

SAXONBURG BOROUGH
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2021

President Weinzierl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Also in attendance were Mary Papik/Manager, Sean Gallagher/Solicitor, Jody Vettori Secretary/Treasurer, Fred Caesar, Peter Watt, Dave Johnston, Ann Coleman from the Office of Rep. Marci Mustello, Kyle Knapp from the Saxonburg Area Business Association, Sandy Brown, Doug Sprankle, Ray Koepler, Rob Moser, Brian Antoszyk, Caroline Yacono, Ronda Blough, and Jim Knapick.

Carol Neubert was absent.

Correspondence

On May 26, 2021, the Borough received a resignation letter from Harry Fleischer for his seats on the Zoning Hearing Board and the Vacancy Board. Mr. Fleischer expressed his gratitude for the opportunities to serve Saxonburg.

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 Pat Rinebolt/Scott Herbst to approve the minutes of May 18, 2021 and June 1, 2021. The motion carried.

Public Comments

Ann Coleman

Ann provided an update from Marci Mustello's office: Marci is in Harrisburg until the end of June working on the budget; their office is receiving calls on probation reform and also on the Constitutional Carry bill which says the Constitution allows for concealed carry without the need for a permit to carry a gun; the office continues its work assisting with unemployment; and the office will be hosting an August 19 community event at Butler Memorial Park with food and informational vendors.

Scott Herbst asked if the state taxpayers paid for the trip to Arizona to observe the audit. Ann said she did not know for sure but if the expense was for "legislative intent" then likely yes. She said Rep. Mustello did not go on the trip.

Doug Sprankle and Rob Moser

Doug, owner of Sprankle's Neighborhood Market, and Rob, organizer of the Cabot Cruisers, apologized to the Council for any past wrongdoings when holding parades/car cruises in Saxonburg. They are planning a parade on Saturday, September 11 at approximately 9:20 a.m. and want to follow all of the rules. They presented Council with

a handout with their parade plan including the date, times, route, speed, number of participants, and types of roadworthy vehicles. They would like to include Doreen Blackburn with her horse and carriage.

President Weinzierl thanked them for their apology. Council discussed the proposed parade route and street closing; that closure shouldn't take place too early due to staff who need to get to work in Saxonburg.

Ronda Blough

Ronda, owner of What's Cookin' on Main, asked why the Arts Festival was being changed this year and said that the street closing makes a difference to the Main Street businesses who have been hard hit this year. Doug explained his plan to have shuttle busses drop patrons off on Main Street rather than at the Oktoberfest grounds so that Main Street can be assured of foot traffic during the event.

Kyle Knapp

Kyle, as President of the Saxonburg Area Business Association, said that he would be assisting Maria Berzonski with their efforts to talk to the business owners about activity ideas for Main Street that can draw a crowd during Arts Festival. He said he believed this year's layout, from the Carnival Grounds past the wine shop and coffee shop to Main Street, is much easier for patrons to get to Main Street than in years past. President Weinzierl asked Kyle if the business owners would like the street open or closed, and Kyle said they would like the street closed. He offered to talk with Ronda to work out solutions to any of her concerns.

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/June Crawford to approve the proposed parade route and road closure at 9 a.m., subject to final approval at Council's August meeting. The motion carried.

Brian Antoszyk

Brian asked if all parade vehicles need to be pre-approved by Council from now on. Josh Novotny asked for clarification on the difference between a parade and a car cruise.

Brian asked Council if the high weed letters and junk vehicle letters had gone out. Mary Papik confirmed that high weed letters have been sent, and junk vehicle letters are up to the Police Chief. The Mayor confirmed that junk vehicle letters have not gone out.

Caroline Yacono

Caroline provided an update to the Council that she is not able to fundraise with the 501c3 organizations due to legalities, but that she can bring a smaller musical to the Oktoberfest stage as well as at the Presbyterian Church. She also asked Council's opinion on doing a tribute to Don Orwald who passed last year but had been very active in Saxonburg Arts for decades.

President Weinzierl said the Oktoberfest stage was booked for Sunday, and Scott Herbst confirmed he has tentatively booked musical acts filling Sunday on the Oktoberfest stage.

Mayor

William Gillespie Jr.

Mayor Gillespie reported that Saxonburg's police coverage is in effect for Summit Township. They've talked with many of the businesses and the officials and fire

company and all is running smoothly. They coordinate scheduling on a weekly basis with State Police.

He reported that the police department has four vests to replace and has applied for a grant. The matching funds needed for the grant would be \$2,000, and the Friends of the Saxonburg Police has received a donation to cover that.

The Mayor let Council know that the police training is paying off. A parttime officer was recently involved in a call at another jurisdiction where he recognized the martial arts being used against him and was able to react and deescalate the situation until backup arrived.

Council Members Business presented by Council Members

Scott Herbst

Scott relayed the update he received today from Superintendent Chuck McGee, that 99% of Borough-owned structures have been mapped and 70% of privately-owned structures are completed thus far. The Field Crew has collected 862 survey points and they should be done this week with a complete map of the stormwater system.

