

SAXONBURG BOROUGH
Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2022

President Piper called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. with an announcement that the Special Events Ordinance may be discussed at this meeting but that no action will be taken tonight.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Also in attendance were Sean Gallagher/Solicitor, Mary Papik/Manager, Chief Beachem, Chuck McGee/Superintendent, Jody Vettori/Secretary, Fred Caesar, Dave Felsing, Tiffany Nolan, Brittany Lambermont, Doug Sprankle, Maria Berzonski, Lindsay Sprankle, Rep. Marci Mustello, Sherry Rankin, Christine Wojciechowski, Debbie Turowski, Joe Wojciechowski, Flo Hatheway, Rene Hatheway, Samantha Bauer, Garret Pavlina, Mark Walsh, Michael Lazaroff, Michel Wright, Denise Tabacchi, and Darryl Tabacchi.

Correspondence

- On July 5, the Borough received a donation request form the Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Company.
- On July 15, the Borough received a letter from Clinton Township advising that Clinton is applying for a DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant to replace an existing concrete box culvert bridge on Victory Road over Davis Run with an aluminized steel box culvert bridge.

Minutes

President Piper asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of June 21, 2022. Hearing none, they were approved as submitted.

Public Comments *Restricted to Borough residents & business owners; 3 minutes each*

Tiffany Nolan, President, Saxonburg Area Business Association (SABA)

Tiffany said the SABA Board does not support the Special Events Ordinance as it currently stands. She said there is enough of a disparity between what the extended committee worked on and what was presented to Council at the previous meeting that SABA does not feel it is the right fit for the Borough. SABA would like to see it reworked so it closer resembles what the extended committee worked on.

Doug Sprankle

Doug said the last part he worked on with the Extended Ordinance Committee was the workflow chart, and that the last version of the Ordinance was five pages and was a fair and equitable document that the committee members all agreed on. But between April and the June 21 meeting, it gained almost ten pages and the language is not fair between residential and commercial. He asked that the Council consider forming the Extended Committee again. He said the Ordinance had a few small issues that he thought would be ironed out in one last meeting prior to submitting it to Council, but there was no last meeting; April 21 was the last meeting he was invited to attend. He would like the chance for the Extended Committee to complete it and submit a fair document that a member of the community could live by.

Rep. Marci Mustello

Representative Mustello presented the upcoming events that she is hosting:

- Family Fun Night at the Butler Farm Show grounds on August 16. The Council is invited to set up as a vendor to discuss Saxonburg, events, etc.

- On September 9, Marci has invited the Agriculture Secretary to Pennsylvania to Butler County for a roundtable meet and greet with the Butler Farm Bureau and others to discuss urban agriculture, and for the opportunity to ask him questions on the upcoming legislation.
- Marci is hosting a Veteran's luncheon on November 2 at the American Legion Post 778 in Butler. Council is invited to attend either as Veterans or as Council members.

Debbie Turowski

Debbie expressed her concerns that she is unable to park in her lot during the Mingles and is asking for another way into her lot. Someone told her to drive slowly down Main Street, but she feels that's unsafe. She is concerned that an ambulance or fire truck wouldn't be able to access Main Street, either. She expressed her love of Saxonburg and the events and loves that the Mingles support local businesses.

After the meeting, Secretary Vettori let Debbie know that no one is permitted to drive down Main Street during the Mingles, for safety purposes. The Ambulance company, however, has a plan in place to access Main Street via Isabella. Debbie said she was glad to hear this. The Secretary assured Debbie, as Council did, that someone would reach out to her about parking during the Mingles.

Museum Curator Fred Caesar

Fred reported:

- Maintenance issues: The restroom has a new hot water heater, so there are no more leaks of brown water that were coming from the old unit. The sink plumbing has been fixed. And the air conditioner has been recharged and is working again.
- Vogeley family descendants of those who once owned a home on Main Street and had been early owners of the Hotel Saxonburg, toured the Museum over the Fourth of July weekend. In addition, Fred conducted a tour with an 82-year-old man from Magnolia Place said it was his special wish to visit the Museum.
- Museum was the only Saxonburg entity referenced by the blog "Discover the Burgh" which has 175,000 monthly readers and whose Facebook page has 117,000 followers.
- The Museum's Facebook page has increased to 318 followers. Two recent videos Fred made are receiving attention: Observing the five-year closure of the Chief Adams cold case, which has been viewed in part by 300 people and viewed in its entirety by 111 people, and a video on the Anniversary of John Roebling's receiving his first U.S. patent 180 years ago which was viewed by 582 people to date. Both videos promote the Museum and Saxonburg.

Mayor William Gillespie Jr.

The Mayor reported:

- The two parttime officers that the Borough approved for hire took fulltime positions elsewhere.
- A person approached the Friends of the Saxonburg Police at a recent Mingle, and, after speaking with Bill Hoche about trainings, etc., returned later and made a substantial donation toward ballistic shields. The shields have now been purchased and training with the shields will take place right away. The name of the person will be made public soon.
- The planning for Consul General Gill's visit is moving along. The Mayor recognized Maria Berzonski for her help with planning the reception. They are also working with Ann Coleman of Marci Mustello's office, and Sister Cities and Sprankle's are involved as well. From 3:30-5:30, Fred Caesar will give a presentation on the history of the Roeblings in Saxonburg, from 5:30-7:30 the reception will take place, followed by dinner. The Mayor announced that Fred Caesar had thoughtfully made and is gifting two "Key to the City" plaques for the occasion, which Fred showed to Council.

Motion was made and seconded by Sherry Weinzierl/Mia Mazza-Petruzzi to adopt the key plaques as official Saxonburg “Keys to the City.” The motion carried.

Superintendent Chuck McGee

Chuck reported one item in addition to his written report, that the date for the street improvement project seal coating has been set for August 22 and will take approximately 1½ days to complete.

Secretary Jody Vettori

Jody highlighted one item on her written report, the volunteer opportunity for Council to do some cleaning at the Hall in August.

Committee Reports **Ordinance Committee**

Aaron explained that, though the Ordinance Committee did not have a meeting, he wanted to let the public know that the Special Events Ordinance was not a Big Brother attempt to squash the free spirit of the town. Over the next few months, he said, the original Ordinance Committee, made up of three Council members, will take everything into consideration and will likely ask the public for input. The intent is that the Borough taxpayers not subsidize events, and that there are enough resources in place to ensure public safety. It will remain on the agenda as Old Business until it is completed.

Parks & Rec Committee

Roebing Park, Cooper Hall, and Museum Plans & Responsibilities:

- Mary reported that the Museum star and the Christmas lights on the gazebo have been removed.
- Aaron explained the no-touch faucets and toilets in the outdoor restroom building have been malfunctioning. Recently, a clogged toilet resulted in a large water bill for the Borough. As such, Aaron said he would like to add to the Responsibilities list the replacement of the no-touch faucets with metered faucets like they have at the Turnpike rest stops, where you press down and are given a specific amount of water. He will purchase one of the faucets himself. He would also like to add to the list replacing the touchless toilets with low-tech, standard models instead. He also suggested adding the handles back onto the touchless urinals.
- Mary presented a photo on the overhead screen that Aaron had taken the day before of a weedy flower bed at the corner of Water and Rebecca Streets in the Park. Aaron suggested an “Adopt a Flower Bed” program where citizens could keep up with pulling the weeds to keep the Park looking great and not creating a labor expense. He said he and his family spent only an hour on the bed in the photo and made a big improvement. He said, due to rules, the weeds must be pulled rather than sprayed with chemicals. A member of the public, Flo Hatheway, asked if a natural spray would be acceptable and said she would provide the Borough with some recipes.
- Mary said the recharge of the Museum air conditioner is expected to help extend the life of the unit by two years, but that Council needs to add the replacement expense to their long-term plans.
- Mary said Cunningham Shanor thinks they can work on the boiler this fall under our maintenance agreement to keep it going for the time being.

Arts Festival Committee

Sherry reported that Arts Festival spaces are filling up and said that they are now starting to look for Festival volunteers. The Committee is now meeting every two weeks, but planning is going smoothly.

The Mayor reported that the meeting to discuss street closures and traffic flow has been set for tomorrow, July 20, at 4 p.m. at the Borough building. Sherry and Aaron said they will attend.

Streets/Stormwater Committee (No meeting)
Police Committee (No meeting)
Property Committee (No meeting)
Joint Policy Committee (No meeting)

Liaison Reports

PA State Association of Boroughs (No meeting)
Butler County Council of Government (July meeting cancelled)
Butler County Boroughs Association (No meeting)
Tax Collection Committee (Executive Committee Meeting scheduled August 11)
Planning Commission (No meeting; needs to meet August 3)
Zoning Hearing Board (No meeting)
Historic Architectural Review Board (No meeting)

Council Members Business presented by Council Members

Aaron Piper

Aaron suggested organizing a contest around the time of the Arts Festival for residents and store owners to beautify Saxonburg through curb appeal. Mia said there used to be a similar contest with multiple categories like best tree, nicest porch, best flowerpots, etc. She said she's noticed that Saxonburg, including the side streets, looks better than ever lately. Carol suggested a contest include the entire town, not just Main Street businesses.

Manager

Mary Papik

Bills

Motion was made and seconded by Sherry Weinzierl/Pat Rinebolt to approve \$28,008.66 in checks paid from the Borough's General Fund, of which \$6,493.04 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$14,890.54 is the Park's portion, and \$6,625.08 is the Authority's portion of the expense. In addition, decrease adjustments in June from the Borough General Fund in the amount of \$77,869.48 of which \$22,921.75 was the Borough's portion of the expense, \$6,697.61 was the Park's portion, and \$48,250.12 was the Authority's portion of the expense, and payroll for June 2022 in the amount of \$85,363.37 of which \$25,660.06 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$59,703.31 is the Authority's portion of the expense. The motion carried.

Comprehensive Fee Resolution

Mary explained that because the Borough's Comprehensive Fee schedule has not been updated since 2018, she reviewed the current fees with respect to office time and salaries to recoup some of the rising costs. Carol Neubert felt that some of the fees were too high. Mary discussed each proposed fee increase, item by item, with the Council.

Motion was made and seconded by Sherry Weinzierl/Mia Mazza-Petruzzi to adopt Resolution #4-2022. The motion carried.

Other Ordinances

Mary explained that other Borough Ordinances exist that need updating. She invited Council members to review the list presented to them and to contact her if they would like to share their input with the Ordinance Committee.

Financial Report

Mary presented Council with a handout showing the Borough's operating expense through June 30 and asked for questions.

- Aaron asked about professional services as this item has already spent most of its allocation for the full year. Mary explained that this includes certain insurance, dues, software, etc., expenses that usually occur in the beginning of the year only.
- Mia asked about the Ambulance expenses. Mary explained that years ago the Council opted to pay the internet and cable bill for the Ambulance staff, as a way of supporting those who staff that building around the clock.
- Mia asked about the Fire expenses and Mary explained that the Borough is required by law to pay for certain items like hydrants and workers' compensation.

Museum Gutter

Mary explained the situation with the Museum gutter, that mini spouts placed along the face of the gutter in lieu of downspouts that are draining over the sidewalk and onto the back of the mulch beds, displacing the mulch. After after one heavy rain, this gutter water pooled at the Museum door.

Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/Dave Johnston to approve proposal from The Home Boys Seamless Gutters to replace the gutter on the front of the Museum and add two proper downspouts for the proposed amount of \$1,400. The motion carried.

Wire Rope Shop Contract

Mary explained that the updates on this will be discussed in Executive Session. Aaron said he's had some communication as well and is waiting to hear back. The Mayor asked about the award date for the grant, which Mary said it is sometime in the fall.

Solicitor

Solicitor Sean Gallagher, Gallagher Law Group

The Solicitor had no further report at this time.

Old Business

Special Events Ordinance

Aaron reminded the public that the Special Events Ordinance will stay on the agenda under Old Business as a topic of discussion until it is completed and ready for a vote to go to advertising.

New Business

None

Executive Session Announcement

The meeting recessed at 8:04 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss Employee, Contract, and/or Public Safety Matters.

The meeting reconvened at 10:17 p.m. and took no further action.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 7 p.m.

Jody Vettori
Secretary