

**SAXONBURG BOROUGH**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 16, 2022**

President Piper called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. after a Public Hearing for a Zoning change for 361 W. Water Street.

**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 Mike Gallagher/Solicitor, Mary Papik/Manager, Chief Beachem, Chuck McGee/Superintendent, Jody Vettori/Secretary, Fred Caesar, Bruce Ohl, Dave Felsing, Susan Ceist, Ellen Moser, Judy Farney, Joyce Byers, Tiffany Nolan, Ben Brewster, Brittany Lambermont, Doug Sprankle, Paula Grubbs, and Maria Berzonski.

**Correspondence**

- On July 25, the Borough received a request from the Mainstreet Bake Shop asking if the 2-Hour Parking signs in front of their establishment can be changed to 15 minutes to allow their customers better access to parking when picking up cakes or large orders.
- On July 28, 2022, the Borough received a letter of resignation from Jack DeMarco for his position on the Planning Commission.
- On July 29, the Borough received a request from Sprankle's for permission to place an Oktoberfest banner on Main Street.
- On July 29, with an update on August 8, the Borough received emails from Maria Berzonski on behalf of the Mayor inviting Council members to attend the Meet & Greet for German Consul General David Gill to be held on the Library Patio during the August 18 Mingle from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- On August 8, the Borough received an email from Grant Young of Adagio Health, who is looking to collaborate with any tobacco-free policies in the Borough.
- On August 10, the Borough received a letter from the Saxonburg Area Business Association requesting a street closure for the annual Holiday Parade on November 25.

**Minutes**

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

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

**Judy Farney**

Judy asked the Council if something could be done about the cars speeding on Constitution Avenue. At night, she believes some cars are going 70+ miles per hour as Constitution has become a cut-through to avoid the stop sign on Water Street. But with the new developments planned, a blind hill in the middle of the Constitution, and more people walking these days, the speeding cars are becoming more and more dangerous. She managed to get a partial license plate from a car she's seen speeding numerous times and agreed to send the information to the Secretary.

**Doug Sprankle**

Doug highlighted the short history of Sprankle's grocery store:

- When Friedman's closed, they averaged about 3,500 customers per week
- Sprankle's is averaging about 400,000 transactions per year, which is 7,500+ customers per week coming into the store, into Saxonburg, and spending money

- Sprankle's has been a part of over 20 local events each year
- Sprankle's represents over 20 local food producers in the store

Doug reviewed Sprankle's newest accolades:

- Sprankle's has been recognized by Progressive Grocer for the events they do and their social media
- Sprankle's is the first grocery store in Pennsylvania to have a brewery inside the store

Doug then personally invited the Council to attend the Octoberfest and said there will be a table of honor set up next to the stage for them and their families all weekend. He thanked the Council for all they do.

**Museum Curator** Fred Caesar

Fred reported:

- The new gutters are up and not only look good but they're working great.
- Scheduled tours continue and are well received.
- He has been preparing for our special guest, the German Consul David Gill's visit on Thursday to include the Museum, Wire Rope Shop, old white church, and historic Main Street. The Consul is especially interested in the Roebblings and German settlers, and Fred has prepared a special overview presentation.
- He worked in the Wire Rope Shop today cleaning and he thanked the Mayor for stopping by to help clean the windows.
- The Museum will host local art painters on September 7 to kick off the Festival of the Arts weekend. The Museum will be open during Festival hours on Saturday and Sunday with the help of the Women's Club volunteers who have helped in the past.
- The Museum's Facebook followers have increased from 318 to 379, due in part to recent posts about KDKA, the passing of David McCullough, our Purple Heart display, and the 1932 celebration of Saxonburg's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Fred handed out the new Museum brochures that he designed in time for the Festival and said that several local businesses have asked for them.

**Mayor** William Gillespie Jr.

Mayor Gillespie reported:

- With the recent rain, unofficially reported around 3 inches, the Mayor received complaints about the water that pools near Carol Drive and eventually backs up at Knoch High School. The Borough may want to consider working with Jefferson Township on anything that can be done.
- Festival planning is going well and Sherry Weinzierl and Terry McCormick are doing a great job. The street closure plan is in place and has been distributed.
- The security meeting for the Octoberfest takes place at 1:30 this Friday. President Piper asked if this meeting could be moved to 3:30 and, hearing no dissent from the other involve parties, it was agreed.
- He attended a Mayor's meeting this past month with the County Commissioners. One of the Mayors said of his own town that they were trying to be more like Saxonburg. Mayor Gillespie remembered back to the Ray Rush photographs of the town that were followed with businesses like the Hotel and Batch, and then the great leadership under Tiffany Nolan with the Saxonburg Area Business Association, Saxonburg is a very dynamic place. The award-winning grocery store is a huge asset to this community. Fred Caesar is internationally known as the Curator for our Museum and is a great asset to our town. We've got much to be proud of, he said. Kudos to everybody.
- The German Consul General's visit will take place this Thursday. He will start in Saxonburg with Fred's tour, then there will be a reception at the Library for him during the Mingle. Maria Berzonski has done a fantastic job organizing that, and Judy Ferree has arranged dinner at the Hotel. Other businesses who have stepped forward with their time and talents for this visit and deserve to be recognized: Mainstreet Bake Shop, The

