

SAXONBURG BOROUGH

Minutes

May 16th, 2023

President Piper called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Also in attendance were: Mary Papik, Manager; Mike Gallagher, Solicitor; Fred Caesar, Museum Curator; Steven May; Secretary, Carol Walchesky, Stan Walchesky, Linda Kovacik, Sally Foust, Doug Sprankle, Randy Sprankle, Lindsay Sprankle, Brittany Lambermont, Frank Ballina, Tyler Kovach, Taylor Moore, Damien Skal, Carol Bowne, Robert Stouffer, Patricia Stouffer, Doreen Blackburn, Evan Wimer, Phillip Wain, Lisa Blackwell, Erin Zanella, Ray Voller, Brian Antoszyk, Judy Franke, Nancy Alberth, Maria Berzonski, Dusty Velesig, Ben Brewster, Jessica Brewster, Rachel Kling, Neal Kling, Steph Cassidy, Mandy Manis, Chris Wojciechowski, Cathleen Wiltrout, Joe Neubert, Tavin Petruzzi, Thomas Donehue, James Johnson, Jesse Blake, Jessica P., Jody Eichenlaub, and Gary Bastin.

Minutes

Minutes of April 18th 2023 were approved as distributed.

President Piper

President Piper thanked everyone in attendance for showing their passion for local government. He expressed that there is still an opening on the Planning Commission and the Borough appreciates all its volunteers.

A detailed process of how ordinances become law was presented. President Piper assured everyone that once the Ordinance was available equally, and by law to the public it would not only protect the financial interests of the taxpayers but also protect the event holders and participants.

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

The Meeting was turned over to Solicitor Gallagher for public comment moderation.

Evan Wimer spoke regarding the feral cat issue on Beatty and Carol Drive and to voice his support for the Community Cat Networks work on handling the issue.

Sally Foust spoke about Mingle on Main, our Parades, Gun Bash, Octoberfest, and many other events, providing it helps small business and adds charm to our town. She expressed her thoughts on Cooper Hall now being a Gym and having a Museum that no one appreciates. Sally suggests people move into town and never take the time to know the history of the town and what our forefathers stood for.

Phillip Wain, SABA President, spoke about the feelings of the Business Association. They heard the board's considering an ordinance that might affect future events held within the Borough and the Business Association sponsors a lot of those events. Phil advises that the financial gain to the businesses on Main Street is significant during these events.

Stan Walchesky questioned Council why they are not holding an arts festival this year. In his 73 years in town, he has never seen such a lack of organization and volunteers.

Nancy Alberth, owner of Red Door Antiques questioned Council why they needed an ordinance at all. Event planners come to council, gain permission, and do all the steps that they're told to do. She feels it will be a roadblock for future events.

Doug Sprankle Expressed his frustration with ordinances. Doug feels that rules should apply to everyone, not just whom Council decides. He had requested a copy of the event ordinance in advance of advertisement and was denied though previously promised. As a business owner, he has raised \$100,000 toward non-profits in the community and demands he be treated fairly.

Rachel Clay, a freelance artist was displeased with Councils choice of days to present an ordinance. She is new to the area as of COVID and was excited to hear of all the Parades, Mingles and events that would return. She feels events could be jeopardized with a new ordinance.

Janice Behrik, President of the Saxonburg District Women's club suggested to Council that their club depends on all of the events in this town.

Maria Berzonski asked Council that the ordinance be focused on safety and be a benefit to the public and not hinder business.

A Motion to take event ordinance 479 to the solicitor for review was made by Patricia Rinebolt and Seconded by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi. Dave Johnston opposed. The Motion passed.

The meeting was turned back over to President Piper following public comment.

Memorial Day Parade Barry Donehue

The Memorial Day Parade will be held May 29th. Street closures will begin at 10:00am with the Parade starting at 10:30. A Memorial Service will be held at Roebing Park following the Parade.

Community Cat Network of Butler County Dusty Velesig

Dusty presented her efforts in Saxonburg to curtail the feral cat problem on Beatty and Carol Drives. She discussed her trapping, spay/neutering, and releasing process, and explained the procedures of adjusting a "barn cat". Dusty asked for consideration of funding, help with trapping efforts and volunteers.

www.communitycatnetwork.org
catnetwork.butler.pa@gmail.com
Facebook: Community Cat Network

Sister City Linda Kovacic

Our Sister City Representatives will be in town for the July Mingle. A meet and greet is being planned during Mingle as well as activities in town. Funding for the Sister City visit is raised by the Friends of the Sister City's non-profit organization, and they are always welcome to volunteers.

