

SELINGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 1, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Pres. Marvin Rudnitsky, V/P Shane Hendricks, C/P Sara Lauver, C/P Bobbie Owens (via phone), C/P Richard Mease, C/P Erik Viker, and C/P Grant Neff

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Borough Manager/Secretary Paul Williams; Borough Treasurer Sheri Badman; Solicitor Bob Cravitz; Mayor Jeff Reed; Recording Secretary Lindsey Brouse; DH&L Fire Jason Kaufman; Chamber of Commerce Paul Donecker; DH&L Ambulance Brian Hipple; Charles Sherwood Jr.; Chris and Kathy Reiland; Jim Fry; Lee and Faye Bonawitz; Michael Savidge

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Pres. Rudnitsky called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. Mgr. Williams called roll and acknowledged a quorum, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF June 3, 2019:

C/P Neff made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by C/P Mease.

AYES: SEVEN (7)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT INTO PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING THE CHANGE OF THE BOUNDARY LINES BETWEEN THE CBD (CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT) AND C1 (COMMERCIAL DISTRICT) AND R-C (RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL DISTRICT).

Pres. Rudnitsky opened the public hearing at 7:04 P.M.

Michael Savidge spoke about the 21 units he owns on Market Street which would all become nonconforming uses if the CBD were to expand and include those properties. Pres. Rudnitsky inquired whether the properties becoming nonconforming uses could create problems for Mr. Savidge in the future. Mgr. Williams stated that it could.

Mgr. Williams offered testimony as an administrator. He reviewed the previous discussions during Planning Commission meetings about building and impervious coverage, land use, setbacks, and the possible risk to the Weiser Run and the flooding issues that have been occurring there lately. C/P Viker stated that without any concrete data to support that the change would increase the flood levels, the comment about the Weiser Run is just fearmongering. Mgr. Williams expressed that he would like the public hearing to remain open so that he could request the engineer to gather and provide that data for the next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 7:21 P.M.

Motion by C/P Viker to advertise Ordinance No. 839 for adoption at the August 5, 2019 meeting. Second by C/P Neff.

AYES: FIVE (5)

NAYS: TWO (2) – Pres. Rudnitsky & C/P Mease

MOTION CARRIED

GOVERNMENT / NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO BE HEARD:

DH&L Fire Company:

Meeting minutes from 5/13/19 were provided.

Jason Kaufman stated that there were 53 incidents in the Month of June. On Saturday alone, there were 23 incidents due to storm damage. Mr. Kaufman expressed his gratitude to the Borough Crew for their help during the incidents. Most of the incidents were power outages and trees down, and despite the amount of damages, no injuries were sustained.

Mayor Reed noted that Linda Lane was without power since Saturday night until roughly 1:00 P.M. today and that was significant because those homes are all on wells so they also did not have water. He thanked the fire company for assisting those individuals by providing water so that they could flush their toilets.

Mr. Kaufman stated that they will be reducing their fleet to just 1 rescue boat, which will be open for bids. The fire company does not have enough manpower to staff 2 rescue boats or enough vehicle power to be able to move both of them. C/P Neff asked whether they had looked into using Municibid, which the Borough has used successfully in the past. Mr. Kaufman stated that they would like to sell this way first due to the extra paperwork that would have to be completed to sell outside of a relief association.

Mr. Kaufman noted that they have an audit scheduled for July 12 for 2017, 2018, and part of 2019. Sheri Badman told him to let her know if he needed any help with this.

Mr. Kaufman addressed a rumor that a Council Member had supposedly stated that the Council does not want students riding on the firetrucks after major sporting wins, such as the baseball team recently winning States. C/P Viker asked who the Council Member in question was, but Mr. Kaufman did not have a name. C/P Viker asked whether any of the Council Members had a problem with the parades. None stated that they did.

C/P Neff asked about the missing hose and chainsaw that were mentioned in the meeting minutes. Mr. Kaufman stated that they likely were misplaced at incidents. Both were replaced and covered by insurance after an investigation was done.

DH&L Ambulance League:

Brian Hipple stated that there were 170 incidents in June, 24 of which were in the Borough.

C/P Neff inquired whether the Ambulance League was planning to address their driveway at the same time as the Fire Company, adding that it would likely save them money in mobilization fees to have it done at the same time.

Pres. Rudnitsky asked about the recent partnerships with Evangelical Community Hospital and how that would impact the Ambulance League. Mr. Hipple stated that there is going to be a partnership at Hummels Wharf Fire Company and that they were unsure at this point how that would impact them. Pres. Rudnitsky also asked whether those ambulances would have to transport patients to Evangelical Community Hospital only. Mr. Hipple stated that they will still have to transport patients to the facility of their choosing.

Selinsgrove Projects, Inc.:

Meeting minutes from 4/16/19 and 5/21/19 were provided.

Selinsgrove Chamber of Commerce:

Meeting minutes from 5/28/19 were provided.

SARI (Pool) – Richard Mease:

Meeting minutes from 4/8/19 and 5/13/19 were provided.

C/P Mease stated that Saturday's storms brought down trees and knocked out the power at the pool. He noted that the trees have been cleaned up and that power was restored around 1:30 P.M. today, allowing for a 3:00 P.M. opening. Mayor Reed added that there were quite a few people in attendance at the pool today.

Selinsgrove Borough Floodplain Task Force – Paul Williams:

There will be a meeting on 7/31/19 at 2:00 P.M. with local EMA officials.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Chris Reiland introduced himself and explained that he lives next to the 18th Street Commons. He gave background on the fence between the two properties that was to be constructed when the 18th Street Commons property was purchased by Susquehanna University. He explained that the fence was to be 8 feet tall and it was to run between the properties. He added that when it was first constructed, a gap was left in the fence that he could clearly see through. He worked with the University to have the fence extended to close the gap. The gap still exists, but is offset to block the line of sight, and is wide enough to drive a car through. Mr. Reiland has had several issues in the past with students of the University who live in the Commons throwing garbage in the yard during parties and even entering his property, as well as noise complaints. With the recent storm damage, the fence has taken a major hit and will likely need to have several feet replaced. Mr. Reiland asked if the Borough could require that the gap in the fence be closed once and for all, as it is Mr. Reiland's recollection that an engineer required the gap for potential flooding of the adjacent Weiser Run when the fence was first constructed. He would also like the fence to be constructed of more durable material that can withstand the presence of the students.

Pres. Rudnitsky inquired whether Mr. Reiland has been in contact with the head of the University. Mr. Reiland stated that he had spoken with the head of facilities about two weeks ago to address panels that had been kicked in at the end of the school year. He also noted that when the original fence was to be put up, both he and the University had wanted a solid fence.

C/P Viker stated that this is a dispute between two property owners. He asked what the laws pertaining to this matter actually required. He asked what can be done. Solicitor Cravitz stated that the plan would need to be reviewed to see what the requirements were.

Faye Bonawitz-Crawson appeared to verify that July 31st was the last day to have sidewalk and curb replaced on Mill Street due to 2019 Street Program.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION/BOARD REPORTS:

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE – Shane Hendricks, Chairman

Payment and Ratification of Bills:

Invoices Paid Since Last Meeting:

FNB General Account - \$27,669.73	Check No. 115380 through 115397
FNB Payroll Account - \$4,066.51	Check No. 905222 through 905224
Community Acq. & Improve - \$3,200.00	Check No. 806 through 816

Invoices Reviewed for Approval by Finance Committee:

FNB General Account - \$247,173.35	Check No. 115398 through 115439
FNB Payroll Account - \$347.19	Check No. 905225
Com. Acq. & Improvement - \$48,000.00	Check No. 817 through 819

Motion by C/P Hendricks to ratify payment of the bills. Second by C/P Neff.

AYES: SEVEN (7)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Statewide Tax Recovery, Inc. – Exoneration Request: none.

Adopt Resolution 2019-09 Procurement Policy:

Motion by C/P Viker to adopt Resolution 2019-09 Procurement Policy. Second by C/P Neff.

AYES: SEVEN (7)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

SPI Gelnett Request for Funding of Awning:

Recommendation by C/P Hendricks to stick with the already approved budget amount.

C/P Mease expressed concern about whether the awning would be waterproof, since that was the original intention. C/P Viker inquired whether the application was seen. C/P Owens stated that she had seen it and that it had been revised since its original submission in order to remove the request for funds to cover daily operations. She added that the funds are in the budget and available for when the awning is purchased.

No action taken.