Salon of Saxonburg, Scene Setter Studios, Art Spirit, Batch, Mühlhausen Sister Cities, Rustic Blossom, South Butler Community Library, Sprankle's Community Market, and Butler County Tourism with Jack Cohen have contributed toward making this visit the success it will be. These people and businesses are sharing their success with one another and the town.

**Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/Sherry Weinzierl to approve Resolution #5-2022 honoring German Consul General David Gill. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/Dave Johnston approve up to/not to exceed \$1,000 to offset expenses for the Consul General's visit to Saxonburg on August 18. The motion carried.**

**Superintendent** Chuck McGee

Chuck highlighted one item from his written report, that in reviewing the condition of some cracking on Alwine Road, which is one of the four roads to be sealcoated this month, it is not in the Borough's best interest to sealcoat it but to do a pavement overlay, which could take place next year or so. Alwine does not need to be repaved immediately, he said, but sealcoating won't help it much. Instead, Chuck proposed sealcoating Fisher Road, which is nearly the same length as Alwine and is in the vicinity of the other roads scheduled to be done through this contract. Fisher would add about \$2,500 to the already-approved cost. The funds would come from the Borough's Liquid Fuels account, which has the funds to absorb that. The Streets Committee agreed to this change.

**Motion was made and seconded by Dave Johnston/Sherry Weinzierl to approve the change from Alwine Road to Fisher Road for the sealcoating project and an additional expenditure of approximately \$2,547 to be paid from the Liquid Fuels Fund. The motion carried.**

**Secretary** Jody Vettori

Jody had nothing further beyond her written report, except to thank the Council for their recent voluntary work at the Park, indoors and outdoors, to get it ready for a busy fall event season.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Streets/Stormwater Committee**

Meeting took place August 10, as discussed by Chuck during his Superintendent's Report.

#### **Ordinance Committee**

Meetings took place on August 4 and 10 to discuss the Special Events Ordinance. When completed, it will be discussed at a future Council meeting.

#### **Parks & Rec Committee**

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

Mary reported:

- As Fred mentioned, the new Museum gutter has been installed and is working great.
- Chuck has been successful at getting the majority of the outdoor restroom work done. with the exception of one toilet in the Ladies' Room. The replacement toilet arrived damaged and so was shipped back. But the original automatic toilet was left in place and is in working condition.
- Sherry mentioned the light switch in the outdoor Ladies' Room needs fixed as it only works if you touch a switch on the ceiling. Chuck added this to his list of repairs.
- The lamppost that was damaged during the tree removal has been repaired by Hey Electric this week.

- Additionally, there is one of the high bulbs that has been broken by a thrown rock or something similar. Chuck has it on his list next time we rent a high lift to replace that bulb. There are cameras in the Park, but we are unsure when the damage took place.
- We have found a contractor who can do the concrete work for the fence post, but they are working on what can be done about a rope between them.
- Chuck reported we have two of the three picnic tables that can be built. The third was damaged during shipping and the replacement is expected in September. President Piper said they would be nice to have in place for the Festival of the Arts.

### **Festival of the Arts Committee**

Sherry reported that planning is going better than expected and we are set to have a spectacular Festival. Meetings continue weekly and the next steps are meetings with the volunteers, work on the flag placement on Main Street, and finalizing the pamphlet with the itinerary. Sherry reported that Keystone Wellness is coming with adults and kids to help clean up on the last day of the Festival. Mia asked who the public can contact to volunteer, and Jody offered to put a notice with Borough contact information on the Festival's webpage. The Mayor offered to come to the volunteer meetings as well. Sherry thanked everyone for their help.

**Police Committee** (No meeting)

**Property Committee** (No meeting)

**Joint Policy Committee** (No meeting)

### **Liaison Reports**

#### **Tax Collection Committee**

Mary reported that the Executive Committee met on August 11 and worked on the slate of officers for next year. The budget is stable and billing to the Municipalities is also very stable.

#### **Planning Commission**

Meeting was held August 3 regarding the Zoning change for 361 W. Water Street.

**PA State Association of Boroughs** (No meeting)

**Butler County Council of Government** (No meeting)

**Butler County Boroughs Association** (No meeting)

**Zoning Hearing Board** (No meeting)

**Historic Architectural Review Board** (No meeting)

### **Council Members**

Dave Johnston asked everyone to look for the Rotary trolley which will soon be finished and will be available at community events. It will be at the Festival and Oktoberfest, helping to move people back and forth.

### **Manager**

Mary Papik

### **Bills**

Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/Mia Mazza-Petruzzi to approve \$42,464.73 in checks paid from the Borough's General Fund, of which \$35,284.80 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$2,731.01 is the Park's portion, and \$4,448.92 is the Authority's portion of the expense. In addition, decrease adjustments in July from the Borough General Fund in the amount of \$42,156.21 of which \$15,327.46 was the Borough's portion of the expense, \$2,062.57 was the Park's portion, and \$24,766.18 was the Authority's portion of the expense, and payroll for July 2022 in the amount of \$121,959.64 of which \$37,122.23 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$84,837.41 is the Authority's portion of the expense. The motion carried.

### **MMOs for Uniformed (Police) and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans for 2023**

Mary discussed the Minimal Municipal Obligations (MMOs) for the pension plans as determined by the actuaries. These are the Borough's required and budgeted financial contributions to the pension plans. Aaron, by virtue of being Council President, is the Chief Administrative Officer of the pension and will need to sign the approved MMOs. We will then send the signed forms into the State in order to receive our pension aid.

**Motion was made and seconded by Pat Rinebolt/Carol Neubert to approve the MMO amounts for 2023 as prepared by Thomas J. Anderson & Associates, Inc. The motion carried.**

### **Resignation of Jack DeMarco from the Planning Commission**

Mary informed the Council that Mr. DeMarco had moved out of the area and so needed to resign his position.

**Motion was made and seconded by Sherry Weinzierl/Carol Neubert to accept with regrets the resignation of Jack DeMarco from the Planning Commission, effective July 28, 2022. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Dave Johnston/Ray Koegler to appoint Dave Felsing to the Planning Commission. The motion carried.**

### **Zoning Change Request for 361 W. Water Street**

The Planning Commission met August 3 to review the application submitted by Laura Kelly and Ellen Moser requesting to change the Zoning of 361 W. Water Street from C-2 to R-2. The Planning Commission's recommendation to Council is for approval of the application. The Public Hearing on this matter was conducted August 16, 2022 at 7 p.m.

**Motion was made and seconded by Pat Rinebolt/Sherry Weinzierl to approve the Zoning change from C-2 to R-2 for 361 W. Water Street. The motion carried.**

### **Banner Policy**

Mary led a discussion of the Fire Department's proposed policy to switch from over-the-street banners for events to flags that would be bracketed top and bottom on the street poles. The policy would start in 2023 if approved. The Fire Company charges \$200 per banner for hanging, and \$100 is charged on the new flag policy. The bracketry for flags costs \$45 per flag and Council can decide if some of those costs will be passed on. The Festival Committee is waiting to hear what can be done with their flags for Festival, and Doug Sprankle already had his request submitted for approval to hang his joint Octoberfest and Festival banner and is waiting for a motion from Council.

Council discussed locations of the flags and Fred Caesar offered the brackets he has from the 2017 Festival flags. Carol Neubert asked Council to consider that flags or banners can be placed on Water Street as well. Mary offered to find out more information about which electric company and phone company poles the Borough might be able to use for flags and/or banners. Doug Sprankle offered the use of any of the three poles in his grocery store parking lot. Fred Caesar offered that in 2017 it was necessary to provide a million-dollar insurance policy to the electric company.

**Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/Mia Mazza-Petruzzi for the Borough to cover the cost of the brackets if they should need to be purchased, at \$45 per set, and for the Field Crew to hang the four Festival flags on the Borough's black poles.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Sherry Weinzierl/Dave Johnston to add a motion to the agenda to approve the hanging of the Sprankle's joint Octoberfest and Festival banner. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Sherry Weinzierl/Mia Mazza-Petruzzi to allow the Sprankle's banner announcing both the Octoberfest and Festival of the Arts to hang across Main Street. The motion carried.**

### **Financial Report**

President Piper asked the Council to look over the financial report in their packets that shows expenditures through July 30<sup>th</sup> and to asked Council to ask any questions they needed either now or to reach out to Mary as the 2023 budget discussions will begin soon.

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

### **Old Business**

#### **Special Events Ordinance**

There was no discussion on the Special Events Ordinance.

**New Business** None

**Executive Session** The meeting recessed at 8:17 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss Employee, Contract, and/or Public Safety Matters.

The meeting reconvened at 9:30 p.m. and took the following actions:

**Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/Mia Mazza-Petruzzi to add a motion on public safety to the agenda. The motion carried.**

**Motion was made and seconded by Carol Neubert/Mia Mazza-Petruzzi to authorize the Mayor and Chief to evaluate and acquire adequate public safety and police assistance for the Octoberfest and Festival of the Arts events. The motion carried.**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 7 p.m.

Jody Vettori  
Secretary