

Borough Council Work Session

October 18, 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 Donna Rogers | |
| Councillor Daniel Yocum | Borough Manager P. Michael Coll |
| Councillor Matt Mscichowski | Police Chief Brian A. Newhall |
| Councillor Edward Huber | Public Works Director Steven Coll |

PRESENTATIONS

Alan Miles, 20 Green Street, Souderton expressed his interest in serving as a member of the Souderton Planning Commission. He has been a resident of the Borough for the past six months, formally from Dallas, Texas. He is an ordained minister with Zwingli Church and has a background in graphic design.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Police Chief Brian Newhall reported that the new police vehicle has been delivered, awaiting radio installation and programming. The second vehicle is in progress and will be delivered at a later date. Souderton Police will dispatch extra patrols for the Halloween weekend and the police will have some goody bags available. Souderton Police attended the Third Fridays event on October 15, 2021.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Public Works Director Steven Coll circulated and reviewed his report to Borough Council. Crews will begin the paving projects, starting with Parkview Drive and Green Street this week and next week crews are scheduled to complete Diamond Street and S. Fifth Street. The paving on S. Fifth Street will extend to Montgomery Avenue in this phase. The sewer main on Garfield Avenue should be replaced before any additional street paving is considered. Crews completed the storm drain project at W. Chestnut Street and Hunsberger Lane. Leaf collection will begin at the end of the month.

Crews are completing the winterization of the swimming pool. The competition pool is now covered. The plaster staining appears to be a failure of the plaster, which we

might want to address prior to the beginning of the next pool season.

Borough Council reviewed some pictures of the repairs to the East Chestnut Street culvert. Steven Coll described the replacement of the stone walls on the street side of the culvert. The new wall was made with structural steel reinforcement and shotcrete by a local firm R & W Concrete in Lansdale. The cost of the replacement is estimated at \$16,535. We also repaired other sections of wall to take advantage of the accessibility with the sidewalk off. Tout Brothers Concrete is now installing the new sidewalk top to the culvert. The property owner will be sharing the cost of the sidewalk installation.

Steven Coll 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. We have been bringing in some demo chippers to formulate a recommendation for a replacement. A recommendation was made to reallocated 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.

An informal meeting was held with Franconia Township to review the overall development plan to construct a new Public Works facility on our Cherry lane property, which is located in Franconia Township. The meeting went well and we will now prepare to make a formal land development submission.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Borough Council discussed possible candidates for the Souderton Planning Commission. The two candidates are Calvin Munden and Alan Miles. Borough Council will recommend an appointment at the November 1, 2021 meeting.

Borough Council discussed an appointment to the Souderton Industrial Development Authority. The 5 year term of Robert Wellington has expired. Councillor Daniel Yocum recommended the appointment of Andrew Landis. Andrew Landis is a Senior Vice-President at Uninvest, a commercial lender and relationship manager for two of the Souderton IDA's customers. Daniel Yocum feels that this appointment could bring more interest to the Souderton Industrial Development Authority.

Borough Manager Michael Coll reported that Marvin Anders has announced his intent to retire from service as our representative to the North Penn Water Authority Board of Directors. Marvin Anders has served in this capacity for over 40 years and expects to be moving from the Borough at the end of this year. He provided a list of candidates that Borough Council may want to consider for this position. An appointment should be considered for January 1, 2022.

Borough Manager Michael Coll distributed copies of the response to the Borough Engineer RFP that was circulated in March of 2021. He asked Borough Council to review this information in preparation for the appointment of the Borough Engineer which is historically done at each Borough Council Reorganizational meetings, the next will be January 3, 2022.

Council President Brian Goshow noted that he currently serves as the Borough representative to the Indian Valley Regional Planning Commission. He will be stepping down from Borough Council at the end of this year and Borough Council will need to fill this vacancy. He recommended consideration of Edward Huber to serve in this capacity given his membership on the Souderton Planning Commission. Brian Goshow volunteered to remain active on the Public Works facility and the Community Park Improvement committees.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Borough Manager reported that the Zoning Hearing Board continued the application of Bruce and Dorothy Leidy concerning a vacant lot situated between 426 and 412 Lincoln Avenue. The applicants are seeking a special exception to consider this parcel as a lawfully non-conforming single family building lot. The Zoning Hearing Board approved the application of Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 69 W. Broad Street, to renovate the former parsonage into a three unit multifamily dwelling to serve as a local ministry, in conjunction with Worthwhile Wear, for housing for single women who were victims of human trafficking. Multifamily dwellings are permitted within the zoning district. The applicant required dimensional variances concerning lot width and a side yard setback to permit the conversion of the existing parsonage.

The Borough Engineer has been working with School lane Development to complete the outstanding issues associated with the public improvements for the Berkeley Court Phase 2A development. All of the outstanding items have been addressed and a recommendation will be made at the November 1, 2021 Borough Council meeting to formally approve dedication of the improvements. The developer will post an 18 month Maintenance Bond for the improvements.

There is interest in the Freight Building to lease the building as a microbrewery. An initial meeting will be scheduled to discuss this interest. The Borough will need to become involved in the fit out of the building as part of the lease negotiations.

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 was originally scheduled for December 6, 2021, but has now been

rescheduled to 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 the Souderton-Telford Rotary Club has raised \$35,000 from their annual auction towards the Community Park project. The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

Borough Council discussed the potential dog park project which was proposed at the October Borough Council Meeting. Diamond Street residents previously voiced objection to locating a dog park at the Holly Hill Park mainly due to the limited parking. The West Street Park might be a possible location for dog park. Chief Newhall suggested that Borough Council consider rules and regulations prior to constructing a dog park. The discussions suggested a very divided opinion towards a dog park. Concern was expressed with liability, expense to maintain and conflicts between users.

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 reviewed the 2021 Budget Comparison Report through September 30, 2021. Chief Newhall provided a 2022 Budget request to add two full time officers to the force in 2022 with reduced need for part time officers. Borough Council discussed the budget request. A draft 2022 Budget will be prepared for review and discussion at the Borough Council Budget Work Session scheduled for Monday, October 25, 2021.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary