

**SAXONBURG BOROUGH**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 16, 2020**

President Weinzierl called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**Roll Call** Scott Herbst, Dave Felsing, Pat Rinebolt, Sherry Weinzierl, Carol Neubert, June Crawford, and Mayor Gillespie were present.

Josh Novotny was absent.

Also in attendance were Mary Papik/Manager, Mike Gallagher/Solicitor, Chief Joseph Beachem, Fred Caesar, and Peter Watt.

**Correspondence** None

**Minutes** Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Pat Rinebolt to approve the minutes of May 19, 2020. The motion carried.

**Public Comments** None

**Mayor** William Gillespie Jr.

Mayor Gillespie reviewed the month's activities in the Borough:

- There was a short ceremony on Memorial Day, not sanctioned by the VFW, was held anyway.
- The graduates came through town, which was quite well-received. It was a good thing to do for them.
- There was a demonstration that we prepared for and that went well. Chief did a great job lining up reinforcements and making sure we had excellent coverage on the police end. The Field Crew helped with closing off all possible places where there may have been bus parking. The fire company was on standby. The ambulance company is always available. There were 16 protestors at the most, and a lot of Second Amendment people as well. Traffic on Main Street was bumper-to-bumper the whole time. It went very well.
- The last weekend in September, a Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, there's going to be an Oktoberfest at the grocery store on their property. Our Muhlhausen group is going to work with the grocery store with putting that on.
- There is a rescheduled training coming up that the Chief will discuss. It's training that will be paid for by the Friends of the Saxonburg Police and won't cost the Borough anything.
- The Mayor said he looked over the engineering study for the pond at Water Street and Isabella. He said the lines on Water Street are undersized and adding additional water to them will only complicate the problem. He said that some of the pond's water is coming out through evaporation, and we haven't had a lot of rain to bring water into it recently. He said it percolates in the middle sometimes, which means that there may be a pipe there with some head to it which could potentially cause trouble for the owner. There's stagnant water and fill, which doesn't appear to

be clean fill. The Mayor suggested setting up a meeting with Etzel to try to get a retention pond in their plan, which would be a benefit.

- June Crawford commented that her friend appreciated the dinner delivered to him because he's a Veteran.

**Chief of Police** Joseph Beachem

- Chief Beachem described the upcoming class as a basic use of force and defensive tactics for the officers. This is not a reaction to current events; it was scheduled back in February but with the pandemic, it was rescheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month and there's a supplemental day in July. He offered to answer questions if Council had any. He stated that basically, every officer in the department will have to prove that they're proficient in the proper use of force.
- Sherry Weinzierl said she is extremely grateful to the police department for the handling of the protestors. Pat Rinebolt and many others agreed.

**Bills**

**Motion was made by Dave Felsing/Scott Herbst to approve the bills as presented. \$18,770.45 in checks paid from the Borough's General Fund, of which \$11,429.34 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$7,341.11 the Authority's portion of the expense. In addition, decrease adjustments in May from the Borough General Fund in the amount of \$33,649.92 of which \$14,063.36 was the Borough's portion of the expense and \$19,586.56 was the Authority's portion of the expense, and payroll for May 2020 in the amount of \$78,928.35 of which \$30,835.39 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$48,092.96 is the Authority's portion of the expense. The motion carried.**

**Possible Ordinance Change**

Mary explained that a Borough homeowner submitted a letter asking Council to consider adding the keeping of ducks to the Chicken Ordinance. The homeowners got ducks for their children and to supply the family with eggs without knowing that ducks were not permitted in the Borough. Mary said if Council is amenable to this, she will get a meeting set up for the Ordinance Committee, and if agreed, the keeping of ducks will be advertised and added to the Chicken Ordinance as either an addition to the chicken section or a section all its own.

Discussion ensued on what kind of other wildlife might begin to come around because of the ducks, such as rats. It was agreed that the proper housing of ducks will need to be addressed in the Ordinance. Mary said she would again contact Penn State for their recommendations on the housing and proper keeping of ducks the way she had done originally for the keeping of chickens.

**Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/June Crawford to stay the enforcement of the Ordinance allowing the ducks to remain while the Ordinance is changed. The motion carried.**

**Solicitor** Solicitor Mike Gallagher

- The Solicitor had no report at this time.

**Old Business**                      None

**New Business**                      None

**Executive Session**                      The meeting recessed at 7:15 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and other contract and legal matters.

The meeting reconvened at 8:44 p.m.

**Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/Dave Felsing to send an offer letter to the candidate for the Administrative Assistant / Billing Technician position as presented by the Manager. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/June Crawford to reopen Cooper Hall / Roebling Park for events effective June 17, 2020 at 8:00 a.m., subject to pandemic insurance requirements being met, hold harmless agreement being signed, and any current governor orders regarding social distancing and events. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/June Crawford to approve rental of the park only for a fee of \$200 with a volunteer for opening, closing, and cleaning subject to the pandemic insurance requirements being met, hold harmless agreement being signed, and any current governor orders regarding social distancing and events. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made by Scott Herbst/Dave Felsing to confirm that other than by special vote of Council, the park, restroom building, and fountain will remain closed and /or locked. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Scott Herbst to open the 2021 calendar for Cooper Hall and Park bookings subject to any pandemic insurance requirements being met, hold harmless agreement being signed, and any current governor orders regarding social distancing and events that may be in place at the time of the rental. The motion carried.**

**Adjournment**                      The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Jody Brown  
Secretary