

SAXONBURG BOROUGH

Minutes

June 20th, 2023

President Piper called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Also in attendance were: Mary Papik, Manager; Sean Gallagher, Solicitor; Fred Caesar, Museum Curator; Steven May; Secretary, Nancy Alberth, Megan Roth, Doreen Blackburn, Ryan Roberts, Mike V., Dave Vicario, Dylan Young, Isabella Donaldson, Ron Hoak, Paige Sleigher, Ralph Freehling, Doug Sprankle, Charlie Cox, Brittany Lambermont, Joyce Hutterer, Lisa Blackwell, Erin Zanella, Mike Lazaroff, Sara Foust, Connie McCormick, Rob Mrozek, Judy Franke, Kim Hester, Janice Behrik, Terri Lee Leslie, Linda Kovacik, William Hoche, Carol Walchesky, Leanna Johnston, James Johnston, Claudia Ciafre, Ben Brewster, Chuck Lewis, Jason Goehring, Brian Antoszyk, Karen Antoszyk, Dan Harvey, Ryan Bonazza, Sue Gillespie, Chris Dean, Eric Butler, Tate P., Danny Powell, Garrett Burd, Matthew Imhoff, Paula Vasghan, and Dave Doerr.

A Motion to accept the resignation of Council Member Sherry Weinzierl with regrets was made by Carol Neubert and Seconded by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Appoint Brian Antoszyk to fulfill the unexpired term of Sherry Weinzierl on Borough Council was made by Patricia Rinebolt and Seconded by Dave Johnston. The Motion Passed unanimously.

Minutes

Minutes of May 16th, 2023 were approved as distributed.

Ordinance

A Motion to approve a draft copy of Event Ordinance 479 for public review and comment. Comments are due in writing via Secretary@Saxonburgpa.com by July 7th for review and possible incorporation into the document for a possible motion to be advertised at the July 18th Meeting was made by Patricia Rinebolt and Seconded by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi. Dave Johnston opposed, Brian Antoszyk abstained. The Motion carried.

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

Sally Foust - Sally Foust spoke of her disappointment in being able to place a bench in Roebling Park in memorial of her late husband Rich Foust. President Piper suggested he and Council member Mia Mazza-Petruzzi follow up with Mrs. Foust in specifying an appropriate location for the memorial.

Kim Hester - Kim Hester spoke of the property located at 190 Horne Ave. She explained it is an eyesore, a safety issue, and an embarrassment to our community. She has contacted the health department and filed a police report in years past regarding the issue.

Doug Sprankle - Doug Sprankle spoke of three years of event ordinance attempts and how it affects his business and our community. Doug expressed that the leaders of our safety have not had a chance to review the ordinance. Doug explained that he is struggling to get sponsors for his events due to the tension created by the possibility of cancellation. He asked Council that the motion be tabled until new members of council are in place next year.

Rob Mrozek - Rob Mrozek spoke about procrastination and lack of transparency for the draft of the event ordinance. He feels it is dividing the community. Residents want to be able to hear and have a voice. Mr. Mrozek suggests we move the location of the venue, so everyone has a place to sit and listen as a community.

Chuck Lewis - Chuck Lewis Thanked Council for the opportunity to speak on the event ordinance. Mr. Lewis served as an advisor to the original events ordinance. Mr. Lewis suggests the Borough has purposely kept the ordinance from the public. Saxonburg Volunteer fire company has been struggling to maintain fundraising efforts. Mr. Lewis feels that a new ordinance will further hamper fundraising efforts. There is fear that one or more of the events the volunteer fire company has planned could potentially be cancelled due to this new ordinance. Without a firm funding base, an emergency services tax would need to be implemented in order to cover costs. This will influence all departments serving our area. Mr. Lewis understands that notice needs to be given to affected residents and wishes to see that events are not restricted by the Borough.

Mike Lazaroff - Mike Lazaroff spoke about his concern of a tendency that government becomes more intrusive unjustifiably. Mr. Lazaroff has attended events in this Borough for decades. He has never witnessed any real issues with these events. He is disturbed that once a goal with this ordinance is reached, it will continue with more intrusive enactments. He explained that what makes Saxonburg special are events like the Arts festival, Mingle on Main and the sportsman's festival. He would like to see these events go on unregulated.

Lisa Blackwell - Lisa Blackwell, co-owner of the rustic blossom boutique, spoke of the cancelation of the arts festival and the business traffic impact that the events in Saxonburg brought. She reminded Council that if things continue this path, she and her business partner will need to move their business elsewhere. Mrs. Blackwell suggests Council table the Ordinance.

Nancy Alberth - Nancy Alberth spoke on behalf of Red Door Antiques. She would like an explanation as to why an event ordinance is needed. She feels we have been blessed with the opportunity to hold events and explained that her business would be affected by the reduced traffic.

Museum Curator Fred Caesar

Mr. Caesar thanked SABA for inviting him to be the guest speaker at their June meeting. He provided the local business organization with visual aids and a condition update of the wire rope workshop. There is interest growing on social media platforms and the Saxonburg Museum Facebook page has over 950 members. Narrated tours of the museum have picked up, gaining momentum from the Brooklyn Bridge Documentary shown at the library drawing in almost 250 viewers. Mr. Caesar reiterated the need for the Brooklyn Bridge replica in the park to be moved as soon as possible. He has been reaching out to residents who played a part in its initial construction. New displays include a local baseball team uniform, and a Baton and Drum Corps uniform sponsored by Saxonburg VFW Post 7376. An original invitation for the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge May 24th, 1883, is now on display.

Friends of the Museum Fred Caesar

Since the campaign to save the wire rope workshop began April 1st, the Friends have been able to raise over \$18,400. These funds include \$2,258.00 donated by viewers of the Brooklyn Bridge Documentary. Articles in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette and even a Television station in Cincinnati have picked up on stories drawing attention to the fundraising efforts. Outreach efforts are ongoing globally, and education efforts to local, state, and federal officials continue.

Mayor William Gillespie Jr.

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. The Mayor Asked council to recess the meeting until public comments from the event ordinance could be discussed. President Piper rejected this request. The Mayor suggested the ordinance would not be available for advertisement again until September, delaying a vote to October. Members of Council would be at the end of their terms by then.

Superintendent Chuck McGee

Committee Reports

- Streets/Stormwater Committee** (No meeting)
- Ordinance Committee** (July 19th)
- Parks & Rec Committee** (No meeting)
- Police Committee** (July 18th)
- 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** (No Meeting)
- Tax Collection Committee** (No meeting)
- Planning Commission** (No meeting)

Zoning Hearing Board (No meeting)
Historic Architectural Review Board (No meeting)

Council Members Business presented by Council Members

President Piper reminded everyone that we are all members of this community - friends, family, neighbors, coworkers and that we do not want to jeopardize events that we love and are part of what makes Saxonburg unique. Council has not declined or prevented a single event from taking place. This ordinance is to make a process to help make it easier and safer to have events in the Borough. Feedback, comments, and suggestions are all welcome. Residents are encouraged to send correspondence to secretary@saxonburgpa.com and they will be passed on to the ordinance committee for review. We are in this together and President Piper is asking that we work together to protect our Borough and our special events that we all love. Council is grateful for the support and fundraising efforts being done by our local fire fighters.

A Motion to complete an estimate of services needed by an insured landscaping company at 190 Horne Ave., an additional certified letter sent to the Bank Note holder, and an additional method of contact was made by Brian Antoszyk and Seconded by Dave Johnston. The Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Steven May

Manager Mary Papik

Bills

A Motion was made by Patricia Rinebolt and seconded by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi to approve \$71,413.19 in checks paid from the Borough's General Fund, of which \$53,713.19 is the Borough's portion of the expense, and \$17,700 is the Parks portion of the expense. In addition, decrease adjustments in May from the Borough General Fund in the amount of \$10,871.75 of which \$6,366.74 was the Borough's portion of the expense, \$1,444.41 was the Park's portion, and \$3,060.60 was the Authority's portion of the expense. Also, decrease adjustments from the Authority's Revenue fund in the amount of \$39,353.85 of which \$5,804.47 was the Borough's portion and \$25.16 was the Parks portion. Checks paid from the Authority's Revenue Fund, of which \$9,812.81 is the Borough's portion of the expense, \$4,884.98 is the Park's portion, and \$150,679.02 is the Authority's expense for a total of \$165,376.81. Also, Payroll for May 2023 in the amount of \$89,150.54 of which \$30,944.12 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$58,206.42 is the Authority's portion of the expense. The Motion passed unanimously.

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

Old Business

Dave Johnston made a motion to table the event ordinance until January of next year. Carol Neubert Seconded the Motion. A discussion followed regarding public input. A Motion to Table the release of the event ordinance followed. A roll call vote was held ending in a tie. Carol Neubert Yay, Mia Mazza-Petruzzi Nay, Patricia Rinebolt Yay, Dave Johntson Yay, Ray Koegler Nay, Aaron Piper Nay, Brian Antoszyk abstained. Per the Solicitor, the Motion Failed as a tie.

A Motion to approve the 5K race to be held November 25th from 8:30a.m. – 10:00a.m. was made by Carol Neubert and Seconded by Patricia Rinebolt. The Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to Ratify the hiring of part time officer Guelich made at the May 16th Borough Council meeting was made by Carol Neubert and seconded by Ray Kroeger. The Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

A Motion to approve the certificate of appropriateness for Small Impressions Childcare was made by Carol Neubert and seconded by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi. The Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion to approve the certificate of appropriateness for The Tea Room on Main was made by Ray Koegler and Seconded by Carol Neubert. The Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion to approve the certificate of appropriateness for Juicin it up was made by Carol Neubert and Seconded by Ray Koegler. The Motion passed unanimously.

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.

The Meeting Moved to Executive session to discuss a legal matter at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened at 8:56 p.m.

Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven T. May
Borough Secretary