

**SELINGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President Marvin Rudnitsky, V/P Richard Mease, C/P Sara Lauver, C/P Bobbie Owens, C/P Christopher Kalcich, C/P Erik Viker

ABSENT: C/P Grant Neff

OTHERS PRESENT: Borough Manager/Secretary Lauren Martz; Borough Treasurer Sheri Badman; Solicitor Bob Cravitz; Mayor Jeff Reed

Roll was taken for Video Conference (Zoom): DH&L, Jason Kaufman; Property Owners of 6 & 8 N. Market St., Jackie Reggia, Jackie Lambert, Roxanne Williams & Steve Wilcox, Jr; UGI, Christian Rosini; Livic Civil, Corey Peterson

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Pres. Rudnitsky called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mgr. Martz called the 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 AUGUST 3, 2020:

C/P Mease made a motion to accept the minutes with the amendment correcting the name Jason Bodinger to John Bodinger under "SU Taskforce". C/P Kalcich seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

DH&L Fire Company: Jason Kaufman provided the August fire service report.

DH&L Ambulance League: No report.

Selinsgrove Projects, Inc.: Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2020 were provided along with the SPI August newsletter.

Selinsgrove Chamber of Commerce: No report.

SARI (Pool) –Richard Mease: C/P Mease provided an update on the upcoming renovation to the Selinsgrove Community Pool. President Rudnitsky asked about a comparison on attendance at the pool this season to other seasons due to the pandemic. C/P Mease stated it is difficult to get an accurate comparison since the pool was opened five weeks later than in past seasons due to repair and pandemic restrictions.

The REC (Regional Engagement Center): Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2020 were provided along with the August 31, 2020 newsletter.

Others in Attendance:

1. Via teleconference, Steven Wilcox, Jr., owner of Walter Insurance Agency at 8 N. Market Street, also represented his mother, Patricia Wilcox, co-owner of the property as he expressed concern of the Union Alley closure between the Borough/Library Building and the Commons. His objection to the alley closure is due to the inconvenience he feels it poses to the businesses his property houses as well as his tenants living in the building. He would like reassurance that this closure is indeed temporary. Discussion was had as to the original intent Council had for the closure and placement of tables. Council was hoping this initiative would be able to assist in

providing additional seating to eatery businesses during the COVID-19 restrictions on occupancy. In the discussion it was noted the tables are not utilized as greatly as anticipated. However, they have seen usage and may continue to benefit the original intent even if moved off of the alley way up onto the concrete at the Borough/Library frontage as well as off to the side in the grass at the Commons. Discussion will need to be had with Selinsgrove Project Inc. (SPI) representation prior to occupying any more of the initially agreed upon space. C/P Mease made a motion to reopen Union Alley at Noon on Friday, September 11, 2020. C/P Viker seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

2. UGI Representative, Christian Rosini, participated via teleconference regarding the 700 block of Eighth Street. UGI is currently working on the 700 block of Eighth Street making cuts to provide service hook up and is obligated to repave the road due to the number of cuts per Borough Ordinance. UGI is requesting a waiver from paying the cut fees because they will be repaving the entire 700 block, curb to curb per Penn DOT regulations. Secretary Martz stated the Borough staff saw an opportunity to partner with UGI to coordinate work and replace the waterline, but with revenues being down due to COVID-19 and other projects that have arisen affecting the water fund, the funds will not be available to replace that water line. C/P Viker made a motion to waive the \$800 cut fee for the 16 cuts made in the 700 block of Eighth Street with the agreement that UGI will repave the full block, curb-to-curb per Penn Dot regulations. It was noted by Secretary Martz that this waiver from paying the cut fees has been done on a case by case basis per Council approval. The motion was seconded by C/P Owens.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

3. Written Comments and/or Questions: No comments/questions to address.

COMMITTEE/ COMMISSION/ BOARD REPORTS:

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Sara Lauver, Chairman – no report

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE – Bobbie Owens, Chairman

1. **Payment and Ratification of Bills:**

C/P Owens made a motion to pay and ratify the bills. C/P Lauver seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

2. **Statewide Tax Recovery/Berkheimer – Exoneration Request:** None.

3. **Award Sale of 2000 Int. Dump Truck:**

C/P Owens made a motion to accept the \$12,799 bid on the 2000 Int. Dump Truck. C/P Kalcich seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

4. **2021 Budget Requests:** A memo from the Borough Manager's Office was sent to the Chairperson of All Boards/Commissions as well as Department Heads to notify of 2021 budget requests being due to the Borough Office on or before October 13, 2020.

