

Borough Council Work Session

June 21, 2021

The monthly Work Session meeting of Souderton Borough Council, held on the above date, was called to order by President Brian K. Goshow at 7:00 p.m. Council President Brian Goshow noted that this meeting is being recorded and will be available to view through the Borough website. The Borough Council Work Session meeting was attended by the following members and staff:

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| President Brian K. Goshow | Mayor John R. Reynolds |
| Vice-President Julie Munden | |
| Councillor Donna Rogers | |
| Councillor Richard Godshall | Borough Manager P. Michael Coll |
| Councillor Daniel Yocum | |
| Councillor Matt Mscichowski | Police Chief Brian A. Newhall |
| Councillor Edward Huber | |

PRESENTATION

Jim Butler, owner of property at 152 N Main Street, discussed his concern with accessibility to the rear of his garage when the Borough designs and constructs the intended parking lot on the parcel directly behind his property. The garage building supports a commercial use and parked to the rear of the garage is a trailer that is used to support a Disc Jockey business. Parking the trailer directly behind the garage is most convenient and it naturally hides the trailer from Main Street. Mr. Butler requested consideration to purchase, lease or retain an easement across the Borough property to continue to park the trailer in its current location. Borough Council discussed having the Borough Engineer prepare a concept plan for this future parking lot which will evaluate options to satisfy the request of Jim Butler. The Borough has two somewhat stalled private development projects along Main Street that will benefit from this additional parking lot. Borough Council authorized the start of the concept plan to begin later this fall.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Police Chief Brian Newhall reported that the promotional written examination for the position of Sergeant is scheduled for August 21, 2021. The oral examination will be scheduled at a point following the written test. The Civil Service Commission will be monitoring the process.

Upon further evaluation, Chief Newhall has learned that Souderton Borough will not be able to qualify for the federal cops grant that was previously discussed. He will be looking into other potential grant programs.

Chief Newhall announced that long time part-time officer Adam Moore will be resigning effective July 1st and will be relocating south to pursue other endeavors. Chief Newhall will look into other part time candidates, but the field of available officers is dwindling. Mayor John Reynolds recommended a proclamation honoring the service of Adam Moore who has been filling a nearly full time shift for the past several years.

Mayor Reynolds also noted that the eligibility list for full time police officers is valid through February 2022. He suggested that Borough Council should consider the need for appointing another full time officer. Chief Newhall recommended increasing the size of the department by two full time officers, with less reliance on part time assistance. This matter will be discussed further at the August Borough Council work session.

Borough Manager Michael Coll reported that an anonymous letter was received requesting consideration in making a 4 way Stop intersection at Summit Street and Second Street. Chief Newhall will review the request and report his recommendations to Borough Council at the next work session.

Councillor Daniel Yocum noted that Chief Newhall was a guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Souderton-Telford Rotary Club. His presentation was very well received.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Public Works Director Steven Coll was absent from the meeting. Borough Manager Michael Coll summarized public works activities for the month.

Borough Council discussed concerns raised with the intersection at East Broad Street and Noble Street. The large triangular area is difficult to visually identify the marked intersection with Noble Street. Borough manager Michael Coll provided a conceptual streetscape rendering that was prepared several years ago to create a landscaped gateway in this location and construct a more traditional intersection with Noble Street. The painted markings that currently exist were based on this conceptual rendering. The Borough will improve the markings as an interim step and a conceptual plan will be developed by the Borough Engineer for further review and discussion. Borough Council discussed some potential modifications to the conceptual design to better address existing conditions.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Borough Council discussed the formation of a special committee to oversee the creation of a new Souderton Borough Revitalization Plan. Community Planner Danielle Baer has experience in economic revitalization initiatives through her previous work with Ardmore and will assist in preparing the new plan specific to the needs of Souderton Borough and the newly formed Souderton Connects. Borough Council representatives will include Vice-President Julie Munden, Donna Rogers and Daniel Yocum. The Committee

will also include representatives from Souderton Connects.

SANITATION COMMITTEE

Borough Manager Michael Coll circulated the new Sewer user ordinance as prepared by special legal counsel, which will establish procedures to issue specific permits for industrial users and any significant commercial users to the system. The Ordinance needs a few minor revisions but is generally ready to move forward to advertisement and formal consideration by Borough Council perhaps by the August meeting.

Borough Manager Michael Coll noted that Waste Management has officially resumed trash collection services through their acquisition of Advanced Disposal. The Advanced Disposal trucks will continue to be used, but the crews will be Waste management employees through the end of the year. Bids for the solid waste collection contract effective January 2022 will be ready for advertisement in July.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Borough Council reviewed and discussed swimming pool operations for the early weeks of the pool season.

Borough Manager Michael Coll reviewed the status of improvements at the Souderton Community Park. The Montgomery County Conservation District has issued the NPDES permit for the project, however Concert Sundaes and the fall Main Streets Art Jam will require deferment of the parking lot and storm drainage improvements until later this fall. Crews will focus on completing improvements to the concert lawn area and band shell for the start of Concert Sundaes. The next committee meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, June 23, 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Borough Manager Michael Coll circulated a proposal from Altek Business Systems to provide managed IT services for Souderton Borough. Altek representatives met with staff and reviewed all Borough owned facilities along with the Police Department. They currently provide IT services for Telford Borough and they are familiar with IT requirements for body cameras. Freedom Systems will continue to provide and maintain the software programs and services. Borough Council supported the proposal.

The term of Tom Rosenberger on the Souderton Planning Commission will expire on July 2, 2021 and he has indicated his desire not to seek another five year term. Borough Council was asked to consider candidates for this position.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Montgomery Theater continues to explore additional quotations to repair or replace the front marquee. The Borough will provide a loan for this work through the Anchor Building Fund.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Borough Manager Michael Coll circulated copies of the General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2020 as prepared by Styer Associates. Greg Ede of Styer Associates is scheduled to attend the July 19, 2021 Work Session to review the statements with Borough Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary