

SAXONBURG BOROUGH
Minutes
July 18th, 2023

President Piper called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Also in attendance were: Mary Papik, Manager; Mike Gallagher, Solicitor; Fred Caesar, Museum Curator; Steven May; Secretary, Nancy Alberth, Doreen Blackburn, Pam Donaldson, Wendy Donaldson, Doug Sprankle, Brittany Fahnstock, Joyce Hutterer, Lisa Blackwell, Erin Zanella, Mike Lazaroff, Sally Foust, Rob Mrozek, Judy Franke, Terri Lee Leslie, Linda Kovacic, William Hoche, Leanna Johnston, Jason Goehring, Dan Harvey, Sue Gillespie, Garrett Burd, Barry Leichter, Angela Miller, Ashley Brewer, Ruth Brewer, Michael Krchelich, June Crawford, Jim Crawford, Doug Lefever, David Vettori, Megan Vettori, Carrie Butler, Michelle Moser, Rob Moser, David Foley, Phil Wain, Jim Knapik, Mindy Neff, Judy Franke, William Pitts, Donna Eakin, Mary Ann Dietrich, Darlene Thompson, Bill Thompson, and Becky Pacek.

Minutes

Minutes of June 20th, 2023 were approved as distributed.

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

Rob Mrozek - Rob Mrozek again requested Council move the location of the venue so everyone has a place to sit and listen as a community. Residents want to be able to hear and have a voice. Mr. Mrozek feels the events ordinance is unnecessary and is dividing the community. Residents want to be able to hear and have a voice.

Lisa Blackwell - Lisa Blackwell, co-owner of the Rustic Blossom Boutique, spoke of the impact on foot traffic the events in Saxonburg brought to her business. She reminded Council that if things continue on this path, she and her business partner will move their business elsewhere. Mrs. Blackwell again suggests Council table the Ordinance.

Doug Sprankle – Doug Sprankle, questioned why all correspondence from the Event ordinance deadline of July 7th were not included in the meeting notes. Doug Suggests there is agenda behind the event ordinance, and he is offended that the original ordinance committee was disbanded. Doug feels that the ordinance kills culture and recommends that there be a leadership reorganization meeting for Council.

Joyce Hutterer – Joyce Hutterer an organizer of many events and organizations in town has serious concerns with what is going on. Joyce can not understand why the ordinance is necessary. It brings business into our town. She is a landlord and does not wish to lose tenants. Joyce spoke of the Butler County fair and what it draws to Butler. Mrs. Hutterer and all the

organizations in town are lucky to have the help of the business owners and recommends that Council promote not prevent such festivities. She has three flaws with the ordinance, time frame, bill for services and overall vagueness of the ordinance.

Nancy Alberth – Nancy Alberth, sole owner of red door antiques, spoke about ordinance restraints. She does not see why an event ordinance is needed. She feels we have been blessed with the opportunity to hold events safely and explained that her business would be affected by the reduced traffic. She is requesting Council table or abolish the ordinance.

Barry Lichter – Barry Lichter, executive pastor at new life Christian ministries has two primary areas of concern. Lead time with contracting for Zambelli fireworks and is over a year. The Ministries second concern is the fees that could be associated hosting an event. Their budget is also tight with a majority of funds being spent on the fireworks display. The Mayor Expressed his gratitude for a successful event this year.

Phil Wain – Phil Wain, SABA President, expressed his concerns with the event ordinance. He does not see a need for it and feels that is very ambiguous. He appreciates working with the Borough on the mingle events and explained that a lot of business owners anticipate problems should the ordinance proceed.

Jim Knapik – Jim Knapik, thanked Council for taking up the responsibility of holding a board position. After listening to public comments about the event ordinance, he had nothing further to add than that he requests Council take the publics opinions into consideration. Jim expressed his enthusiasm for attendance of the meetings and hopes that after all of this, residents and business owners continue to participate in Borough affairs.

Mindy Neff – Mindy Neff feels that the event ordinance is a horrible idea and was attempted to be passed in the dark of night. Mindy feels Council should not just Table the Ordinance but eliminate it. It will make it harder to make money in the community. She commented on the handling of Sprankle's events and feels it would cost people money to help make people money. Mindy also feels the public comment portion of council meetings should be handled without immediate response from Council and should also more time than three minutes.

Mike Lazzaroff – Mike Lazaroff spoke of his line-by-line interpretation of the events ordinance. He feels the event ordinance would only hinder business. Mike takes issue with the event organizer's description, no limitation of fees, and language in the ordinance being unconstitutional. He continued to express his concerns with the vagueness of the language of extraordinary expenses. He reminded Council that the Borough has the responsibility to provide services to the residents.

Sally Foust – Sally Foust requested the names of the members of the event ordinance committee and meeting times. She reminded Council that they are they to do what the Borough wants, not what they want.

Mary Ann Deitrich – Mary Ann Deitrich spoke about the event ordinance being detrimental to the fire department. She expressed that the fire department needs the events in town to raise

funds. She explained that they too are in need of volunteers. People from out of town come in and support Main Street. She suggests Council cease any further action on the events ordinance.

Carrie Butler – Carrie Butler spoke about her time with the volunteer fire company. She has never seen anything like this that would be financially detrimental to fundraising efforts of the fire department. She expressed that her heart is in the fire company, and she will do everything in her power to protect it.

Angel Miller – Angel Miller had questions regarding the public postings of the agenda and ordinances. She expressed that 24 hours in advance is not enough time to make preparations for childcare and work schedules. Angel feels it's not fair to residents to have such a minimal lead time.

Becky Pacek – Becky Pacek expressed her displeasure with the amount of flooding that happens during large rain falls on Water Street. She asks that Council investigate a remedy so new businesses moving into the area can have confidence that they won't be flooded out when they open.

Museum Curator Fred Caesar

Mr. Caesar provided an update on the Museum specifically regarding a complaint from a museum visitor and Asbestos in the building. Antique Sadirons from around 1871 contained asbestos and have now been removed from the grounds. The Museum was closed immediately, and a remediation expert was contacted. A complete walk through of the museum as well as air quality samples were taken July 15th. Four Samples of antiques that had the potential to contain contaminants were sampled. All tests came back negative. Air quality testing from a multi-point inspection system also provided negative results. The museum is once again safe and open to the Public.

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 \$24,050.00. By the end of the month, Mr. Caesar expects the account to be at roughly 10% of the estimated cost of saving the wire rope shop by the end of the month.

Mayor William Gillespie Jr.

The Friends of the Saxonburg Police had its first annual Chief Adams golf outing. It was a huge success. Sister City will be hosting our German friends this coming week.

The police department has an ongoing working relationship with the fire department and the fire police. A member of the fire department had helped fix a police cruiser at no cost to the Borough.

The Mayor has sent a letter of protest to Borough Council regarding the Event Ordinance and following Motion at Junes meeting that ended in a tie, and deemed a failed motion. The Mayor would like Council to recognize the problem. In the Mayors opinion, the Motion was grossly miss handled, should be tabled, and held over for the incoming Council.

The Mayor is requesting a written acknowledgement regarding his protest letter and what Council's standpoint is.

A Motion to abolish the draft Event Ordinance 479 as written and send it back to the event ordinance committee was made by Brian Antoszyk and Seconded by Dave Johnston. A rollcall vote was called Mia Mazza-Petrucci Nay, Carol Neubert Yay, Brian Antoszyk Yay, Dave Johnston Yay, Ray Koegler Yay, Aaron Piper Yay. The Motion Passed.

Superintendent Chuck McGee

The Superintendent and Secretary will be meeting Monthly to discuss Borough goals and ongoing projects.

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

Councilman Antoszyk will be filling the vacancy left by Sherry Weinzierl on the Police Committee

Councilman Antoszyk discussed a blind spot caused by high weeds at the intersection of Isabella and Water Street.

Secretary Steven May

Manager Mary Papik

Bills

A Motion to pay the bills was made by Carol Neubert and Seconded by Ray Kogler. The Motion passed unanimously.

<i>Purpose</i>		Borough	Park	SAA	Total
Borough General Fund	Decrease Adjustments	\$5,952.77	\$1,261.87	\$3,742.03	\$10,956.67
	Payroll	\$43,168.28		\$98,706.17	\$141,874.45
	Checks Paid	\$11,512.50			\$11,512.50
SAA Revenue Fund	Decrease Adjustments	\$16,799.71	\$8,372.01	\$66,079.49	\$91,251.21
	Checks Paid	\$3,050.65		\$84,053.12	\$87,103.77
Total:		\$80,483.91	\$9,633.88	\$252,580.81	\$342,698.60

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

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.

Old Business

New Business

A Motion to add Sprankle’s Octoberfest September 6-8th 2024 to the Borough Calander was made by Brian Antoszyk and Seconded by Carol Neubert. The Motion Passed Unanimously.

A Motion to approve Knoch Sr. high Schools Home coming Parade Contingent upon further details, to be held October 12th, 2023 was made by Carol Neubert and Seconded by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi. The Motion unanimously.

A Motion to approve builder Kevin Miller to evaluate the condition of the water fountain in the park at no cost to the Borough was made by Brian Antoszyk and seconded by Dave Johnston. The Motion Passed unanimously.

The Meeting moved to Executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 9:22 p.m.

The Meeting Reconvened at 9:58 and took the following actions:

A Motion to add a Motion to adjust Police rates recommended by the Mayor and Police Committee, relating to compensation was made by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi and Seconded by Ray Koegler. The Motion Passed Unanimously.

A Motion to adjust Police rates Recommended by the Mayor and Police Committee, relating to compensation was made by Brian Antoszyk and seconded by Mia Mazza-Petruzzi. The Motion Passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven T. May
Borough Secretary