

Regular Borough Council Meeting

March 1, 2021

The Regular Monthly 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 some members are attending the meeting virtually through Zoom. The meeting is being recorded and will be available to view through the Borough website. The Borough Council meeting was attended by the following members and staff:

President Brian K. Goshow	Councillor Edward Huber
Vice-President Julie Munden	Mayor John R. Reynolds
Councillor Donna Rogers	Junior Councillor Nick Mancini
Councillor Ned Leight (Zoom)	
Councillor Richard Godshall (Zoom)	Solicitor Charlotte Hunsberger
Councillor Daniel Yocum	Borough Manager P. Michael Coll
Councillor Matt Mscichowski	Police Chief Brian Newhall
Councillor Daryl Littlefield	Public Works Director Steven Coll

Consideration was given to the minutes of the February 1, 2021 Regular Borough Council Meeting. A motion was made by Councillor Matt Mscichowski, seconded by Councillor Daryl Littlefield, to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 Regular Monthly Borough Council meeting as presented. The motion was approved.

Consideration was then given to the minutes of the February 15, 2021 Borough Council Work Session. A motion was made by Councillor Matt Mscichowski, seconded by Councillor Julie Munden, to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2021 Borough Council Work Session meeting as presented. The motion was approved.

President Goshow and members of Borough Council took a short recess to welcome retired Police Chief James Leary to the Municipal Building and Council Chambers. He was accompanied and welcomed by neighboring police departments, staff and members of Borough Council.

Police Chief Brian Newhall will discuss his monthly report at the March Work Session. Chief Newhall confirmed that the body cameras have now been ordered.

The Borough Solicitor reported that they are reviewing information concerning the Leidy's sewer discharges and related revisions to the Borough's Sewer Service Ordinance and Industrial Waste Agreements. The Solicitor is reviewing the fraud claims brought by the State Attorney General against former directors of Boucher and James. They will research options and gather additional relevant information to form a recommendation on options for potential further action.

Public Works Director Steven Coll circulated his monthly report to Borough

Council. A vast majority of work during February was related to the many snow events.

Borough Manager Michael Coll reviewed the meeting schedule. The Souderton Planning Commission will be meeting on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, primarily discussing the Berkeley Court development plans. Hoff Properties presented a concept plan for cursory review of a combined use building at the corner of School Lane and East Broad Street, which is part of the Berkeley Phase 1 development. The next meeting of Borough Council will be the monthly work session meeting on Monday, March 15, 2021.

The Agenda for the March 1, 2021 Borough Council meeting includes formal consideration of an Ordinance to establish the annual salary for the elected tax collector position beginning January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2025. The Ordinance was presented at the February 1, 2021 and provides for a 1% increase in the salary for each year of the four year term. The Ordinance also provides for an increase in certification fees for the next four year term. Borough Council reviewed and is recommending approval of a proposal from Phillips & Donovan Architects to design the new public works complex at 160 Cherry Lane. Souderton Borough received a \$50,000 state grant to assist with the reconstruction of the Railroad Avenue Parking Lot. The design work is complete and the project is ready for bids. The last item is a Resolution honoring the services of James P. Leary.

Consideration was given to paying the bills for the month of February, 2021.

GENERAL FUND

Comcast Cable	\$215.58	Nucitrus	\$275.00
Verizon Wireless	184.66	PA DCED	927.00
21 st Century Media	191.50	PECO Energy	387.11
Advance Auto Parts	257.79	Pendergast Safety Equipment Co.	330.23
Airgas National Carbonation	80.34	Plasterer Equipment Co., Inc.	144.78
Altek Business Systems, Inc.	156.46	PPL Electric Utilities	1,360.26
Altek Business Systems, Inc.	439.57	PPL Electric Utilities	1,885.70
Brian A. Newhall	150.00	Ready Refresh	89.98
Clemens Uniform Rental	171.18	Richter Drafting Office Supply	663.62
Comcast Cable	748.76	Scott A. Seifert	1,122.50
Cope's Garage, Inc.	2,055.49	Security Service Co., Inc.	1,076.52
Delta Dental/Gettysburg Benefit	1,059.29	Shelly Enterprises USLBM, LLC	131.40
Galls, Inc.	199.79	Something Better, Inc.	1,000.00
George Allen Portable Toilets	77.00	Souderton-Telford Main Streets	5,937.50
H & K Materials	289.93	Steven R. Coll	298.56
Home Depot	158.05	Suburban Propane	680.49
Independence Blue Cross	17,770.27	Sudz In A Bucket	16.50
I V Chamber of Commerce	622.48	The Harrison Group, Inc.	225.00
Maglocen	400.00	Uninvest VISA	15.95
Maryjane Yoder	932.44	Uninvest VISA	560.37
Metlife Group Benefits	3,246.14	Uninvest VISA	751.98
Montg Co. Special Weapons	3,500.00	Unum Insurance Company	980.55