5. **Acknowledge Receipt of the 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) Worksheet for Pension Costs:** The Pension Plan asks that the current wages be utilized to assess the upcoming cost. With state aid the cost to the Borough is \$120,000 for both plans, uniform and non-

uniform. The Borough is eligible for \$107,000 in state aid. In order to maximize the state aid, the Borough will need to eliminate the non-uniformed employees' contribution and reduce the uniformed employees' contribution from 5% to 4%. President Rudnitsky confirmed receipt of the MMO and Treasurer Badman stated the resolution could be made in December for 2021.

6. The authorization of the annual renewal/selection of Healthcare Provider for 2020-2021 will be discussed in Executive Session.

7. C/P Owens brought to Council's attention the cost of the unexpected expenses related to the main sewer line on Market Street. There have been a couple of calls and an emergency sewer clog recently needing urgent repair. These repairs can total a couple thousand dollars or more each. Secretary Martz discussed a potential plan to work with CK COG on the enforcement of non-responding businesses in the business district in relation to the Grease Trap Ordinance which is believed to be the source of many of the sewer problems. Jim Emery of CK COG would be willing to look at the ordinance and make a proposal as to how the enforcement can be tied into the Property Maintenance CK COG already does for the Borough. The inspections are very important to be sure the trap is set up correctly and actually being cleaned properly. These clogs are sometimes so solidified that when they are blown out of the main sewer line the pressure causes sewer to blow back into other laterals affecting other properties. C/P Owens stated claims due to these types of clean up situations can affect the Borough's insurance rates as well.

Discussion ensued on the amount of money to consider allotting from the sewer fund to have CK COG do inspections if notices from the Borough Manager go unanswered. CK COG charges \$65/hour to do the property maintenance inspections.

C/P Owens made a motion to approve up to \$5,000 in the event CK COG is needed to do a property inspection for grease traps. The motion was seconded by C/P Lauver.

Discussion was had, Solicitor Cravitz discussed that back in 2015 when the Grease Trap Program got started in efforts to work with ESCRA in decreasing BOD in the sewer system. The Borough started out strong and went to every possible non-residential kitchen to put in a grease trap. The program was strong initially but has since tapered off and now the grease problem is back causing sewer issues again in the form of clogs. He stated this process will be money well spent to make it strong once again.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE – Grant Neff, Chairman – No report.

C/P Owens made a motion to authorize Borough Manager, Lauren Martz, or Treasurer, Sheri Badman, to transfer the title of the 2000 Int. Dump Truck over to the purchaser. The motion was seconded by C/P Viker.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Secretary Martz requested a meeting be set for this committee to discuss the traffic signal at 522 and Broad Street. A concern was brought to Lauren from Greg Sevryn about the pedestrian crossing at the traffic stop not being very downtown crossing friendly. Matt Swartz of Penn DOT came to take a look at it. He mentioned that the specific signal has been a topic of complaint for quite some time going back to the previous Borough Manager. Greg would like to come and speak with the committee to discuss options.

C/P Lauver mentioned she would like to know if there has been discussion on opening the Pump House and the Borough building. Mgr. Martz stated the Pump House is being rented recognizing the Governor's restrictions on gathering and the Borough building is still closed with scheduled meetings only, but she is open for discussion on this topic.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION/PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT – Chris Kalcich – No report.

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

C/P Mease stated with the reopening of Union Alley a reopening notice should be sent to the business owners affected in Union Alley. Mgr. Martz will hand out a notice on Thursday, September 10, 2020.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Erik Viker, Chairman – No report.

ZONING HEARING BOARD – Cyril Runkle, Chairman – No report.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Janet Powers, Chairman

Meeting minutes from August 19, 2020 were provided. Mgr. Martz discussed the LB Water Land Development and the request to accept the plan and Approve Resolution 2020-10. The Planning Commission made the recommendation to accept the plan. Cory Peterson of Livic Civil was present on the teleconference in the event there were any questions. C/P Viker made a motion to accept the LB Water Land Development plan as presented. C/P Owens seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

CIVIL SERVICES COMMISSION – Dalton Savidge, Chairman – No report.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION – Joan Fasold – No report.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

MAYOR – Jeff Reed: Mayor Reed presented the Police Reports for June and July 2020. He stated there was nothing unusual for the provided reports and that things are still quiet due the COVID-19 pandemic.

An offer for a new Police Officer will be discussed in an Executive Session.

Mayor Reed asked about whether the Police Officers would be eligible for a bonus due to working on the front lines through a pandemic. The Solicitor was consulted and it would be considered unlawful to provide a bonus. The Police Officers are unionized and bonuses are not part of this contractual agreement with the Borough.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR – Robert Cravitz, Esq.

Solicitor Cravitz stated he has items for the Executive Session.

BOROUGH ENGINEER

1. Coukart & Associates, Inc. – The 2020 Street Program is complete.
2. Larson Design Group – The USDA grant has been submitted and the Borough is awaiting a response.
3. GeoServices, SRBC Compliance – Jennifer Reese of GeoServices provided Mgr. Martz with an update. The letters have been sent to well owners to get permission for a monitoring study.

BOROUGH TREASURER – Sharon Badman

Review Treasurer’s Report for the month of August, 2020.

C/P Viker made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. C/P Lauver seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

BOROUGH MANAGER / SECRETARY – Lauren Martz

1. President Rudnitsky complimented Mgr. Martz on the level of detail included in her provided Manager Report.
2. Update on Penn DOT Review of S. High Street Intersection at Sassafras: There was a concern of the trucks running over and destroying the curb at S. High and Sassafras. Tom Squires of Penn DOT has completed the study at the intersection and has suggested the Borough could put up signage to no longer allow truck traffic. This would require an ordinance change as well in order to make the signs enforceable. Mgr. Martz stated this would be appropriate to go to the Public Facilities & Services Committee for further discussion.
3. Committee for SU Taskforce: Mgr. Martz met with Chris Kalcich and John Bodinger of SU to discuss and generate ideas of things the Borough may need help with. Discussion included who would make up this taskforce. Mgr. Martz discussed the need for Council Members to be a part of this taskforce. Suggested Council Members are President Rudnitsky, C/P Lauver, and C/P Kalcich. President Rudnitsky asked for support of the Council to create the committee. C/P Lauver and C/P Kalcich both agreed to be on the committee.
4. Mgr. Martz met with Macolm Derk of SU/SPI; Alan Zemaitis, SU Assistant Football Coach; Roger Feltman of Public Works; and Dick Norman of Kidsgrove to discuss ongoing maintenance at Kidsgrove and how the “Season of Success” SU program may be able to help utilizing the football team.
5. Trivia submissions are being submitted from the August Newsletter. The winner of the contest will be announced at the October 5, 2020 Council Meeting. If there is a tie, the names involved in the tie will be part of a drawing to select one winner of the trivia contest.

ZONING – Lindsey Brouse, Deputy Zoning Officer

Sign and Zoning Permits were submitted.

EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY REGIONAL AUTHORITY –Shane Hendricks & Vacancy, Delegates

Meeting minutes were provided from August 19, 2020. Mgr. Martz noted the vacancy on the ESCRA Board for the Borough.

NORTH-EASTERN SNYDER CO. JOINT AUTHORITY – Dianne Mengel & Vacancy – No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

COUNCIL MEMBERS –

1. President Rudnitsky stated Anna Gephart, Former Jr. Council Person, is interested in helping in the Borough while she is starting her Freshman Year for American University remotely. She is in Selinsgrove and would like to help however she can.
2. President Rudnitsky discussed potential reflective street signs with the symbols of the four following unique local features: Selinsgrove Area School District, Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove Speedway, and the kayak launch. One donation in the amount of \$500 was made toward these signs and there is another potential donation coming. These two donations could be enough to cover the cost of the signs.

3. C/P Owens brought to Council's attention activity at the boat launch on the Isle of Que. Recently some routine maintenance was done in the parking area by the Public Works team. Lines were repainted in the same location they were previously, but prior to the repainting they were so faint it was difficult to see lines. Since the lines have been refreshed there have been complaints about the lack of parking for cars due to the truck and trailer spaces. C/P Owens noted there are two rows of general parking along the back of the parking lot. Discussion was on whether painting words on the truck and trailer spaces could be helpful to keep cars from utilizing them.

MAYOR – None.

OTHERS – Mgr. Martz discussed the updates which have been made to the outdoor spaces with the approved Gelnett Funds. Tables and chairs have been placed on concrete pads at the kayak launch; new benches on concrete pads behind the library; updates have been made at the Moose Playground: painting, the dilapidated sandbox has been removed, still awaiting new chips for the ground; the Tots Park on Water Street has been freshened up and the shrubs will be addressed soon.

**Recess Meeting to Executive Session to discuss Police Hire and Staff Healthcare at 8:35 PM.
Reconvened at 9:19 PM. No action taken in Executive Session.**

C/P Viker made a motion to offer conditional employment to Elizabeth Shampamore upon successful completion of the required Police Academy including MOPEC Grant acceptance with reimbursement, and written notification by SPOA advising no objections to hire. C/P Owens seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

C/P Owens made a motion to approve the dual-option health insurance policy for the Geisinger PPO Plan and the Geisinger HMO 2000 for the uniformed and non-uniformed employees prepared by the Sholley Agency. Seconded by C/P Lauver.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by C/P Viker to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by C/P Mease.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Carrie Briggs
Recording Secretary