

SAXONBURG BOROUGH
Minutes
March 21st, 2023

President Piper called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call Mia Mazza-Petruzzi, Sherry Weinzierl, Dave Johnston, Aaron Piper, Patricia Rinebolt, Carol Neubert and Mayor Gillespie were present. Ray Koeigler was absent.

Also in attendance were: Mary Papik, Manager; Mike Gallagher, Solicitor; Fred Caesar, Museum Curator; Steven May; Secretary, Linda Kovacik, Lance Harbison, Ben Brewster, Daryl Vettori, Phillip Wain, Sherry Rankin, Nancy Alberth, Cathy Wiltrout, Joyce Hutterer, Susanne Gillespie, Meghan Pohl, and Paula Grubbs.

Minutes

Minutes of February 21st 2023 were approved as distributed.

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

Lance Harbison spoke regarding Garbage Collection. Vogel has taken over for Morrow and limited the options for garbage collection to approximately two contractors. Mr. Harbison spoke to an option of one Borough wide collection service. Mayor Gillespie responded promoting free enterprise with Mary Papik reminding Council that past garbage collection bids have been vastly uneconomical.

Sherry Rankin, owner of 1832 Marketplace expressed that herself and fellow business owners were disappointed with the postponement of The Saxonburg Festival of the Arts. Mrs. Rankin stated that the foot traffic and sales from one Saturday event equals a month worth of revenue. Mrs. Rankin looks forward to Councils support on events such as the Holiday Market, Winterfest, Mingles, and events that build business and community.

Nancy Alberth, owner of Red Door Antiques also expressed her disappointment with the Festival of the Arts postponement. Mrs. Alberth explained that it would take her four to six weeks to recover profits made during that weekend.

SABA Phillip Wain presented what would be considered a Mini-Mingle in conjunction with Oktoberfest consisting of various food and vendors. Mr. Wain asks for Main Street closures to take place from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on September 9th and 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on September 10th. Additional Events would be held in the library parking lot showcasing the new pavilion as well as live music. SABA (Saxonburg Area Business Association) meets Tuesday mornings, in the basement of the white church, at 9:00 a.m.

Museum Curator Fred Caesar reported that 99% of what is on display at the Museum has been donated by people and families in the area. Added to the collection this month are some artifacts from the Maurhoff Store including the popcorn maker dating back to 1910. Another shipment is anticipated from the Maurhoff Family that would include the famous peanut roaster and ice cream scoops from the Schroth ice cream parlor. The Harbison family has donated an 1890's era stereoscope. Fred was able to find original slides depicting the Brooklyn Bridge. This piece is now on display. Fred has been reworking some displays to include items donated from the Saxonburg Summer Theater. The Roebling room display has been arranged to include a diamond facet design donated by Mary Papik. The piece was completed using 86,400 individual diamond facets. Working often with children, Fred has re-certified for his child abuse

clearances. Tour requests are being made several times a week and the Museums Facebook page continues to grow.

Friends of the Museum Fred Caesar, on behalf of Friends of the Museum, spoke of Councils decision In May of 2022 to allow Friends of the Museum to raise money for an engineering study, prepared by Etzel Engineering, to save the wirerope workshop from collapse. A study of this magnitude would be needed for potential grant applications to preserve the structure. Council had voted to allow the comprehensive study with the contingency that no taxpayer funds be used. Upon completion of the study, the Borough asked and received a check from Friends of the Museum totaling \$28,304. The Friends of the Museum would ask that Council allow fundraising efforts to begin on the estimated \$250,000 needed to raise the structure, construct a proper foundation, and lower the wirerope shop back onto its base.

Mayor William Gillespie Jr. reported that he will be speaking with our German friends after their meeting in April to finalize their visitation plans. Mayor Gillespie is excited to report that Friends of the Police will be holding several fundraisers including a side-by-side UTV raffle, A Henry Rifle raffle, Steelers tab books, and a golf outing in June. Fundraising efforts are needed as the State will no longer be supplying ticket pads to the officers. In-Car printers or E-file software will need to be implemented. Chief Beachem attended a demonstration of a new reporting system to replace the software currently used. The current software is being migrated to a new system and prices will inevitably increase. The Mayor also reports that Sprankle's Grocery in Saxonburg has been named in the top twenty progressive independent grocers for 2023. Sprankle's employs several residents and is an asset to the community.

