

**SAXONBURG BOROUGH**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 21, 2022**

President Piper called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call** Sherry Weinzierl, Pat Rinebolt, Dave Johnston, Aaron Piper, Ray Koegler, Carol Neubert, and Mayor Gillespie were present.

Also in attendance were Mike Gallagher/Solicitor, Mary Papik/Manager, Chief Beachem, Jody Vettori/Secretary, Doug Sprankle, David Felsing, J. Fred Caesar, Jackie Hutz, Bill Hoche, Linda Kovacik, June Crawford, Brian Antoszyk, and Brittany Lambermont.

Mia Mazza-Petruzzi was absent.

**Correspondence**

- **On May 18, the Borough received an email from Judy Ferree regarding reduced rates at Cooper Hall.**
- **On May 31, the Borough received a resignation letter from Dave Evans of the Field Crew.**
- **On June 16, the Borough received a letter from II-VI regarding their semi-annual testing of the alarm system, which will take place on June 24 and 25 at noon.**

**Minutes**

President Piper asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of May 17, 2022. Hearing none, they were approved as submitted.

**Public Comments**

**Doug Sprankle**

Doug objected to the requirement on page 3 of the Special Events Ordinance that allows events to be held on private residential property without a permit but does not include commercial property. Doug said the Ordinance gives an unfair advantage to residential owners over commercial owners, and that it will cause a hardship to his business to need to stop for permits for events contained on his property. Doug asked for an exemption from permitting for events happening entirely on his commercial property as he has followed the rules and never had cause for the police to get involved. The Chief agreed that they have not needed to get involved.

President Piper said that since Doug was a member of the extended ordinance committee, he had his chance to voice his opinion. Doug said the committee went a different direction.

**Jackie Hutz**

Jackie asked for clarification on nonprofit rental fees for Cooper Hall, as recently some nonprofits were given a rate of \$200 when the top rate is \$1575. She said there are different fees for different days, and different fees for different clients, and asked how her organization can develop a professional relationship with the Borough, as quoted from the Special Events Ordinance, in order to get a reduced rate.

President Piper explained that Council extended a reduced rate to the Library, because Saxonburg has a financial obligation to support the Library that they were unable to meet. Instead, the reduced rate was something that wouldn't affect the taxpayers. He specified the nonprofit rate has not changed and that the rates are available on the Borough's website. He

asked Jackie to call the Borough Secretary for clarification on why Council created different rates for different days of the week.

#### Brian Antoszyk

Brian said he was here on his own behalf, not on behalf of Rotary. He said the grass at Roebling Park looked [terrible] on Memorial because it hadn't been mowed. He said it was embarrassing after all the work he personally did, and that Rotary did, to beautify the Park. He asked Council to consider if it's right to have Borough employees maintaining the Park. Hiring a landscaper would make the Park look better and might even be cheaper than paying our Borough guys, he said. If a landscaper doesn't do the work, they can easily be fired or replaced by someone who will, he said.

President Piper said he appreciated Brian's concerns that that he agrees. The week prior he asked for the Field Crew to take care of the grass, and then he and his family pulled weeds.

#### Bill Hoche

Bill is the treasurer for the Friends of the Saxonburg Police Department's 501(c)(3), which has been existence for a little over three years and has paid for \$15,000 in trainings and defensive safety, \$7,200 for equipment, and weekly trainings for three officers at Makowski's. Just today, the Friends approved spending an additional \$6,000 for three shields for the officers. Their major contributors are Penn United, who's given \$20,250, and they received a Butler County Bar Association Grant of \$4,800 that paid for tactical training last year. Judy Ferree and the Hotel Saxonburg have contributed \$10,450. Judy has just resigned from the Friends, which is a big loss. The Friends could use help on getting facilities for the fundraising, Bill said. All contributions go entirely to the Police Department.

The Mayor added that additionally, Judy Ferree had raised \$7,500 on a previous spaghetti luncheon that she planned, hosted, secured the raffle baskets and staff volunteers, and bought the food and donated it. We can't overvalue what she's done for the Friends and for Saxonburg, he said.

The Mayor said the Bar Association Grant paid for felony traffic stop training, in which other departments from the area and a K-9 unit participated, and from which our police department now owns training supplies that can be used again and again.

Council thanked Bill Hoche for his work and the work of the Friends.

#### Museum Curator Fred Caesar

Fred reported:

- The quick-heat water heater was leaking, so the water to the restroom has been turned off awaiting repairs. Recently, a boiler hot water heater was approved and purchased, but the installation has been delayed. There are no tours scheduled this week with water turned off.
- With the removal of the trees, the KDKA Dog House is much more visible, and the structure needs work. The door still needs to be replaced, a window is broken, and a bird built a nest inside.
- There are tours scheduled this summer, but at a slower pace than in the spring.
- About 25 people including children visited the Museum on Memorial Day during the two hours that it was open.
- Fred thanked the Hotel Saxonburg and the 1832 Marketplace on Main for promoting the Museum.
- Fred's presentation on historic hotels in Saxonburg was attended by 25 people and continues to be downloaded online. The social media followers are increasing, even followers from out of state.

- Fred is coordinating a kids' bridge building and cable twisting activity at the Library for the July Mingle to celebrate the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roebling's first patent for wire rope machinery and technique.

President Piper said he will follow up with Mary on the Dog House door, which was previously approved.

**Mayor** William Gillespie Jr.

The Mayor reported:

- He and Sherry have reviewed the street closures for Octoberfest and Sherry will coordinate a joint meeting with Doug Sprankle and the Fire Department to discuss them.
- He was told the retention pond on the back side of Dollar General cannot be mowed. Dave Johnston informed Council that it can be mowed down to any level. Mary agreed with Dave that previous research said it can be mowed, but because its design is so steep, it's difficult to cut.
- Consul General Gill from Germany has accepted the invitation to visit Saxonburg. He will be in Saxonburg on August 18 for a history tour with Fred Caesar, will stay for the Mingle where there will be a reception for him, followed by dinner. On Friday, August 19, he will have breakfast and a tour of II-VI, as they have a presence in Germany.

**Superintendent** Chuck McGee

Chuck reported:

- The sealcoating project is on schedule to take place mid-August.
- The Field Crew addressed a sinkhole on Isabella Street.
- Street sweeping occurred in the middle of the month.
- Chuck apologized for the condition of the Park as it is his Field Crew who maintains it. He said two years ago the landscaper's contract was cancelled and he wasn't prepared to devote a man one full day per week to Park maintenance. We are subject to weather, he said, and can't mow in evenings or on weekends. He suggested hiring a contracted service that can guarantee the work gets done because landscapers have night, weekend, and early morning hours available.

**Secretary** Jody Vettori

Jody reported:

- The Cooper Hall wedding rentals will start in August this year, and Jody asked Council's permission to have Lucy do some additional "spring cleaning" before the weddings as she had done last year. Alternatively, any Council member wishing to do some cleaning could be given a key from Mary.

President Piper said in light of financial issues, he would be interested in cleaning the Hall with any Council members who wanted to join.

- Jody presented her findings that Saxonburg is permitted to start a Facebook page for events.

President Piper asked the Solicitor if Council needed to come up with their policy on deleting comments "not of administrative value" before launching the page. The Solicitor said he found no reason to delay starting a Facebook page and that the policy could be made concurrently. Jody, as Borough Secretary, would moderate the page under Mary's supervision. Council decided to give a Facebook page more consideration.

**Committee Reports**

**Parks & Rec Committee**

- Sherry reported that, as the Mayor said, that they're scheduling a joint meeting with the Fire Department and Doug Sprankle to work out what each group needs for the Festival.

President Piper asked Sherry to include him on that meeting.

- An extended-stay rate for the RV pad rentals has been requested by three different parties this month. President Piper researched this and said many places offer a free night's stay when paying for six nights. He also wanted to review the utility usage rates which may be set too low for longer stays. Sherry reminded Council that potential renters are waiting for a decision.

**Motion was made and seconded by Sherry Wenzierl/Dave Johnston to offer a free night to renters who pay for six nights at the current rate, with Council reserving the right to adjust the current rate for utility usage. The motion carried.**

**Police Committee:** Chief Beachem said he and the Mayor conducted several interviews and recommend two candidates for employment, Daniel Mikulan and Daniel DeCaria, who are both graduating from the police academy this week, and who are both veterans. The Mayor expressed his appreciation to Beau Sneddon and Nathan Oesterling for taking extra shifts.