Morton Salt	9,220.65	Verizon	79.19
Moyer Indoor/Outdoor	\$4,430.44	Verizon Wireless	\$234.47
Nationwide Trust Company	1,033.23	Wise Electric	300.00
NetCarrier Telecom, Inc.	381.37		
North American Benefits Co.	1,004.41	Total General Fund	\$68,451.48

SEWER FUND

Home Depot	\$230.95	Metlife Group Benefits	\$92.28
Postmaster, Lansdale	937.48	Midway Industrial Supply	650.00
All Industrial Safety Products	160.61	Mike Nelson Consulting Service	1,810.00
Bergey's Electric, Inc.	3,873.00	Moyer Indoor/Outdoor	544.72
CCP Industries, Inc.	105.33	NAPA Auto Parts	23.97
Cintas First Aid & Safety	68.90	NetCarrier Telecom, Inc.	114.83
Clemens Uniform Rental	242.06	North American Benefits Co.	311.15
Comcast Cable	138.39	Nyco Corporation	10.32
CVX, LLC dba D & M Machine	74.75	PA Rural Water	95.00
D. L. Beardsley, Ltd.	521.35	PPL Electric Utilities	560.90
Delta Dental/Gettysburg Benefit	379.52	Suburban Water Testing Labs	1,809.70
Electro Chemical Engineering	1,850.00	The Harrison Group, Inc.	60.00
EVOQUA Water Technologies	3,486.80	Tyler McCarthy	204.99
Farm Bureau Garage, Inc.	606.69	Univar USA Inc.	3,770.25
Fretz Enterprises	170.90	Unum Insurance Company	263.49
Home Depot	49.97	USA Blue Book	1,384.04
Independence Blue Cross	5,347.83	Verizon	89.35
J. P. Mascaro & Sons	4,196.96	West Generator Services	533.85
Lawson Products, Inc.	826.87	Total Sewer Fund	\$35,597.20

POOL FUND

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

East Hill Video Production Co.	\$11,250.24	Security Service Co., Inc.	\$6,007.00
Home Depot	204.76	Total Capital Reserve Fund	\$17,462.00

LIQUID FUELS FUND

PPL Electric Utilities	\$872.42	Shelly Enterprises USLBM, LLC	\$152.00
PPL Electric Utilities	6,099.39	Total Liquid Fuels Fund	\$7,123.81

A motion was made by Councillor Matt Mscichowski, and seconded by Councillor Daryl Littlefield, to approve the payment of bills for the month of February, 2021 as presented. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Matt Mscichowski, and seconded by Councillor Julie Munden, to approve the payment of recurring bills for the month of March, 2021 as presented. The motion was approved.

President Goshow opened the meeting for public comment as follows:

Kyle Lafleur, 131 Noble Street, noted that Noble Street is a one way street and parking is often times difficult. He requested Borough Council to consider allowing parking on both sides of the street. This request will be referred to Chief Newhall for review and discussion at the next work session.

Daniel Houser, 436 Central Avenue, expressed appreciation to the Public Works employees for many long hours addressing the recent snow storms.

Sean Halbom, attending virtually, expressed his appreciation to James Leary.

Pastor John Heidgerd of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Souderton, expressed appreciation to James Leary for his strong support of the Emmanuel Lutheran Food Pantry. He experienced a wonderful relationship with Chief Leary and the Souderton Police Department as they began this program at the beginning of the COVID pandemic. The church has distributed 81,500 meals over the past year and the program continues to grow.

There being no further public comment, President Brian Goshow moved to the business portion of the agenda.

A motion was made by Councillor Julie Munden, and seconded by Councillor Ned Leight, to enact Ordinance No. 21-750-01 establishing compensation for the Elected Tax Collector during the term beginning January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2025. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Matt Mscichowski, and seconded by Councillor Daryl Littlefield, to approve the proposal of Phillips and Donovan Architects, LLC, dated February 12, 2021, to provide professional architectural services for the Public Works Facility project for property at 160 Cherry Lane. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Daniel Yocum, and seconded by Councillor Matt Mscichowski, to authorize the advertisement for bids for the Railroad Avenue Parking Lot Improvement project. The motion was approved. Borough Manager Michael Coll noted that the \$50,000 State grant for this project was obtained through the efforts of Representative Steven Malagari who is in attendance at this meeting.

A motion was made by Councillor Donna Rogers, and seconded by Councillor Julie Munden, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-03 Honoring the Service of James P. Leary. Mayor John Reynolds read the Resolution into the minutes as follows:

RESOLUTION NO 2021-03
HONORING JAMES P. LEARY

WHEREAS, James P. Leary has announced his retirement as Chief of Police for the Souderton Borough Police Department after having served the residents of Souderton Borough and our neighboring municipalities for more than ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, Chief Jim Leary implemented several significant initiatives within the Souderton Police Department, most importantly addressing training and technology. In addition to training and technology, Chief Jim Leary implemented a series of initiatives for the department and the Borough to become an integral part of the emergency management and planning process, successfully encouraging Souderton Borough to be an active member in a regionalized emergency management team. Throughout his tenure, Chief Jim Leary provided opportunities for career development for the individual officers, organizational development for the department, improved service to the community and the development of best possible plans for the future of the Souderton Borough Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Jim Leary is an active member of the Souderton-Telford Rotary Club and has devoted significant time in support of many charitable organizations and community events. In particular Jim Leary was an active member with the Souderton Borough 125th Celebration Committee and brought the annual fireworks event to the Souderton Community Park. Jim Leary worked with our local churches and brought the annual Community Worship Service to the Souderton Community Park during the Father's Day Weekend. Jim Leary is an avid supporter of Keystone Opportunity Center and other community service organizations; and

WHEREAS, Jim's service as Chief of Police to the Borough of Souderton is now complete with a well-deserved retirement. It is therefore fitting that the Borough recognize the many contributions of this public-spirited citizen to the Borough and express its appreciation for Jim's many years of faithful and effective public service.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Borough Council of the Borough of Souderton, and John R. Reynolds, Mayor of the Borough of Souderton, on behalf of all of the residents of the community, do adopt this Resolution of Appreciation for the faithful service of James P. Leary to the Borough of Souderton and all of its citizens. Although Jim is leaving Borough government, his dedication should serve to inspire others to devote their talents and energies to advancing the public good. The Borough of Souderton is truly a better place when public-minded citizens such as James P. Leary become involved.

The Mayor, the Borough Council, the administrative staff, and members of the community join in wishing Jim all the best in retirement and fully expect that his civic endeavors are not at an end.

RESOLVED, this 1st day of March, 2021, by the Borough Council of Souderton Borough.

President Brian Goshow requested a roll call vote on the Resolution which passed by unanimous vote of the members of Borough Council.

President Brian Goshow noted that there are several requests to make presentations in honor of the service of Police Chief Jim Leary.

Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele presented Jim Leary with commendation recognizing his active service as a Marine in Vietnam, his services as a member of the Abington Police Department, Chief of Rockledge and as Chief of the Souderton Police Department, a remarkable span of 46 years in law enforcement.

Pennsylvania State Representative Steven Malagari read a citation from the House of Representatives honoring the service of Police Chief Jim Leary.

Eric Boynton, member of the Souderton Civil Service Commission, presented Jim Leary with a rendition of a police department badge molded from clay.

Harry Boardman presented Jim Leary with a pencil sketch commemorating the service of Jim Leary to Souderton Borough. The frame was provided by Brian Goshow.

Souderton Detective Joseph Rudner, accompanied by all of the Souderton Police Officers, presented Chief Jim Leary with his retired badge.

President Brian Goshow noted all of the various police departments in attendance to honor the service of Jim Leary. President Goshow noted that Service, Compassion and Friendship describes Jim Leary.

Jim Leary expressed his appreciation to all in attendance for their support concluding that it has been his privilege to serve.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary