

SAXONBURG BOROUGH
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2020

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

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

Also in attendance were Mary Papik/Manager, Chief Joseph Beachem, Mike Gallagher/Solicitor, Jody Brown Secretary/Treasurer, Fred Caesar, Peter Watt, Christina McCormick, Stan Graff, and Ann Coleman from Rep. Marci Mustello's office.

Correspondence

- On September 2, the Borough received a letter via email from Kerri LeDonne, the SABA Parade Coordinator, requesting Main Street be shut down to traffic on Friday, November 27 from 7-8 p.m. for a local parade and that No Parking signage be posted that same day from 4-8 p.m.

Executive Session Announcement Under the terms of Act 84, Section 8A, subsection 1, Council would meet in Executive Session just prior to adjournment, to discuss employee, contract, and/or public safety matters. After the Executive Session, Council will reassemble in open meeting and take any actions that are required.

Minutes Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Carol Neubert to approve of minutes of August 18, 2020. The motion carried.

Public Comments

Ann Coleman

Ann wanted to let the Council know she was attending on behalf of State Rep. Marci Mustello, who was in Harrisburg tonight. Ann discussed a few announcements:

- Rep. Mustello's office has been very busy this year because the office didn't shut down due to the Pandemic. They are currently busy with unemployment claims and fraud claims.
- Property tax rebates are still open until the end of the year.
- On November 6, Marci will be hosting a Veteran's luncheon at the American Legion 778 in Lyndora. It will likely be a drive-up lunch.
- Marci will be in Saxonburg on Friday for the first of her "Main Street" walks to talk with local business owners.

Mayor William Gillespie Jr.

The Spaghetti Fundraiser for the Police department sold out around 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 13. It was drive-through only and was very busy. In addition, as many as 60 Pay-it-Forward dinners were ordered for delivery, which shows the great support in Saxonburg. Special thanks to everyone involved and the community and for Judy and the staff at the Hotel and other volunteers who donated their time.

Pat Rinebolt commented that the set up was really well-organized. Others commented that the spaghetti was delicious.

Chief of Police Joseph Beachem

Chief Beachem echoed the Mayor's sentiments and said he is grateful for all of the support.

Councilmembers Business to be presented by Councilmembers

Scott Herbst

- Scott reminded the Council that the MS4 Waiver for our Storm Water Management expires in September 2022. The deadline for the next Waiver application would be April 2022. Scott talked to Paul Cornetti of the Authority and learned that there was not much mapping data available for storm water, and no GPS locations yet, though the Authority does have the fly-over mapping data from 2012. One line item in HRG's study from a few years ago earmarked \$46,500 to do this GPS mapping, but Scott found the Borough could rent a Tesla RPK-GPS unit for possibly as little as \$300 for two days. Scott would be willing to travel around with someone from the Borough to accompany him and do the mapping. This process would get us complete mapping of the storm water system.
- Mary explained that we have a rough sketch of the system and some pipe sizes, but no detail or coordinates. There is money earmarked in the budget for storm water management for this year, so long as the cost doesn't exceed that budgeted amount, Scott could proceed without waiting until the next meeting for an approval. Mary also explained that because Saxonburg is small and only a very small portion of the Borough's storm water feeds into a protected waterway, that this has worked in our favor in the past. Everything we do for minimal money gets us "points" toward the next waiver. If we can do the mapping, that would be in our favor.
- The Mayor remarked that sedimentation may be a big issue for the next approval as well, and that we could also use the stream data. Great idea.
- Scott also let Council know that he will not be running for another term next year. If anyone knows anybody interested in running, they could start that process early next year to get their name on the ballot.

June Crawford

- June's neighbor was recently traveling on Main Street sidewalks on her motor scooter and couldn't get through because there was an activity set up on the sidewalk, possibly the Knochettes or school-related activity, that blocked the entire sidewalk.
- Mary stated that the state law says that the sidewalks need to be open and that this has been an ongoing problem.

Dave Felsing

- Dave asked about the price for the edging for the sidewalks. The bricks are coming loose, and someone could fall.
- Mary explained the intricacy of the sidewalk with the concrete base, tar layer, bricks with special divots cut in them, metal T-bracket edges lining up with the notches to hold the bricks in place, and polymeric sand between the bricks. When the work was done, PennDOT did not install the metal T-bracket as a cost-saving measure and the Roebling Association agreed. Therefore, the bricks on the outer edge need to be removed, a rotary concrete blade can then be used to cut the divot into the brick, install the metal bracket, put the brick in, tar, then add the polymeric sand. It will be a hefty line item, but we can have Chuck research the numbers for having the Field Crew do the labor-intensive work and put the figure in next year's budget.