**Motion was made and seconded by Sherry Weinzierl/Carol Neubert to approve hiring Daniel Mikulan and Daniel DeCaria at the standard rate. The motion carried.**

**Streets/Stormwater Committee** (No meeting)

**Ordinance Committee** (No meeting)

**Arts Festival Committee** (No meeting)

**Property Committee** (No meeting)

**Joint Policy Committee** (No meeting)

### Liaison Reports

**PA State Association of Boroughs:** Pat attended the Annual Conference in May. She reported that Boroughs statewide are experiencing the same troubles, including high gas prices which are hurting travel and tourism.

**Butler County Council of Government** (Meeting next month)

**Butler County Boroughs Association** (Dinner tomorrow)

**Tax Collection Committee** (Next meeting is in September)

**Planning Commission** (No meeting)

**Zoning Hearing Board** (No meeting)

**Historic Architectural Review Board** (Items listed under Manager)

**Council Members** Business presented by Council Members

No Council members had anything to add to the agenda.

**Manager** Mary Papik

### Bills

**Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/Ray Kogler to approve \$38,278.65 in checks paid from the Borough's General Fund, of which \$21,574.88 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$1,582.00 is the Park's portion, and \$15,121.77 is the Authority's portion of the expense. In addition, decrease adjustments in May from the Borough General Fund in the amount of \$29,703.47 of which \$11,600.62 was the Borough's portion of the expense, \$2,110.76 was the Park's portion, and \$15,992.09 was the Authority's portion of the expense, and payroll for May 2022 in the amount of \$79,558.32 of which \$26,038.61 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$53,519.71 is the Authority's portion of the expense. The motion carried.**

### Tree Removals at the Park

Mary explained that it was determined that a dead tulip tree on the Water Street side of the Park needed to be removed in addition to the four oak trees and various dead limbs that were previously approved. The tulip tree was a hazard due to its height and rotting center, and it

needed to be cordoned off for safety until a decision could be made for its removal. As such, and since the crew was on site, Mary authorized its removal, which is complete. Council previously approved two days' work by A.L.M. Tree Pros, but now a motion is needed to pay for the three days spent at the Park. Dave remarked that it was probably cheaper to have the tree removed right away since A.L.M. didn't have to mobilize to return.

**Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/Dave Johnston to approve payment in the amount of \$10,200.00 to A.L.M. Tree Pros for tree and stump removal services. The motion carried.**

### **Certificates of Appropriateness**

This month, HARB approved:

- Signage for Sherry Rankin at 251 W. Main Street, the new 1832 Marketplace on Main, previously Unique to Antique.
- Signage for Stacy Bell at 231 W. Main Street, the new Stacy's on Main, previously Blue Jar Candle Co.
- Paint for Bob Bauman at 115 W. Main Street, to include blue base, cream trim, rust stripe.

**Motion was made and seconded by Dave Johnston/Sherry Weinzierl to approve the sign for 251 W Main Street, the 1832 Marketplace on Main. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Ray Keogler/Sherry Weinzierl to approve the sign for 231 W Main Street, Stacy's on Main. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/Dave Johnston to approve the paint for 115 W Main Street. The motion carried.**

**Solicitor** Solicitor Mike Gallagher, Gallagher Law Group  
The Solicitor had no further report at this time.

### **Old Business**

President Piper personally thanked the extended ordinance committee for their work on the Special Events Ordinance and disbanded the committee. In lieu of a discussion on the Special Events Ordinance, he said, it would instead be sent to the Solicitor for review and then Council will make any adjustments they deem necessary or from public comments. Finally, it will be brought up at a future meeting for a vote to advertise.

**New Business** None

**Executive Session** The meeting recessed at 8:02 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss Employee, Contract, and/or Public Safety Matters.

The meeting reconvened at 8:55 p.m. and took the following action:

### **Union Contract**

**Motion was made and seconded by Sherry Weinzierl/Carol Neubert to approve the Agreement Between Saxonburg Area Authority and Saxonburg Borough and The Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO, System Local 433, effective from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2027, as approved by the Saxonburg Area Authority. The motion carried.**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 7 p.m.

Jody Vettori  
Secretary