Museum Curator Fred Caesar

The European documentary focusing on the Roebing family and the Brooklyn Bridge will be shown at the Saxonburg community Library, May 24th at 6:30pm. The seating is approximately 125 persons. As a result, registration is required to attend. Please call 724-352-4810 or see the

QR code on Facebook at the Saxonburg museum's page. A second showing will be held May 25th at 1:00pm for those that can't make the first viewing.

Friends of the Museum Fred Caesar

Since the campaign began April 1st, the Friends have been able to raise over \$15,000 to date. These funds include a donation from a direct descendant of John Roebling saying, "save the workshop!" Outreach efforts are ongoing globally, and education efforts to local, state, and federal officials continue.

Mayor William Gillespie Jr.

The Mayor thanked everyone for all the activities that the volunteers do. The Friends of the Police golf outing is being held June 23rd at Saxon Golf Course, 1:00pm Shotgun start. Registration and hole sponsorship forms are available on the Borough website. Several other fundraisers to support our police department are planned.

Superintendent Chuck McGee

The Superintendent reports that street sweeping in the Borough is currently being scheduled.

Committee Reports

- Streets/Stormwater Committee** (No meeting)
- Ordinance Committee** (May 14th)
- Parks & Rec Committee** (No meeting)
- Police Committee** (May 16th)
- 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** (May 18th)
- Tax Collection Committee** (No meeting)
- Planning Commission** (No meeting)
- Zoning Hearing Board** (No meeting)
- Historic Architectural Review Board** (May 10th)

Council Members Business presented by Council Members

Executive Session Announcement Under the terms of Act 84, Section 8A, subsection 1, Council will meet in Executive Session to discuss employee, contract, and/or public safety matters. After this Executive Session, Council will reassemble in open meeting and take any actions that are required.

Secretary Steven May

Gregori Construction has completed the replacement of the cement Bollards in front of the Museum.

Manager Mary Papik

Bills

Motion was made by Sherry Weinzierl and Seconded by Carol Neubert to approve \$10,115.80 in checks paid from the Borough's General Fund, of which \$9,908.80 is the Borough's portion of

the expense, and \$207.00 is the Parks portion of the expense. In addition, decrease adjustments in April from the Borough General Fund in the amount of \$10,567.67 of which \$5,877.95 was the Borough's portion of the expense, \$1,611.25 was the Park's portion, and \$3,078.47 was the Authority's portion of the expense. Checks paid from the Authority's Revenue Fund, of which \$2,542.46 is the Borough's portion of the expense, \$328.87 is the Park's portion, and \$46,659.05 is the Authority's expense for a total of \$56,457.97. In addition, decrease adjustments from the Authority's Revenue fund in the amount of \$41,533.58 of which \$5,886.61 was the Borough's portion. Also, Payroll for April 2023 in the amount of \$89,167.40 of which \$30,467.19 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$58,700.21 is the Authority's portion of the expense.

Voting Delegate

A Motion to appoint Patricia Rinebolt as the voting delegate for the PSAB Annual Conference was made by Carol Neubert and seconded by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi. The motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor Solicitor Gallagher, Gallagher Law Group – The Solicitor had nothing to report.

Old Business Planning Commission Vacancy – The seat remains vacant.

A Motion to approve a Borough Facebook account was held for further discussion.

A Motion to approve Chapter 17, Ordinance 478 for advertisement, pending solicitor review was made by Dave Johnson and Seconded by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

A Motion to approve the Resignation of officer Hartman was made by Dave Johnston and seconded by Ray Kroeger. The motion passed unanimously with regrets.

A Motion to approve a 5K was postponed until the Mayor had time to review with the Fire Police and event organizers.

A Motion to approve a certificate of appropriateness for Citizens Bank as recommended by HARB was made by Sherry Weinzierl and seconded by Mia – Mazza-Pertuzzi. The Motion passed unanimously.

The Meeting went into Executive session 8:37pm.

The meeting reconvened at 8:45pm and took the following actions:

Motion to add a motion to approve officer Guelich at the standard patrolman rate pending a successful background check was made by Sherry Weinzierl and seconded by Ray Koegler. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve officer Guelich at the standard patrolman rate pending a successful background check was made by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi and Seconded by Carol Neubert. The Motion Passed unanimously.

A Motion to approve hiring of Brian Russo as the Part time seasonal landscaper at a rate of \$17.50 an hour was made by Carol Nuebert and seconded by Sherry Weinzierl. The Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion to approve Evan Fetter as STP Operator-in-Training/Laborer/Utility/ Assistant inspector effective 5/10/2023 was made by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi and Seconded by Patricia Rinebolt. The Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The Meeting was Adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven T. May
Borough Secretary