Council thanked Scott for this positive update.

Manager Mary Papik

Bills

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Scott Herbst to approve the bills as presented: \$17,759.43 in checks paid from the Borough's General Fund, of which \$15,174.85 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$2,584.58 the Authority's portion of the expense. In addition, decrease adjustments in May from the Borough General Fund in the amount of \$28,405.27 of which \$12,441.62 was the Borough's portion of the expense and \$15,963.65 was the Authority's portion of the expense, and payroll for May 2021 in the amount of \$83,410.96 of which \$30,843.61 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$52,567.35 is the Authority's portion of the expense. Additionally, there is a correction to the April 2021 Decrease Adjustments splits reflecting a decrease of \$89.32 from the Borough and an additional expense of \$89.32 to the Authority. The motion carried.

Bench Requests

Mary let Council know that Maria Berzonski from the coffee shop looked for areas on Main Street that would be good for benches and made a list of businesses that welcome adding a bench if asked. The Borough now has the list, so Mary asked Council to send anyone her way who wants to place a bench. Of the two pending requests, she said one is already working with the owners of Three Rivers Art Glass and the property owner.

Arts Festival 2021 Updates

- Mary presented Council with a rough Arts Festival budget including anticipated revenue and expenses and reviewed the list of additional expenses:
 - Kyle Knapp offered that SABA would take care of trash collection on Main Street. He said he has access to a gator and SABA has trash cans they use at Mingles; Doug Sprankle also has additional trash cans that can be

used for Main Street if needed. Council thanked him and SABA for this generous offer.

- The Borough will need three golf carts, two for police use and one for general use. Scott Herbst said he will look into pricing for these, and Doug Sprankle will check with his supplier as well.
- Council decided six port-a-johns would be needed: two at the library with one being handicap-accessible; two at the wine shop with one being handicap accessible; and two at First Commonwealth. Mary will call her contact about this.
- Doug Sprankle has ordered dumpsters for the Oktoberfest grounds which he has allowed the Borough to use for Main Street trash as well.
- Scott asked to increase the entertainment budget from \$1,000 to \$1,500.
- The Mayor asked for an additional plainclothes person to assist the overnight police in security. He said they are working on a sharing agreement with Mars for officers, and Doug Sprankle said he wanted to share the cost of this.
- Scott Herbst will talk with Doug Sprankle about advertising to see what might be needed from the Borough.
- The Mayor suggested that Council make courtesy calls to vendors who have not signed up yet.

Solicitor Solicitor Sean Gallagher, Gallagher Law Group
Solicitor Gallagher had no further report at this time.

Old Business None

New Business

Motion was made and seconded by Pat Rinebolt/Dave Felsing to accept the resignation of Harry Fleischer for his seats on the Zoning Hearing Board and the Vacancy Board, with regrets. The motion carried.

Brian Antoszyk expressed his interest in serving on the Vacancy Board.

Motion was made and seconded by Pat Rinebolt/June Crawford to appoint Brian Antoszyk to the Vacancy Board. The motion carried.

Jim Knapick expressed his interest in serving on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Motion was made and seconded by Scott Herbst/Dave Felsing to appoint Jim Knapick to the Zoning Hearing Board. The motion carried.

Caroline Yacono expressed her interest in serving on the Zoning Hearing Board as an Alternate seat.

Motion was made and seconded by Scott Herbst/June Crawford to appoint Caroline Yacono to the Alternate seat on the Zoning Hearing Board. The motion carried.

Scott Herbst presented Council with two proposals:

1. An acoustic night at Cooper Hall, which would serve as a fundraiser with local bands done on an off-peak rental night. The net proceeds would go to Friends of the Museum, specifically for the Hall. The Solicitor clarified that the Borough could track some of the Hall's expenses and then ask the Friends of the Museum for a donation toward those expenses. Scott said that, closer to the planned date, he would ask Council for a special rental rate for this event.
2. Scott reminded Council of the Mayor's previous idea to hold a Summer Concert Series in the Park for the community. These events would be on the first Thursday of the month, possibly to include food trucks, and would seek to have volunteers to clean up afterward. If planned for 2022, then Council might need to consider putting this in the budget. Dave Felsing mentioned that the Borough of Tarentum does something similar with a nominal amount like \$2,000 budgeted for their concert series and the rest is raised through their own food sales. Josh Novotny asked if the Borough could sell advertising spots to local businesses; Scott agreed and said sponsors would be welcome for either volunteer t-shirts or t-shirts that could be sold. The Mayor reminded Council that the Presbyterian Church might still be interested in doing a Concert in the Park series this summer.

Dave Johnston offered to do a training session for the Zoning Hearing Board members.

Executive Session The meeting recessed at 8:26 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss Employee, Contract, and/or Public Safety Matters.

The meeting reconvened at 8:57 p.m. and took no further action.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Jody Vettori
Secretary