Superintendent Chuck McGee

Committee Reports

- Streets/Stormwater Committee** (No meeting)
- Ordinance Committee** (March 2nd)
- Parks & Rec Committee** (No Meeting)
- Arts Festival 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** (No meeting)
- Butler County Boroughs Association** (April 20th)
- Tax Collection Committee** (March 28th)
- Planning Commission** (No meeting)
- Zoning Hearing Board** (No meeting)
- Historic Architectural Review Board** (No meeting)

Council Members Mia Mazza-Petruzzi spoke regarding Roebing Park Clean-up day and the possibility of rain.

Manager Mary Papik

Financial Software Discussion

Bills

Motion was made by Carol Neubert and seconded by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi to approve \$51,893.81 in checks paid from the Borough's General Fund, Parks portion of \$202.00. In addition, decrease adjustments in February from the Borough General Fund in the amount of \$18,841.39 of which \$6,311.40 was the Borough's portion of the expense, \$1,326.52 was the Park's portion, and \$11,203.47 was the Authority's portion of the expense. In addition, decrease adjustments from the Authority Revenue fund in the amount of \$107,320.55 of which \$18,321.68 is the Boroughs portion and \$3881.01 is the Parks portion. Payroll for February 2023 in the amount \$3881.01 is the Parks Portion of \$87,725.58 of which \$30,115.17 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$57,610.41 is the Authority's portion of the expense. In addition, 28,304 from the Park fund for payment to Etzel Engineering and build.

Solicitor

Solicitor Gallagher, Gallagher Law Group – No Report

Old Business

Roebing Park Spring Clean-up Day March 25th weather delay April 15th. Phillip Wain and Mia Mazza-Petruzzi will make the call on a rain delay if needed by noon, March 23rd. Message boards will be updated at that time.

Resident concern of streetlight at the intersection of High Street and Wilma lane. The resident has requested a streetlight be installed for Safety concerns. Contact was made to West Penn Power which revealed a cost of \$3,500 for a fixture. Unfortunately, the poles available are at capacity.

Art Festival – Council President Aaron Piper:

As elected officials we are tasked with being good stewards of the Borough's resources. Many elements must come together in order for us to create the Saxonburg Festival of the Arts and showcase our wonderful community. We are looking forward to working with new people and committees to bring the Festival of the Arts back better in 2024.

If you would like to get involved, please go to our website and contact us via the volunteer hotline.

New Business

A motion to approve the hiring of part time landscaping help in conjunction with the Authority was made by Carol Neubert and seconded by Patricia Rinebolt. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the transfer of the Ira Yoder Mushroom Mine Memorial to Winfield Township was made by Sherry Weinzierl and seconded by Carol Neubert. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve landscaping plan including identified small tree removal and clean up at Roebing Park was made by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi and Seconded by Carol Neubert. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the placing of a sign solely for the use of Genesis Gym on the exterior entrance of Cooper Hall and, a stand-alone marquee on the former site of the Dog-House solely for use of Genesis Gym for the duration of their Lease was made Mia Mazza-Petruzzi and Seconded by Sherry Weinzierl. Carol Neubert opposed. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the Wire rope shop payment was made by Dave Johnston and seconded by Carol Neubert. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve intent to proceed with the wire rope shop project was made by Carol Neubert and seconded by Patricia Rinebolt. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to remove and store the historically inaccurate sign recalling the purchase of Roebling Park was made by Dave Johnston and Seconded by Sherry Weinzierl. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve Mingle rates for 2023 was made by Sherry Weinzierl and seconded by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi. The Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission was tabled.

A motion to approve the moving of the Roebling family historical marker to Roebling Park on the right side of the entrance walking path and remove it from its dangerous location on Butler Road was made by Sherry Weinzierl and Seconded by Carol Neubert. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion regarding RV pad rental brought to Councils attention that the Genesis Gym Lease did not accommodate for RV rental space and compounding electrical issues with the spaces closest to the Museum.

A Motion to place a moratorium on RV Pad rental was made by Dave Johnston and Seconded by Sherry Weinzierl. The motion passed unanimously.

The Meeting was Adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven T. May
Borough Secretary