

Borough Council Work Session

November 15, 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 | Junior Councillor Nick Mancini |
| Councillor Ned Leight | |
| Councillor Richard Godshall | |
| Councillor Matt Mscichowski | Borough Manager P. Michael Coll |
| Councillor Daryl Littlefield | Police Chief Brian A. Newhall |
| Councillor Edward Huber | Public Works Director Steven Coll |

PRESENTATIONS

Harry Boardman, 105 Main Street, Souderton approached Souderton Borough Council with a mural project that he is pursuing with Souderton Connects. The project will create a mural on the entire front façade of his building. While the actual mural has not been determined they are looking at a combination of paint and colorful lighting accents. Harry Boardman displayed a few examples of murals created for other urban buildings. Souderton Connects has expressed support for this project and they will share in the expense. Harry Boardman noted that the Souderton Borough Sign ordinance recognizes murals and they do not require permits. Murals are a recognized element within the C-3 Zoning District and they can be applied to satisfy the required architectural elements. The goal of this project is to further create a sustainable art movement. Harry Boardman also suggested consideration in removing the street trees to support the mural project. Borough Council suggested that this project be referred to the Souderton Planning Commission for further recommendations.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Police Chief Brian Newhall summarized the monthly report of police activities through October. The Police department is working with Representative Steven Malagari to submit a DCED Keystone Communities grant application for police equipment. The Souderton Police Department prepared and distributed a community wide publication with a variety of safety information.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Public Works Director Steven Coll circulated and reviewed his report to Borough

Council. Brush collection was completed with a rented chipper. Paving projects are complete with exception of the final wearing course on Diamond Street, due to a noticeable sinkhole and potential utility leak. The East Chestnut Street culvert project is now fully complete.

Crews are completed the winterization of the swimming pool. The competition pool has been losing water due to an issue with a valve in the surge tank. The valve may have to be replaced if crews cannot get the valve to fully close.

The relief manhole has been installed over the storm water culvert on Adams Avenue. We are trying to confirm a schedule with P. K. Moyer and Sons to complete the paving on Adams Avenue before winter and the closure of blacktop plants.

Crews are removing the veteran banners and Concert Sundaes banners and are installing the holiday decorations. The Christmas Tree will be installed in the Main Street Plaza by the end of the month.

Steven Coll previously reported that the Borough's brush chipper will need to be replaced. The age of the machine makes it difficult to find replacement parts. The last two months of brush collection utilized rented equipment. The crew reviewed and demonstrated a number of chippers over the past month. The best machine was from the Modern Group which has a machine under COSTARS contract with a purchase price of \$49,234.40. A recommendation was made to reallocate funds in the Capital reserve Budget to make a purchase. This machine will be necessary to continue with brush collection and will be needed for work in the Community Park. Borough Council supported the recommended purchase of a new chipper.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Borough Council discussed possible candidates to serve as the Souderton Borough representative to the North Penn Water Authority Board of Directors. Two candidates for this position are Amy Leight and Randy Nyce. Borough Council will recommend an appointment at the December 6, 2021 meeting.

Borough Council discussed an appointment to replace Brian Goshow who served as the Souderton Borough representative to the Indian Valley Regional Planning Commission. A recommendation was made to appoint Councillor Edward Huber to serve in this capacity effective January, 2022.

Council President Brian Goshow volunteered to remain active on the Public Works facility and the Community Park Improvement committees. He suggested that Borough Council may want to consider this request in January, 2022.

Borough Council discussed the continuation of the practice to participate in Borough Council meetings through Zoom. The State Legislature did pass legislation allowing participation through telephone conference under specific conditions, but they did not address participation through Zoom participation. In person participation is preferred. Souderton Borough will continue to use the Zoom platform for the purpose of recording and posting the meetings to the web site. Borough Council also discussed meeting frequency going into the new year, with a preference to retain the current schedule of one regular monthly meeting and one regular work session meeting per month. Special meetings will be added when necessary.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

There is continuing interest in the Freight Building to lease the building as a microbrewery. An initial meeting was held to discuss this interest, and future discussion over developing concept plans are expected. The Borough will need to become involved in the fit out of the building as part of the lease negotiations.

The Borough Engineer has intervened between School lane Development and Jesse's Barbeque to evaluate potential additional improvements that might be available to further protect the Jesse Barbeque property from flooding.

SANITATION COMMITTEE

As expected, J. P. Mascaro and Sons has formally filed a petition in Montgomery County Court to seek an injunction against awarding the contract to Whitetail Disposal. The court hearing date will be held Monday, November 22, 2021.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Borough Manager Michael Coll reviewed the status of improvements at the Souderton Community Park. The committee continues to work on the placement of the proposed new playground and exercise equipment, along with revisions to the location of the rain garden. Univest Bank and Trust Company has pledged a \$100,000 donation to the project and additional corporate donors are considering participation in the project. The major project emphasis is now focused on the storm drainage improvements, parking lot construction and the installation of the playground and exercise equipment. The playground phase of the project is approaching \$700,000 but we have a DCNR grant and now some large corporate donors to offset the expense.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Borough Manager Michael Coll noted that there are no updates associated with the recent concept plans for the Chestnut Street Parking lot improvement project. The project

will be carried over to the 2022 Budget.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Borough Manager Michael Coll discussed concerns with the Borough's current administrator of the Employee 457 Plan. He is working with Girard Pension Services and Nationwide Investment Services to take over the administration of this plan. The Borough Manager will be setting up an employee meeting to discuss the recommended change in administrators. New plan documents will need to be developed for approval by Souderton Borough Council at a later date.

Borough Manager Michael Coll reviewed the proposed 2022 Budget which has been posted and advertised for formal consideration at the December 6, 2021 Borough Council meeting. Borough Council discussed the potential use of the federal ARAP funds to potentially offset some of the operational increases in the Police Budget. The funds do seem to be restricted towards capital project expenditures not ongoing operating expenses. The ARAP funds are included in the 2022 Capital Reserve Budget towards storm water improvements and other potential capital expenses. Further discussion on the use of these funds will continue into the next budget year.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary