

SAXONBURG BOROUGH
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2022

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call Sherry Weinzierl, Pat Rinebolt, Dave Johnston, Mia Mazza-Petruzzi, Aaron Piper, Ray Koegler, and Mayor Gillespie were present.

Also in attendance were Sean Gallagher/Solicitor, Mary Papik/Manager, Chief Beachem, Jody Vettori/Secretary, David Felsing, J. Fred Caesar, Bruce Ohl, Paula Grubbs, Judy Ferree, and Jim O'Connor.

Carol Neubert arrived at 7:11 p.m.

Correspondence

- **On May 2, the Borough received an invitation for Council members to attend the Butler County Boroughs Association meeting on June 22.**
- **On May 10, the Borough received a street closure request from the Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Company for the Pet Parade planned for June 28.**
- **On May 11, Chief Beachem sent the Borough an Incident Report regarding loose sidewalk bricks in front of the Consolidated building on Main Street.**

Minutes

President Piper asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of April 19, 2022, with continuation on April 26, 2022. Hearing none, they were approved as submitted.

Public Comments

Jim O'Connor of A.L.M. Tree Pros

Mr. O'Connor described the location of six oak trees that he recommends be removed from the Park on the RV pad side due to their condition to preclude their falling, and/or falling on the buildings. In addition, he would remove dead branches from the trees on the Rebecca Street side of the Park. He would charge the Borough two-days' work time, even if took a third day to complete the work.

Museum Curator Fred Caesar

Fred reported:

- Deadlines are approaching on the next steps in preserving the Wire Rope Shop, which shows evidence that its foundation continues to shift. He thanked Aaron Piper, Mayor Gillespie, Mary Papik, and Chuck McGee for their work over the past months to help with this. He also thanked Regis Etzel for being a resource on preservation for the workshop.
- Scheduled tours continue to be popular.
- The Museum will be open on Memorial Day after the ceremony at the Park for anyone who wishes to visit.
- Fred will be making presentations about the history of Saxonburg to various organizations by invitation, including the South Butler Community Library, Magnolia Place, and South Park Township Library.
- The Museum's social media presence continues to expand, and the Wire Rope Shop model built by Lt. Kevin Stiles is now on display.
- The Museum's search for an intern has not worked out this year; Fred will start earlier next year. One very interested college student simply could not sustain the drive to the Museum due to the increase in gas prices. Council suggested he look into getting high

school students, who have computer skills and need community credits, to help with the Museum archives.

Mayor William Gillespie Jr.

- Mayor Gillespie reported that the Police Department is continuing to seek parttime officers and plans to present Council with some recommendations at next month's meeting.
- The Mayor listed historic dates that the Council may wish to publicly celebrate: This is Saxonburg's 175th Anniversary as a Borough; on July 16, 1832 Saxonburg was founded; incorporated August 11, 1846; first Municipal election was September 4, 1846; the first Council meeting was September 14, 1846.

Secretary Jody Vettori

Jody reported that the new picnic tables will be delivered Wednesday. These are replacing the tables that were destroyed when a tree at the Park fell on them last year. The Field Crew will need to assemble the new tables; the insurance claim will reimburse the cost for them.

SVFC Pet Parade Street Closure Request

Jody presented the street closure request for the 2022 Pet Parade.

Motion was made and seconded by Sherry Weinzierl/Dave Johnston to approve the street closure for the Pet Parade during the Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Company's Carnival Week, with the Borough office to inform the Police Department, complete the PennDOT application, and submit the insurance certificate. The motion carried.

Cooper Hall Rate Requests

Jody explained that the Butler County Association of Township Officials (BCATO) would like to hold their annual county-wide safety training at Cooper Hall on October 12, 2022. The Borough Field Crew would attend free of charge (~\$70 value). Before the Pandemic, BCATO has been offered the use of the Hall free of charge. In addition, President Piper said the Library has asked for the use of Cooper Hall for their Booktoberfest fundraiser on October 2, 2022, for a reduced rate.

Motion was made and seconded by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi/Ray Koegler to approve use of the Hall for the BCATO training for a fee of \$200, as well as to approve the use of the Hall for the Library's Booktoberfest on October 2, 2022, for a fee of \$200. The motion carried with Carol Neubert voting Nay.*

*Secretary's Note: It was noted after the meeting that the nonprofit rate for the Hall has not changed. President Piper explained that offering the Library a reduced Hall rate coupled with the Borough's annual financial donation provides a more appropriate level of support as Saxonburg is one of three sponsoring municipalities for the Library. The BCATO training benefits Borough employees and therefore was offered a reduced rate.

Committee Reports

Ordinance Committee: Dave Johnston reported that the Ordinance Committee feels the Special Event Ordinance is ready to be presented to Council and will be during Executive Session tonight. Dave expressed his special thanks to Tiffany Nolan of SABA and Chuck Lewis of the SVFC who went above and beyond in the preparation of the Ordinance.

Parks & Rec Committee

- Council discussed the tree removal as presented by ALM Tree Pros, whether to remove recommended trees or top them for now. President Piper brought Council's attention to

the financial handouts in front of them; that they collectively review where the Park is, year-to-date, and then make an informed vote on the trees.

- **Roebing Park, Cooper Hall, and Museum Plans & Responsibilities**

Mary presented the updated spreadsheet with tonight's action items in bold and italics. The action items included the Park trees, the Wire Rope Shop foundation, and the gutters on the Wire Rope Shop. Progress notes will progress from column to column, and completed tasks will move to the bottom of the list. The Mayor asked Mary to add a column for the cost of the line items needing to be done. President Piper asked about the status of removing marked junk from the Park storage buildings and Mary said she will follow up with Chuck as the Field Crew has been very busy.

Streets/Stormwater Committee: Mary informed Council that street sweeping will happen tomorrow.

Arts Festival Committee: Sherry Weinzierl provided a handout of the 2019 street closures and explained the plan would be similar, as would most of the times. The Committee will confirm the plans with the Mayor and Police Department and will present their recommendations to Council for a vote at the June meeting. They are asking for volunteers to work street closures, and Mary will look into the need for insurance if using volunteers and will discuss any needed training with the Police Chief. Parking for Main Street residents will be sought.

Police Committee (No meeting)
Property Committee (No meeting)
Joint Policy Committee (No meeting)

Liaison Reports

PA State Association of Boroughs: Pat will attend the Annual Conference next week.

Butler County Council of Government: Dave Johnston reported that four municipalities were present at the April 25 meeting; the discussion included bid proposals.

Butler County Boroughs Association (No meeting)
Tax Collection Committee (No meeting)
Planning Commission (No meeting)
Zoning Hearing Board (No meeting)
Historic Architectural Review Board (Approval issued for 210 W. Main Street sign)

Council Members Business presented by Council Members

- Pat Rinebolt asked about dog safety. Mary explained the State law requires all dogs be on a leash and in control. Council agreed they hadn't seen any unleashed dogs.
- Mary will contact PennDOT about the potholes on Butler Street near the funeral home and on Main Street near the eye doctor.

Manager Mary Papik

Bills

Motion was made and seconded by Sherry Weinzierl/Ray Kogler to approve \$21,810.48 in checks paid from the Borough's General Fund, of which \$9,677.76 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$488.88 is the Park's portion, and \$11,643.84 is the Authority's portion of the expense. In addition, decrease adjustments in April from the Borough General Fund in the amount of \$32,161.47 of which \$12,885.46 was the Borough's portion of the expense, \$2,572.90 was the Park's portion, and \$16,703.11 was the Authority's portion of the expense, and payroll for April 2022 in the amount of

\$78,349.79 of which \$26,169.68 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$52,180.11 is the Authority's portion of the expense. The motion carried.

HARB Certificate of Appropriateness

Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/Sherry Weinzierl to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for The Rustic Blossom's sign for 210 W. Main Street. The motion carried.

Union Position Opening

Mary explained that one Field Crew member turned in his notice, effective June 2, to take a position closer to his home. Per Union rules, the position was made available for anyone in a lesser position to move up. One employee has opted to move up and he is qualified to do so. This now leaves an opening for the General Laborer position. An interview is scheduled for Wednesday morning with a highly recommended applicant who is very interested.

Motion was made and seconded by Pat Rinebolt/Sherry Weinzierl to accept the resignation of Dave Evans effective June 2, 2022, and to advertise and hire for the General Laborer position, contingent upon Authority approval. The motion carried.

Solicitor

Solicitor Sean Gallagher, Gallagher Law Group

The Solicitor had no further report at this time.

Old Business

None

New Business

Loose Sidewalk Bricks at Consolidated Building

Chief Beachem discovered loose sidewalk bricks in front of the Consolidated building during one of his foot patrols. Mary briefly explained the brick sidewalk history and said the T-shaped channel was not installed to keep the bricks in place, so they can and do move. On the south side of the street, mold has been known to grow in the sand between the bricks. The Field Crew has scrubbed the bricks, killed the mold, installed new sand, etc. Mary said it has not been made clear to the property owners who is responsible to fix or maintain the bricks, though they have been sent letters in the past regarding the proper salt to use on the bricks in the winter.

President Piper said the Council will need to think it through and come up with a plan, but in the meantime, he proposed having the Field Crew fix the bricks at Consolidated in time for this week's Mingle if possible. Council agreed.

Executive Session

The meeting recessed at 8:40 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 Sherry Weinzierl/Mia Mazza-Petruzzi to approve the Solicitor to file an action with the Magistrate. The motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Johnston/Mia Mazza-Petruzzi to approve the proposal from ALM Tree Pros for tree and dead wood removal at the park for an amount not to exceed \$6800.00. The motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded by Ray Kogler/Pat Rinebolt to approve the proposal for design documentation from Etzel Engineering for the wire rope shop remediation project with funding assistance being provided by the Friends of the Saxonburg Museum. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 7 p.m.

Jody Vettori
Secretary