

**SAXONBURG BOROUGH**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 17, 2021**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

Also in attendance were Mary Papik/Manager, Chief Beachem, Sean Gallagher/Solicitor, Jody Vettori Secretary/Treasurer, James Stanek, Chad Slater, Lindsay Sprankle, Brittany Lambermont, Doug Sprankle, Chuck Lewis, Chris Dean, Tiffany Nolan, Mary Ann Dietrich, John Shea, Christine M. Shea, Jackie Hutz, Bill Hutz, Becky Pacek, Tate Pacek, Nicole Messenger, Doreen Blackburn, Sarah Rodgers, Chay Cooper, Kay Matus, Chuck Matus, Kristen Duckstein, Kyle Knapp, Claudia Ciofre, Brandi Sprankle, Colt Sprankle, Diana Christy, Jim Knapick, Paul Slovick, Robin Cetnar, Rob Mrozek, Megan Roth, Karen Halstead, Carol Bowne, David Bowne, Ryan Martin, Flo Hatheway, Rene Hatheway, Meghan Pohl, Ken Hawk, Andy Brown, Mike Green, Rich Messenger, Maria Berzonski, Judy Ferree, Ben Brewster, Carol Walchesky, Dr. Miranda Virone, Ashley Stadelmaier, Laura Welsh, Matt Welsh, Ronda Blough, Carla Koleny, Gary Lyle, Paula Grubbs, Dave Johnston, Lee Layton, Zach Davis, Sue Skurka, Frank Ballina, Sally Foust, Mike Slater, Mike Lazaroff, Brian Antoszyk, Karen Antoszyk, Larry Steffen, Jen Christy, Rachelle Haberberger, Molly Nowallen, Terry Lassinger, Tami Lee Leslie, Rob Moser, Carolyn Zitzman, Dan Harvey, Shelbe Moser, and Matt Christy.

**Correspondence**

- On July 26, the Borough received franchise fees from Consolidated Communications in the amount of \$835.02. The Funds were deposited into the General Fund the same day.
- On July 27, the Borough received franchise fees from Armstrong Cable in the amount of \$6,952.43. The Funds were deposited into the General Fund the next day.
- On August 9, the Borough received a letter from the Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Company requesting consideration for a portion of the Borough's ARPA funds.
- On August 11, Joyce Hutterer and Kerri LeDonne emailed the Borough with SABA's annual request for the Holiday Parade to take place November 26 from 7-8:30 p.m. They are asking the Borough to send in the application to PennDOT using their traditional route from Dinnerbell Square to the intersection of Main and Rebecca Streets, and they ask that the No Parking signs be placed on Main Street from 4-8:30 p.m. that day.
- On August 17, the Council and Manager Mary Papik received a thank you card from Fred Caesar for Council's decision to install the dehumidifier in the Museum. [Jody read the card.]

**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 Scott Herbst/Dave Felsing to approve the minutes of July 20, 2021. The motion carried.

**Solicitor's Announcement**

Solicitor Sean Gallagher introduced himself to the room and informed the crowd that the Gallagher Law Group is the Solicitor for Saxonburg Borough. He welcomed everyone, many of whom he understood were present to discuss the Special Events Ordinance which had been

advertised for adoption. He said the purpose of the Ordinance, as it was intended, was to promote safety of the Borough, to help with traffic, to promote community welfare, make sure events matched the community, and to recoup Borough expenses for special events that occur within the Borough limits. Council has the ability to discuss, vote, or table discussion or table a vote on an Ordinance.

#### **Chair Announcement**

**President Weinzierl stated that, at this time, the Chair is asking for a Motion to remove Ordinance #477 Special Events Ordinance from the agenda this evening and to approve for it to go back to the Ordinance Committee for further review after hearing public comments. The motion was made and seconded by Scott Herbst/Pat Rinebolt. The motion carried.**

The Solicitor explained that the Ordinance was being removed from voting consideration this evening. He then announced the meeting would proceed with Public Comments by Saxonburg residents, taxpayers, and business owners, who would be asked to step to the podium, address Council and no one else, and would be given three minutes to speak. He asked that each person state their name and address for the record.

#### **Public Comments**

Chad Slater of Butler

Captain of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, looking for permission for a preservation fundraiser march for the Butler County Historical Society and Cooper's Cabin. The march will be held on Saturday, June 18, 2022, and will start at Roebling Park and go 2.7 miles to Cooper's Cabin via Water Street, Neupert Road, cross 356, travel through Concordia's parking lot for which permission has been granted, then across the cemetery to Cooper Road. So far, 50 soldiers have committed to the march, and they encourage anyone to join in. There will be chase vehicles ahead and behind. They will have nurses and medical assistance, and have had a quick talk with Saxonburg Fire Company to ask for their medical assistance as well. Chad said they hope the march will bring light to "our heritage and what we do for our country." He asked for Council's consideration and help with proper road permits. Chad offered to answer questions, and said his group will be at the Arts Festival, too. He thanked the Council.

Josh Novotny asked how many marches Chad has done. Chad said he personally has done at least eight, many in Virginia because those landmarks needed funding.

**Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Scott Herbst to allow the 63<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry to use Roebling Park on June 18, 2022 for the start of the march. The motion carried.**

Doug Sprankle, Sprankle Market of Saxonburg

Doug expressed his frustration with what started as a handshake committee to build a festival for the community, and said he wanted to get past this Ordinance and get back to that point. He said one or two may not be able to do much, but as a community, we can achieve a lot. He said he's been in many meetings with all of Council and when he saw this Ordinance come across the table, it was never mentioned to him though it directly affected the Octoberfest and also the events he does at his store on private property: the Pre-Mingle to celebrate Mingle, Italian Night to celebrate Italian heritage, the Hunt Chef Night to celebrate outdoorsmen. Doug said his events are safe, well managed, well thought out, well organized, and well executed. He said he appreciated that the Council wants to promote safety, but on private property he has it under control. When he first came to Saxonburg, he said he could have easily asked for a 5-year tax abatement, but he did not. The first meeting he attended, he learned that Roebling Park was struggling and couldn't pay the bills. At the last meeting Council had before the Festival was to be cancelled, he said he was sitting there and it occurred to him how he could help. He reminded Council that he gave them the entire vendor collections, which he understands are

currently up to \$20,000 plus. He did that because he wanted Council to have a piece of the bigger picture: working together. Doug said he wanted to get back on that same track because he can't do what he does without the Council, without the firemen, without the community, and that is how he builds an event. This is a Festival for Saxonburg, he said. He thanked the Council for all they do, especially as volunteers, but he said he felt this Ordinance could have been better for business. It could have been spoken about at many different meetings. There are a lot of businesses here who do micro events and that is their taxable advantage against the big box. Without those events, by having them over-regulated, we can't financially do it, he said. Some can't deal with the paperwork, which is a lot to do above their normal process. He said he would hate to see that leave Saxonburg's culture. He thanked the Council.

Jackie Hutz, Team Fishguy

Jackie described almost losing her husband to kidney failure a couple years ago, but that he was given an unbelievable gift: a kidney. And they suddenly had to raise \$40,000 for his care. Afterward, they knew they had to help others and so cofounded Team Fishguy Transplant Foundation, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit. They raise funds to support other transplant patients, donors, and their families, while raising awareness for organ donation. In November 2019, they hosted likely one of the last pre-COVID events in Cooper Hall, which cost them \$250 as a nonprofit. This year the rental fee is over \$2,000. Jackie said they choose to rent here and support the wonderful community, but they also need to be fiscally responsible and put these costs into perspective: the \$1,700 increase is two months' rent for a local Amazon driver who received the call for a new kidney in the middle of the night; it is 18 nights for a hotel charge for a young, single Pittsburgh mom who traveled to Ohio to donate her kidney to a stranger. She said they spend their fundraising dollars on real people. She asked Council to consider reducing their rental rate by at least half, for nonprofit charities like Team Fishguy. She thanked the Council.

Sue Skurka, Long Haul Custom detailing in Saxonburg

Sue informed Council of her upcoming event, the Second Annual Truck Show, which would take place October 1 and 2 and include a truck parade October 1 that would travel from Victory Road Business Park to Saxonburg and back. The event allows the public to see their business in action. She is a member of the community and also of the Saxonburg Area Business Association. She said their event is open to everyone and on Saturday will include children's events, petting zoos, bounce houses, face painting, music, and food trucks. The proceeds from their truck show go to the Veteran "X" program, as her nephew was helped by that program. Last year they donated over \$3,000 to the Veteran "X" and Jackie had also been there raising funds for Team Fishguy. The Saxonburg VFC was there last year selling 50/50 tickets for their own fundraising. Sue said her cousin is one of the Saxonburg Police officers and understands that the Ordinance would have helped to pay the police for their time. The Friday parade is the same night as Homecoming, and she is flexible with the route and times of the parade and will do what Council recommends and is asking consideration from the Borough for their parade paperwork, permit, and the fees the Ordinance would have put in place. She thanked the Council.

Mayor Gillespie asked what time they were thinking for the parade. Sue said they originally planned 7 p.m. but with Homecoming that night, they're flexible. She expects 20-30 trucks and is not looking to tie up the roads for a long period of time.

Carol Neubert asked if the event is advertised. Sue said it is advertised nationally and that the *Butler Eagle* has been asked to cover the event as well.

Mike Lazaroff, Borough resident and owner of a law office in Saxonburg

Mike said he is opposed to the Special Events Ordinance. He said it is heavy handed, unnecessary, and if it's not Unconstitutional, it's borderline. With the permit application process, one thing required is "the admission fee, donation, or other consideration." You don't need to know that, he said; what's the purpose? There is no legitimate government interest there. Next:

Block parties. "The applicant must collect a list of signatures consenting to the street closure from all neighbors whose vehicular access to their properties is restricted." In a neighborhood of 10, 15 residents, one person, one person, has the ability to veto the whole event by withholding their consent. That is not democracy, he said. He said the Ordinance discusses approval criteria, that, among other things, the agencies involved will determine the impact on health and safety concerns—but that's not defined, he said. You're giving them sole discretion with no standards, he said, which is a big issue. "Demonstrated ability of the applicant to comply with requirements to protect the welfare and safety of the public and past history of requiring such applicants." Let's put our cards on the table here, folks, he said. There was an event last year that got people upset because it happened "during the Pandemic." He said that the event took place after Judge Strickman struck down Governor Wolf's restrictions and before the Governor filed his appeal. During that period is when that event was held; that event was perfectly legal. This is a thinly disguised swipe at that event, he said, to prevent that person from doing another event. Insurance requirements: A \$3 million insurance policy is required, except there's a list of people exempt. *At this point the Solicitor told Mr. Lazaroff that his time had expired.* Mr. Lazaroff continued: This is not 1930s Berlin. Not 1960s Moscow; this is not Kabul; this is not Havana... *Mr. Lazaroff was again asked by the Solicitor to sit down but he did not comply.* This is Saxonburg; you would all do good to remember that. He said his family has lived in this town since the 1840s and that he is a property owner and a business owner. *At this point the Solicitor asked Mr. Lazaroff to bring himself under control.* You don't treat neighbors this way, Mike said. Before finally sitting down Mr. Lazaroff said to the Solicitor, "Sir, you can go to hell."

Brian Antoszyk offered to will his speaking time to Mike Lazaroff so that Mike could continue. The Solicitor said Brian could not.

Brian Antoszyk, Saxonburg Borough resident

Brian said he thought the outcome was correct to take another look at the Ordinance and get the wording to where people can live with it or abolish it all together. Secondly, he said, there's a lot on the internet and there's been a lot of throwing [expletive] at one another, but it needs to become civil. He said his request to everybody is to be adults, to talk about this and work it out to a good result. He said there are a lot of issues, but the first thing he thought was that the money the Borough is trying to recoup from this Ordinance will be absorbed by the solicitors. Anyone looking to get a permit is going to challenge this, he said. Until it won't get challenged, it's a money maker, but not for the right people. He thanked the Council.

Dr. Miranda Virone, Owner of Blue Jar Candle Company Mercantile

Dr. Virone said she was surprised by this Ordinance. While she can see value behind what Council is attempting to accomplish, she said she wants to request that Council consider a motion to include community stakeholders on the committee to refurbish the language to be more clear, concise, and inclusive to a variety of different businesses and events that might occur within our community. She said she believed residents in the Saxonburg area have a vested interest in this Ordinance and this would be away to compromise, to bring us all together, she said, to come to a collaborative effort and conclusion to this situation. She said she has experience in policy, writing policy, programming, and legislation, and would be happy to self-select herself as a member of this committee to help advise Council and to be a connection between small business and the Council to help inform this Ordinance. She again said she is looking for a motion to include small business owners and residents of the Saxonburg community and the committee that informs this Ordinance. She thanked the Council.

Dave Johnston of East Main Street

Dave said his first question is whether the Borough checked with other municipalities in Butler County to see if they have a special events permit. He said he checked with the City of Butler and Butler Township. The City of Butler, he said, has closure permit that says if you have a parade you need to pay a \$5 fee and you pay 25% the cost of the additional police service. This Ordinance, he said, from what he could see, was taking the Irwin Borough Ordinance and

substituting Saxonburg Borough onto it. He said he also questions the Parking and Traffic Ordinance for his concern about the elderly residents in Saxonburg who may not be able to park within the lines and will get a \$25 parking fine, or can't park within 12 inches from the curb and will get a \$25 fine. We could lose people coming to the Borough because of that, he said.

Lee Layton, Conny Creek Brewing Company at Sprankle's

Lee said that he and his wife are lessors at the Sprankle's store in Saxonburg. They are new to the area, he said, looking to grow their business as this is their secondary location, the first is in Westmoreland County. He said they do events by themselves and also with other organizations and businesses in the town, typically doing 2-4 events every weekend, many spent in Saxonburg. The Ordinance concerns him, he said, because they'd have to pay these event fees every time, and to go through the application process every time. We're very busy people, he said. As Miranda expressed, he said, we understand safety concerns [and he conceded he had not read the Ordinance] but we're very happy you're reconsidering it. He thanked the Council.

Zach Davis, To the Limit Motor Sports on North Isabella Street

Zach said he was concerned by this Ordinance as it has a direct effect on his business because of the vagueness with meeting places on private property. He said his business has car clubs coming in as a direct result of the business, and he would have to do this at every event or for every car club to come in or who visited their business. If the Ordinance goes through with these expense fees, he said, doing an event even once a month would require a lot of expense and that would take away from the business he does. Secondly, with the amount of running for signatures, he said, he'd have to hire another person to do just that. With the parking situation, he said, with group gatherings, a car club wanting to sanction into his parking lot would mean he would need to go through this permit process, he said. There would be no street closure involved, but he would have to get a permit because of the way the Ordinance is written. There can't be a gray line, he said. He can't be allowed to "get away with it" because someone else may come along with something more serious. The gray areas need to be buttoned up, he said. On the Traffic Ordinance, he said, the parking spaces on Main Street are 17' long. His truck is 21' long; it will not fit in the box. He asked Council to consider making some adjustments on the major issues that could leave a lot of gray areas and make a lot of argument later on. He thanked the Council.

Dr. Robin Cetnar, owner of multiple properties on Water Street

Dr. Cetnar said he was here to oppose the Ordinance for the vagueness alone. There are questions about what a "special event" actually is, he said. He said he does car washes with the football team in his parking lot and asked if he needed a permit for that. There are a lot of people who do special things in this community constantly, he said, so to put applications and insurance and burdens on people just because they want to do something in this community... When this goes back, he said Council needs to define exactly what they want. He said he don't know what lawyer would look at this and think it made sense. This is something the average person should be able to read and understand, he said, just like a sign. Sign ordinance says it should be so big, and so tall--same thing with this special event, he said. He asked, what is a special event, how many people is a special event? Five people, 50 people, 100 people? What's the cost of a \$3 million policy? He thanked the Council.

Florence Hatheway, Unique to Antique on Main Street

Florence said she and her husband came here two years ago, and it seems everything is about money. They fell in love with this town when she was in Mimi's shop, she said, and they have invested a lot of money into their business to make it successful. They have customers come in specifically to see their antique shop. But the paperwork, jumping through hoops, and extra expenses to do a little something extra to bring the businesses together, and it's like they're being pounded on the head not to do that. It's about the final dollar and what you can collect from that, she said. But her store has elderly customers all the time, she said, and they can't park close enough because other cars are parked there all day. She said the Borough should

concentrate on same vehicles that sit for eight hours a day when the businesses can't get parking. She said she's seen people have to walk all the way down the street to go to the Bakery to get a roll, but there are cars sitting there the whole day. There are things you do have to work on, she said, don't come up with new things to make more problems.

Meghan Pohl, Batch

Meghan said she read the Ordinance quite a few times and said it needs clarification. Ever since she opened Batch and since she's been doing the Mingles from the beginning, she's never had anything but support from the Council, from Mary, and from the Chief. She asked everyone to look past the writing and see the people behind it. They're good people, she said, and they're here to support us. She said she has faith that it will get written to benefit us all. She said she thinks a lot of the issues brought up in the Ordinance have come from issues they've had at Mingle. Port-a-johns, wastewater, waste. She said they look for garbage all the time and don't have any space to put it. These are issues that need to be addressed and need to be brought to attention and discussed, she said. Having a group to help write the ordinances and have some communication will go a long way, she said. I have faith in you, she told Council, and faith in all of us to do it. She thanked the Council.

Rich Messenger, Saxonburg Toy Show

There's a lot of gray area with this Ordinance, he said. What about smaller, indoor events, where there is no need for police, no road closure--there's nothing said about that, he said. There's something in there about charging the vendors, he said, but as the organizer of the Saxonburg Toy show, his vendors show up for \$25 per table. He said he can't go back to his vendors now and have them fill out an application so they can be in the show they're already in. He's knee-deep in planning, he said, and if things are going to start changing, he needs to be able to handle what he's already doing and then has to try to deal with more changes coming.

President Weinzierl said she doesn't believe the Ordinance affects that. Rich thanked the Council.

Jim Knapick

Jim apologized if he what he was about to say made him emotional. But I know most of you on Council, he said, if not all. He said he's lived in six cities and townships during his life, and he's never been prouder than to live here. He considers himself a self-appointed Saxonburg Ambassador because his office is in Wexford and he tells people there about the businesses here and events here, which he thinks are an awesome thing to do. He said he recognizes the need for some rules and regulations to go along with that, but they need to address the needs of the residents and businesses here, not just what the Council thinks the town needs, that's not necessarily the big picture. He said it's also the Council's responsibility to promote Saxonburg and make it a place where people want to come from all over to experience. He said he was glad to hear it was tabled tonight and that he would love to serve on the committee who is going to work these things out. He said he loves this town, and he thanked the Council.

Chuck Lewis, President of Saxonburg Fire Company

Chuck read from a letter,

"I am joined here with our Fire Chief, Christopher Dean. We thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Borough's intent to amend the Code of Ordinances to include Chapter 29 special Events Ordinance.

I am here to provide the opinion of the leadership of the Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Company with regard to the proposed Special Events Ordinance as it applies to our organization.

- We understand that Saxonburg Fire company (along with other organizations) is exempt from certain aspects of this Ordinance, and we appreciate this special consideration. However, it's not clear how this special exemption may be applied to events that are on the fire company grounds that are not necessarily Fire Company "sponsored."

- As an organization that sponsors multiple large events that qualify as “Special Events” under this Ordinance, we understand the need to coordinate the events and with the Borough and its departments. We also understand the need to provide adequate notification of affected residents and businesses, of the impact of these events.
  - Saxonburg VFC appreciates that our “Special Events” often directly impact the Police Department and lead to increases of staffing requirements over normal conditions. We respect that the Borough has often borne those costs and we realize the need to recover some of those costs where there are higher staffing levels. Saxonburg VFC has been an active part of Saxonburg Borough for more than 90 years and we’ve held special events for many of those 90 years. Until now, all entities have been able to work out “Special Event” details through open and advanced communications. We’re not clear why this Ordinance is being considered immediately in advance of our most important fundraising “Special Event.” We appreciate the fact that it has been tabled.
- In this period of changing times, we understand the Borough must protect its residents, visitors, and businesses, and our organization is also dedicated to this important responsibility.
- We are concerned that some members of the Saxonburg Borough Council may have taken issue with the manner in which Oktoberfest and 2021 Arts Fest have “collided” this year. We believe, based on discussions and agreements made at the February Council meeting with the many parties, that, it’s our opinion, the sponsors of both events can work out the details and make both events successful to benefit our Saxonburg community.

With regard to the proposed Special Events Ordinance, our specific concerns are as follows:

- The broad definition of Special Event. It is not clear what constitutes a Special Event. I can see the Hotel having a 2-piece band on their patio or the Fire Company hosts a band on its Grounds. I’m not sure if they’re both under that same group.
- Objection to the control of private property without regard to the impact on the public property. It appears to be overreach when attempting to govern events on public property. For example, for birthday parties, such as if I had a birthday party with a bouncy house outside.
- We’re concerned about the application deadlines. We often have a request for special events that are completely contained within our property be for as little as one to two days. We have sports rallies, motorcycle rides, training events, funeral events, other social welfare events that don’t give us anywhere near 90 days.
- Excessive application fees: We believe these fees are significant and detrimental to fundraising. The fees will prohibit many events that could otherwise benefit our community and we have particular objection to the vendor fee with use of “special utilities.”
- Insurance limit requirements and named insured: We see no reason the Saxonburg Borough should dictate the levels of insurance and named insured when on public property where the Borough is not liable. The risk avoidance and risk assessment decision between our organization and our insurance carrier and any properties included in any use agreements, such as remote parking and things like that.
- Requirement for the Fire Company to review the plans...”

Chuck provided the letter to President Weinzierl and he thanked the Council.

President Weinzierl announced that anyone who wanted to send in their thoughts is welcome to send them to the Borough office.

Shelbe Moser, Lightning Hair Lounge

Shelbe said she loves being part of a small town. What we do as a small town should benefit the small businesses in the town, she said. It doesn’t sound as if this Ordinance is really doing that. She said she loves the idea of meeting with small businesses to see how the businesses can make the Council happy while also benefitting small businesses. She thanked the Council.

Hearing no further people offering to speak, Solicitor announced that public comment has been closed.

The meeting recessed at 8:05 p.m., and reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

**Mayor**

William Gillespie Jr.

Mayor Gillespie reported on the Butler Health System Food Institute informational meeting that was held in Saxonburg at the Library on Monday. They were scheduled for an hour and it went an hour and a half. He said he got to know the Food Institute through Sean Gallagher, through a grant from the Bar Association and he thanked Sean again for that. He said the Food Institute is looking for ways to get their message out to the people in this area, and there are some groups interested in providing funding for that. It's a good thing for this community because a big part of their message includes nutrition and how you can treat chronic conditions through diet.

**Council Members**

Business presented by Council Members

Scott Herbst

Scott said he was happy that everybody came out tonight. He reminded everyone that Council is made up of volunteers, that none of them make any money from this and that the Council wants to do their best by our community. All of the ideas tonight are in the spirit, if not the language, of what we intended to put out there, he said. Trust us, nobody wants to come on your private property to get your bouncy house, he said. The Chief, nobody, wants to deal with that stuff, he said. This was literally something we've been working on for years after some suggestions from large events that were coming into town. We didn't have the type of tools that we need to successfully manage those events, he said, from many standpoints, including public safety and when COVID started all the concerns that came with that. This, he said, is a well-attended meeting right now, but he asked everyone to come to the Budget meeting in October to see the razor-thin margins the Borough operates under, and not because of wastefulness. You have people [on Council] who would cut everything they could out of this budget, he said. The money's just not always there, and the taxpayers, himself included, pay a lot of taxes in Saxonburg. For that reason, there's not one person on Council who's interested in raising taxes. The revenue side was to recoup some of the administrative fees and police fees. No law is perfect. He said the Council appreciates everybody's input and that he took several pages of notes; everyone did. The Council's first goal and responsibility is to make sure everybody's taken care of, he said.

Pat Rinebolt

Pat said she took a lot of notes and listened to what everyone had to say. She said she agrees there are a lot of things the Council didn't think about. She thanked everyone for their input and said they'd do the best they could to make the town happy. This is our town and we're so very proud of it, she said. She said she's lived here for over 50 years, loves Saxonburg, and didn't want to lose anyone or have anybody move out because of what the Council was doing.

Josh Novotny

Josh said he is only a councilmember for a few more months and then he will become a regular resident and business owner. He said this is just as important to him now as it will be to him then.

Sherry Weinzierl

Sherry said she agrees with all that the Councilmembers have already said and couldn't say it any better. She asked if anyone else had specifics in this ordinance that they want to change to please write a letter and staff will get it to Council. She said the Council now needs to decide how to do this moving forward, whether by another committee, a special committee of people who've already offered to help rewrite this ordinance. She asked if anyone would like to do that



as well to please send that in their letters so they can be put on a list. Please understand, she said, we are all in this together.

**Manager**

Mary Papik

**Bills**

**Motion was made and seconded by Scott Herbst/Dave Felsing to approve \$54,322.14 in checks paid from the Borough's General Fund, of which \$49,446.26 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$4,875.88 the Authority's portion of the expense. In addition, decrease adjustments in July from the Borough General Fund in the amount of \$33,646.50 of which \$15,050.60 was the Borough's portion of the expense and \$18,595.90 was the Authority's portion of the expense, and payroll for July 2021 in the amount of \$123,678.79 of which \$44,973.27 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$78,705.52 is the Authority's portion of the expense. The motion carried.**

**Municipal Building Roof**

Mary explained that the shingles are in bundles on the roof, and they are just waiting for weather to strip and replace. They submitted a request for payment, approximately \$15,000, for those materials. This will be split 50/50 with the Authority. We cut that check and you will see it in your bill listings next month.

The Mayor asked if we expect a series of payments to be made. Mary said no because once the weather allows them to work, the roof should take 10 days.

**Borough Ordinance**

Ordinance # 476: Parking and Traffic Modifications to Chapter 16 of the Borough of Saxonburg's Code of Ordinances to include temporary restrictions on roadways, authorization for speed timing devices, and fees for parking violations. Mary reminded everyone that the Mayor and Police Chief had added their input and it was advertised this month and is ready for a vote. The Mayor said they have been working on this for some time as the Borough does not have an effective parking ordinance as of now.

**Motion was made and seconded by Scott Herbst/Pat Rinebolt to approve Ordinance #476. The motion carried.**

**MMOs for Uniformed (Police) and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans for 2021**

Mary reminded Council that every year the state sends the figures for the Minimal Municipal Obligations (MMOs) for the pension plans and Council includes them in the budget.

**Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Josh Novotny to approve the Minimal Municipal Obligations (MMO's) in the amount of \$11,800.00 for the Uniformed (Police) Pension Plan, and \$54,000.00 for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan, and to include these in the 2022 Borough budget.**

**Museum**

Mary reiterated that the mold issue seems to be taken care of with the new dehumidifier.

**Park**

Jackie Hutz with Team FishGuy Transplant Foundation's fundraiser booked at Cooper Hall on November 20, 2021. She has asked for consideration for a reduced rate.

Scott Herbst said while he wants to do this, the Borough has had so many problems—money spent on cameras at the Park due to vandalism, the dehumidifier, a/c unit, and the sewage pit. He said Council dealt with this when increasing the fees, because they were substantially below

where they should have been, and it's hard because we want to do this, but we need to financially support the Hall.

President Weinzierl said Council gets these requests all the time. The plan is to get the Hall up and running to where Council can do these things. Scott and Josh agreed.

Pat said it doesn't help when we've had vandalism in the Park that we've had to pay for.

No further action was taken.

### **Arts Festival 2021**

- Mary directed Council to a handout she provided that shows a revenue vs. expenses update with \$20,000 in vendor fees, offset by police time and Field Crew time, there will be around \$3,000 the Borough will make on this event, which is typical.
- Parade applications and photos have been coming in as promised. Mary reviewed them with the Chief today. If additional applications come in, they will also be reviewed. We do have a report of a County Commissioner will be walking in the parade, and that may be an issue with the minimum speed to be kept. The parade is to be limited to 76 vehicles and was to maintain a constant speed of 7 MPH. Main Street is to be closed at 10 a.m.

President Weinzierl asked Doug Sprankle to clarify. Doug said if any Councilmember wish to walk in the parade they are invited to do so. He said the parade will start at 9 a.m. and will not last even an hour with 45 cars signed up so far.

- Mary said there is debate about whether Main Street should be closed on Friday or not.