Manager

Mary Papik

Bills

Motion was made and seconded by Scott Herbst/Dave Felsing to approve the bills as presented:

\$11,485.41 in checks paid from the Borough's General Fund, of which \$8,390.16 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$3095.25 the Authority's portion of the expense. In addition, decrease adjustments in August from the Borough General Fund in the amount of \$37,989.55 of which \$15,658.83 was the Borough's portion of the expense and \$22,330.72 was the Authority's portion of the expense, and payroll for August 2020 in the

amount of \$76,078.05 of which \$23,071.80 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$53,006.25 is the Authority's portion of the expense. The motion carried.

North Isabella Subdivision

- The Planning Commission met on September 2, 2020 and approved the Leicher Subdivision on North Isabella Street as presented. Mary explained that there are 13 lots planned, no sidewalks, no additional streets but rather entrances off of Isabella and Constitution.
- Scott asked about the storm water plan for the development. Stan Graff explained that the individual lots will have storm water management.

Motion was made and seconded by Josh Novotny/Dave Felsing to approve the Leicher Subdivision. The motion carried.

September 26 Events in Saxonburg

Recap of the events and issues/compliments based on discussion:

- Sprankle's Oktoberfest seems to be very well-organized for crowd control. This event needed no further discussion.
- "Corona Cruise" Parade led by Rob Moser of Cabot. Concerns: This activity, along with its prizes and raffles, is unsafe during an open respiratory pandemic. The route starts at the Carnival Grounds but otherwise is unknown. No one asked for permission or for street closures, nor is there enough time to alert PennDOT if they travel on State roads which intersect in the Borough. This same group organized a parade Labor Day weekend that included many lawnmowers and tied up Main Street for 50 minutes, to the dismay of the business owners. **Solution:** The Mayor and the Chief will meet with Mr. Moser to learn the details of this activity in order to create a workable public safety plan and will review the proper procedures with Mr. Moser for planned/pop-up activities.
- R&J Concessions is advertised as traveling with the "Corona Cruise" and food vendors are being encouraged by the flier, but no one has not requested a Borough permit to sell concessions. Borough permits would not be needed if they set up at the Fire Hall's Carnival Grounds; however, the Fire Hall has advertised a second Chicken Dinner Fundraiser that day from their Carnival Grounds and Fire Hall committee members in attendance tonight say they know nothing about this, nor would they want the competition. **Solution:** This will be part of the discussion with Mr. Moser by the Mayor and Chief Beachem to better understand the plan and if a Solicitation permit is needed.
- Presbyterian Church Concert at the Park gazebo which has since become a fundraiser and therefore needs Council's approval. The Church has still not contacted the Borough office to book the Park. There was a wedding cancellation for that day, so the Park is available so long as the church signs the contract and turns in the needed insurance certificate. Additionally, Sprankle's has been given permission to use the parking lot that day for overflow parking during their Oktoberfest, so the parking lot would need to be shared. **Solution:** Scott had called the church to let them know about the booking requirements. Mary offered to call the church again to walk them through the simple but necessary paperwork.

Motion was made and seconded by Josh Novotny/Dave Felsing to authorize the Mayor and Chief Beachem to meet with Mr. Moser and review his plans and responsibilities from a public safety concern standpoint. The motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded by Josh Novotny/Carol Neubert giving non-exclusive permission to Saxonburg Memorial Presbyterian Church to use the Park and gazebo for their concert so long as they turn in the required contracts and insurance forms by close of business on Friday, September 25. The motion carried.

The meeting was interrupted during discussion of the September 26 events at 7:51 p.m.

Scott: I think the onus is still on the people wanting to rent the place, because what if there were a wedding scheduled that day in the Park?

Mayor: That facility was reserved that weekend for Sister Cities. Because of COVID restrictions, Sister Cities couldn't use it. So there's nothing scheduled.

Scott: I understand that. But what if there had been?

Mayor: Don't play that game.

Scott: Oh, okay, so you're allowed to whatever you... Oh, okay, Bill.

Sherry: Speaking of games, did you want to see the videos and screen shots I have of you playing guitar, not wearing a mask at multiple different events?

Scott: Oh, I'll fully tell you I wasn't wearing a mask because I was on stage with people that I had been rehearsing with.

Sherry: But the picture you posted said you wore your mask all night.

Scott: At the one event. At the uh, what's the name of that place in Cranberry/Gibsonia?

Sherry: Jergel's?

Scott: Jergel's. Thank you.

Sherry: Yeah, I have a video of you not wearing a mask.

Scott: Sherry, okay, then why don't you explain to us right now why you are sitting here without a mask on?

Sherry: I have a medical condition.

Scott: Oh you do you now? And what would that be?

Sherry: You're not permitted to ask me that. That's against the HIPAA law.

Scott: Okay. What about you, June? Why aren't you wearing a mask?

Mayor: Can I interrupt this meeting? This meeting has deteriorated away from the business of the people.

Scott: I'm done.

At this point, Scott left the meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 7:52 p.m. to be interrupted again at 7:54 p.m. with Scott's re-entry and verbal resignation. The meeting reconvened at 7:54 p.m.

Parade November 27

- The Saxonburg Area Business Association (SABA) is requesting a shutdown to traffic on Main Street for a local parade on Friday November 27 from 7-8 p.m. and that "No Parking" signs be placed on Main Street for No Parking between 4-8 p.m. that same day.
- Mary reminded Council that the Borough gets complaints when the street reopens too soon to traffic after the parade.

Motion was made and seconded by Josh Novotny/June Crawford to approve the Main Street shutdown for the November 27 parade, with No Parking signage, street closure from 7-9 p.m., and to authorize the Borough staff to obtain the required insurance certificate. The motion carried.

Ordinances

- The Animal Ordinance has been updated to include ducks and has been properly advertised for adoption at this meeting.

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Carol Neubert to approve the advertised Ordinance 474 which updates the Animal Ordinance to include the keeping of ducks. The motion carried.

Trick or Treat

- June Crawford asked if the 6-8 p.m. time could be planned for 5-7 p.m. to give the kids more daylight for safety.

- Sherry Weinzierl explained that the time has traditionally been set as the same as the neighboring area trick-or-treats so that travel between areas is reduced for safety.

Motion was made and seconded by Josh Novotny/June Crawford to approve Trick-or-Treat time from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2020. The motion carried.

Certificate of Appropriateness

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Pat Rinebolt to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 140 West Main Street for a new roof. The motion carried.

Budget

Reminder: The Budget Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6 at 7 p.m. at Cooper Hall.

CARES Act Grant

- Mary referenced her email to Council members that this grant considered all patrol time done by officers as an eligible COVID-related expense, which accounts for approximately \$55,000 of grant money approved to reimburse the Borough for police patrol duty wages during March 1 to July 26. There may be additional rounds of grant funding in the future. Special thanks to Chief Beachem for his help in gathering and confirming the time spent on patrol duty.

Solicitor

Solicitor Mike Gallagher, Murin, Taylor & Gallagher

Solicitor Gallagher was asked to recap Monday's Federal judge ruling that Governor Tom Wolf's COVID-19 restrictions on crowds are unconstitutional:

- The Right to Assemble can't be dictated by the Governor,
- Nor the right to close businesses
- The ability to quarantine still lives with the governor. He can't wholesale close businesses, but he can quarantine people and businesses if illness has broken out.
- Freedom of association, meaning the right to gather, can't be abridged.
- It's the law for now, until it's reversed.

Old Business

Gas Well Payments

The Mayor asked about gas well payments to the Borough. Mary reported the Borough has been paid a little over \$8,000 to date. Mary will look into possible impact funds coming from new wells.

New Business

Josh Novotny

Josh apologized for previous absences and said he is re-energized for his Council duties.

Junior Council Member

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/June Crawford to appoint Christina McCormick as a Junior Council Member of Saxonburg Borough Council. The motion carried.

Executive Session

The meeting recessed at 9:03 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss employee, contract, and/or public safety matters.

The meeting reconvened at 9:20 p.m. and took the following actions:

Motion was made and seconded by Pat Rinebolt / Joshua Novotny to appoint Davevic Benefit Consultants, Inc. as the Employee Benefits Insurance broker. The motion carried.

Motion was made by Pat Rinebolt and seconded by Joshua Novotny to deny the request for use of the Saxonburg Borough Seal by other organizations and to claim the copyright for the seal. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Jody Brown
Secretary