovation of 300 Main Street. Chris worked with the architect and the contractors to keep things moving.

**Other Business:** a special Council Meeting will be held Monday December 28<sup>th</sup> at 7: 00pm via ZOOM to vote on the 2021 budget and any other business that comes before Council. [note, date and time was not set at time of December Meeting]

**Adjournment:** Chris Melville made the **motion, second** Maureen Harte to adjourn the ZOOM meeting at 8:57pm. **Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Next Meeting(s):**

**December 28, 2020 – Special Meeting 7:00pm via ZOOM**

January 7, 2021 Planning Commission 7:00pm via ZOOM

January 14, 20201 Borough Council Meeting 7:00pm via ZOOM

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail L Phillips  
Secretary/Treasurer