The Mayor reported on the weekend's activities and which street openings and closings according to the activities happening, and that the parking plan was established.

Fire Chief Chris Dean said Friday night will be a home football game, so the status of Main Street will make a very big difference.

**Per the Solicitor's recommendation, a Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Scott Herbst to authorize Chief Beachem, Mayor Gillespie, Mary Papik, and Sherry Weinzierl to make the decision about road closures and to notify Council. The motion carried.**

- Mary provided an updated on the Arts Festival vendors, that 165 vendor spots are committed, with a few more trickling in. She said it's very tight and there are not a lot of spaces left. The Sprankle's map will be published soon, she said, so the Borough will continue adding last-minute vendors as long as Doug and Brittany allow. She said there is a paper copy of the map-in-progress at the Borough office for Council to see the progress.
- Mary provided a salt shed update: The pilings are in and there's work being done on the foundations. The large uprights are going in, and 20 of the 40 are cemented in so far.

The Mayor asked if the new police car arriving the second week of September will be able to be housed in the garage behind the Borough building. Mary said as soon as the salt and equipment can be moved, yes.

### **Solicitor**

Solicitor Sean Gallagher, Gallagher Law Group

The Solicitor had no further report at this time, other than to discuss the contract between Doug Sprankle and the Borough for the Festival vendor spaces, which will take place in Executive Session.

### **Old Business**

Pat Rinebolt

Pat called on the business owners in the room to let Council know anything they may need.

Judy Ferree said she's always found everyone to be very cooperative, she only needs to ask and it's done. She said with a street closure on Friday she'll need to make arrangements for her guests attending a rehearsal dinner to get to the Hotel. She said when Main Street is closed, sometimes she loses business, but sometimes not. Even if she does lose business due to a street closure, it's for one night of the month and it benefits everybody, she said. She was concerned, however, about the car that drove down Main Street at the last Mingle.

Mayor Gillespie said the two kids in that car were directed by the Fire Police to park in the First Commonwealth parking lot. They instead continued down Main Street.

Fire Chief Dean said they know who that car belonged to, and the particulars have been given to the Saxonburg Police. He said barriers will be placed across Main Street for Thursday's Mingle.

Pat Rinebolt said they've been good to make sure the Kindergarten parents have access to get their kids. Mingles have been very crowded and everyone is so excited to see each other, but a car getting through those kinds of crowds down Main Street is unsafe.

Jim Stanek said The Mainstay is very limited on parking and he instructs his guests to park on Main Street overnight if they need to. He has only two spaces out front and two out back. He asked if his guests will be ticketed and punished for staying at the Mainstay now due to the Traffic Ordinance.

Chief Beachem said in his opinion that's no different than someone who lives in an apartment who parks on Main Street. It's not a problem.

Mr. Matus was told public comment was over.

### **New Business**

Josh indicated he is being asked about vendor refunds. It was indicated that this would be discussed at a later time.

### **Executive Session**

The meeting recessed at 9:00 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss Employee, Contract, and/or Public Safety Matters.

The meeting reconvened at 9:50 p.m. and took the following actions:

**Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Pat Rinebolt to approve the agreement with Doug Sprankle for the shared use of the Fire Department Carnival Grounds during the 2021 Arts Festival/Octoberfest, pending approval by the Borough Solicitor. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Scott Herbst/Dave Felsing to approve agreement with Butler County Sheriff's Department for additional assistance during the 2021 Arts Festival/Octoberfest. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Scott Herbst to approve payment at the overtime rate (time and one-half) for all officers working during the 2021 Arts Festival/Octoberfest event, to include the fulltime officers. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Scott Herbst/Pat Rinebolt to approve payment at the standard officer rate for a second security officer during the 2021 Arts Festival/Octoberfest. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Scott Herbst to approve payment to the Butler County Fire Police for assistance during the 2021 Arts Festival/Octoberfest. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Scott Herbst to approve advertising an ordinance to adopt the Inter-Municipal Agreement with Mars Borough for shared police services. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Scott Herbst to approve payment to the Civil Air Patrol in the amount of \$750 for assistance during the 2021 Arts Festival/Octoberfest. The motion carried.**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Jody Vettori  
Secretary