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE – Erik Viker, Chairman

Approve 1 EDU for Sanitary Sewer and 1” Water Tap for Public Water – C. Sherwood:

Motion by C/P Viker to approve 1 EDU for sanitary sewer and 1” water tap for public water for Charles Sherwood. Second by C/P Neff.

AYES: SEVEN (7)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION/PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE – Bobbie Owens, Chairwoman – no report.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – Richard P. Mease, Chairman – no report

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Sara Lauver, Chairwoman

Recommendation for Borough Office Clerical Position:

Motion by C/P Lauver to update the advertised Clerical Position from part-time to full-time.

C/P Viker inquired about the increase in hours if the change were to happen. C/P Lauver stated that the part-time position was for 30 hours and the full-time position would only increase this to 35 hours.

Second by C/P Viker.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: ONE (1) – C/P Hendricks

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Grant Neff, Chairman - no report.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Pete Carroll, Chairman:

Draft meeting minutes from 6/19/19 were provided.

Appoint Planning Consultant – Matthew Sauers:

Mgr. Williams stated that Mr. Sauers would be helpful in revising ordinances and in planning between Planning Commission meetings. He noted that Mr. Sauers works at a rate of \$40 per hour. C/P Neff asked how many hours per week he would be used. Treasurer Badman suggested 10 hours per month. C/P Owens inquired about Mr. Sauers’s current employment and whether he was properly bonded.

C/P Hendricks asked whether the Deputy Zoning Officer used to do this as part of their job. Treasurer Badman stated that Janet Powers did when she held the position.

Motion by C/P Neff to appoint Matthew Sauers as a planning consultant with a maximum of 10 hours per month. Second by C/P Viker.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: ONE (1) – C/P Hendricks

MOTION CARRIED

Appoint Member to Planning Commission – Dione Mercer and Alternate to Planning Commission – Jason Mercer:

Motion by C/P Neff to appoint Dione Mercer as a member of Planning Commission and Jason Mercer as an alternate to Planning Commission. Second by C/P Owens.

AYES: SEVEN (7)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

ZONING HEARING BOARD – Cyril Runkle, Chairman:

Draft meeting minutes from 6/6/19 were provided.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION – Dalton Savidge, Chairperson - no report.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION – Joan and “Bo” Fasold - no report.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD – Shane Hendricks, Chairman:

C/P Hendricks explained that the last meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

MAYOR – Jeff Reed:

Presentation of the Police Report for June 2019.

The Police Report was not provided. Mayor Reed stated that it will be provided at the next meeting.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR – Robert Cravitz, Esq.

Update on ESCRA Meeting with member municipalities:

Solicitor Cravitz stated that the solicitors from the member municipalities met to discuss some ideas. He noted that some of the ideas included having the sewage collection system and industrial waste permits be all on ESCRA. Rate zones based on flow were also proposed. He added that every municipality besides the Selinsgrove Borough has passed the resolution.

Treasurer Sheri Badman inquired whether the resolution could be adopted at the August meeting. Solicitor Cravitz said that with the discussions taking place, he is hopeful that the resolution can be adopted then.

Pres. Rudnitsky stated that these discussions and changes are exactly what the Borough has been asking for.

Authorize preparation of zoning ordinance amendment – Low Impact Home-Based Businesses:

Mgr. Williams gave background on the change in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Guide that permitted Low-Impact Home-Based Businesses in all residential zones and stated that the Borough needed to comply with the change. He noted that the change had been discovered when Christine Kinney inquired about a home occupation for herself and added that she had been granted a zoning permit and paid the \$40 fee.

Motion by C/P Viker to return the \$40 fee to Christine Kinney. He stated that not every home-based business has paid the fee, citing the sales of Tupperware as an example. The motion did not have a second.

Motion by C/P Viker to prepare the amendment to the zoning ordinance. Second by C/P Neff.

AYES: SEVEN (7)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

BOROUGH ENGINEERS

Coukart & Associates, Inc.:

- Update on Industrial Park Road water line replacement
- Continue roadway design on Chestnut Street with CDBG Funds
- Continue roadway design for 2019 Street Program
- DEP Permit GP-11 for Industrial Park Road
- SASD Campus Improvements – added parking and tennis court facility
- UGI 2019 natural gas line upgrade along Liberty Alley from Pear Street to Mill Street

Larson Design Group:

- Emergency Backup Generator – Well #4 – Construction details
- Industrial Waste Permit – Distillery Review

Approve Advertisement for Bids for the Chestnut Street Project and for the 2019 Street Program Project:

Mgr. Williams stated that the Chestnut Street project is funded with CDBG funds in the amount of \$206,944.00 and that the 2019 Street Project cost is \$68,159.00. The total for the 2019 Street Project is only enough money to do the first two projects, Mill Street from Market Street to Water Street and Union Alley from Mill Street to Spruce Street.

Motion by C/P Neff to advertise for bids for both projects. Second by C/P Mease.

AYES: SEVEN (7)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

BOROUGH TREASURER – Sharon Badman:

Review Treasurer’s Report of Account Balances for the Month of June 2019:

Motion by C/P Hendricks to accept the treasurer’s report of account balances for June 2019. Second by C/P Viker.

AYES: SEVEN (7)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

BOROUGH MANAGER/SECRETARY – Paul A. Williams:

CK-COG meeting minutes from 5/2/19 were provided.

Manager’s Monthly Activity Report:

Mgr. Williams provided his monthly report.

On June 13, there was a meeting held in the Borough Office with the Selinsgrove Municipal Authority (SMA) where they approved the signing of a professional services agreement with a hydrogeology firm called GeoSciences. They will be helping with the Consent Order and Agreement that had to be signed and entered into with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. The issue is that the Borough does not have what they call a docket for Well 3 and the Borough is being assessed a \$1000.00 penalty in order to achieve compliance.

Adopt Resolution 2019-10 Multimodal Transportation Grant:

Mgr. Williams stated the he learned about 2 weeks ago about a grant opportunity from the DCED. This grant would be an opportunity to pursue the ornamental street lighting project. He added that much of the preliminary work to submit an application is already done and the estimated cost is \$575,000.00. Susquehanna University is also interested in a special pedestrian crosswalk with a button and flashing warning device to cross Sassafras Street. The grant requires a 30% match. The grant application is due by the end of July, so it is on the fast track to get it submitted.

Motion by C/P Hendricks to adopt Resolution 2019-10 Multimodal Transportation Grant. Second by C/P Neff.

C/P Lauer suggested aligning the grant application with some of the ideas from the Penn State report’s ideas for Sassafras Street, as they have identified that as the main street connecting Susquehanna University to the rest of the Borough.

C/P Neff suggested doing 2 bids at the same time to save cost. The contractor could spread the mobility out across the two projects, thus saving the Borough money by not having to pay to mobilize the contractor two times.

AYES: SEVEN (7)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Authorize advertisement of Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 840 CMC, Property Maintenance Code:

Motion by C/P Neff to authorize advertisement of Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 840. Second by C/P Lauver.

C/P Owens asked whether the matter to include tenant misconduct had been discussed by the Police Chief and whether he is in favor of it. Mgr. Williams stated that it has been discussed and he is in favor of it.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: ONE (1) – C/P Hendricks

MOTION CARRIED

ZONING:

Update of Zoning, Sign, and Demolition Permits Issued.

EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY REGIONAL AUTHORITY – Dan Kiesinger, Borough Representative:

Meeting minutes from 5/15/19 were provided.

Appoint Shane Hendricks to replace Ed Mann:

Motion by C/P Neff to appoint Shane Hendricks to replace Ed Mann. Second by C/P Lauver.

C/P Hendricks stated that he will be there to represent the people of the Borough and that he is interested in the project not being drawn out for a long time.

C/P Viker asked whether anyone had a conversation with Ed Mann regarding his replacement. Solicitor Cravitz stated that Ed Mann’s attitude about the whole thing is that he was representing until he was replaced. C/P Viker stated that it won’t be that simple and asked again whether anyone had that conversation. Mgr. Williams stated that he has not had it, but he will.

AYES: FIVE (5)

NAYS: ONE (1) – C/P Viker

MOTION CARRIED

C/P Hendricks ABSTAINED.

NORTH-EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY JOINT AUTHORITY – Dianne Mengel – no report.

SELINGSGROVE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – Tim Charles, Chairman – no report.

NEW BUSINESS:

C/P Lauver stated that the clock has been returned.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by C/P Viker to adjourn. Second by C/P Neff. Adjourned 8:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Lindsey Brouse