

Regular Borough Council Meeting

October 3, 2016

The Regular Meeting of Souderton Borough Council, held on Monday, October 3, 2016, was called to order by President Brian K. Goshow at 7:30 p.m. Members of Borough Council present at the regular meeting included the following:

President Brian K. Goshow	Councillor Kevin Souder
Councillor Ned D. Leight	Junior Councillor E. Shane Myers
Councillor D. Jeffrey Gross	Mayor John R. Reynolds
Councillor Richard Godshall	Solicitor Charlotte Hunsberger
Councillor Daniel Yocum	
Councillor Daniel Houser	Borough Manager P. Michael Coll
Councillor Tracy Burke	Police Chief James P. Leary
Councillor Richard Halbom	Public Works Director Seven Coll

The Invocation was given by President Brian K. Goshow, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Monday, September 12, 2016 Regular Borough Council Meeting and September Work Sessions. A motion was made by Councillor Richard Halbom, seconded by Councillor Daniel Houser, to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2016 Regular Borough Council Meeting and September 2016 Work Sessions as presented. The motion was approved.

Indian Valley Public Library Representative Donald Arrowsmith, Board Member Dr. Alexander Grande and new Library Director Marge Stern introduced themselves to Borough Council and made a brief presentation on the current operations and fund raising efforts of the Indian Valley Public Library.

Mayor John Reynolds commented on the Souderton-Telford Main Streets annual Art Jam in the Community Park. This year's event was the largest and proved to be very successful. Last Friday Generations hosted a 5th Friday event which was attended by the Mayor. This was a very nice evening. Indian Valley Public Library will be hosting their annual wine and beer tasting event on November 12, 2016.

Chief Leary noted that the September narrative and statistical report of police activities will be distributed during the October work sessions.

Solicitor Charlotte Hunsberger submitted the Borough Solicitor's report for the month of September. In regard to matters involving Broad Entertainment, the Borough Solicitor noted a Default Judgement was entered on September 26, 2016. The Solicitor had a meeting on October 3, 2016 with the attorney representing Broad Entertainment, LP. The Borough Solicitor had additional discussion with a prospective tenant for the train station. The Borough Solicitor had additional correspondence with Caboose Grill, Inc. regarding their lease termination.

Public Works Director Steven Coll presented his monthly report to Borough Council. Curbside leaf collection will begin at the end of October. The crew will be completing some storm drainage and paving work during the month. Councillor Richard Halbom requested the Public Works crew to paint over graffiti that has been painted along the top of the Chestnut Street railroad bridge.

Borough Manager Michael Coll noted there is a special Budget Work Session scheduled for Monday, October 24th beginning at 7:00pm. The Borough Manager reviewed the agenda items scheduled for consideration. The Borough Solicitor has worked with Comcast representatives on a new cable franchise agreement. An ordinance approving the agreement has been prepared and advertised for formal consideration. Borough Council has spent considerable time reviewing and discussing a proposal to move forward with exterior

renovations to the Freight Building. This building was originally removed from the scope of work for budgetary reasons. The Borough has since spent considerable time and effort in working with SEPTA and the Pennsylvania Northeast Railroad to have the current contractors certified to work in proximity of the rail lines. This process will have to be revisited at a later date to accomplish the renovations to the freight building, or the Borough can consider a general obligation loan to have the contractors complete the freight building exterior work before the construction contract is closed out. The Borough Manager recommended that it would be in our best interest to complete the exterior renovations to the freight building at this time. The Borough crew is also certified and as such, any remaining site work around the freight building can be completed by our local forces at a more economical cost. The total change order for the Freight Building construction will be \$374,948.00. Univest Bank and Trust Company has extended a very competitive proposal to extend a \$500,000 general obligation loan to finance the expenses related to the freight building work and additional site improvements. A recommendation has been made to authorize the Borough Solicitor to complete the required documentation to obtain this loan. There are vacancies on the Souderton Industrial Development Authority that need to be filled for the Authority to complete some routine business. Styer Associates attended the Administrative Work Session to present and discuss the general purpose financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2015. Lastly, a recommendation has been made to hold an executive session to consult with the Borough Solicitor on matters of pending litigation. Borough Council does not expect to conduct any further business following the executive session.

Councillor Daniel Yocum distributed a newsletter from the Souderton-Telford Historical Society. The Perseverance Volunteer Fire Company will be hosting their annual Fire Prevention Week Open House on Friday, October 14, 2016 from 6pm to 9pm. There will be several displays of equipment and some hands on activities for the children.

Consideration was given to paying the bills for the month of September, 2016.

GENERAL FUND

Aquarius Supply	\$46.58	George Allen Portable Toilets	\$223.00
Boucher & James, Inc.	13,208.09	Metlife	14,194.74
C & S Lawn and Landscape, Inc.	6,800.00	Moyer Indoor/Outdoor	1,074.61
Carquest	452.35	Nationwide Trust Company	5,236.16
Chemsearch	2,851.66	NetCarrier Telecom, Inc.	373.29
Clemens Uniform Rental	169.59	Petty Cash Fund	141.21
Code Inspections, Inc.	630.00	Propet Distributors, Inc.	95.35
Cope's Garage, Inc.	331.00	Richter Drafting Office Supply	771.75
D. L. Beardsley, Ltd.	125.20	Univest VISA	282.00
Davidheisers, Inc.	64.00	Univest VISA	121.70
Detlan Equipment, Inc.	163.96	Verizon	70.26
Eagles Peak Spring Water, Inc.	24.90	Verizon Wireless	223.86
Freedom Systems Corp	1,069.00	21 st Century Media-Philly	167.03
Fretz Enterprises	3.75	Aquarius Supply	198.36
George Allen Portable Toilets	373.00	Bergeys, Inc.	330.14
Good Plumbing Heating A/C, Inc.	89.96	Bow Wow Waste Products	136.00
Home Depot Credit Services	14.97	Carquest	34.86
Indian Creek Foundation	473.50	Clemens Uniform Rental	56.53
J. P. Mascaro & Sons	35,994.34	Code Inspections, Inc.	724.50
Keystone Health Plan East	30,013.85	Copes Garage, Inc.	70.00
Lawson Products, Inc.	768.68	CPR Heart Starters, Inc.	300.00
Markey Paper & Packaging, Inc.	93.54	D. L. Beardsley, Ltd.	537.10
Naceville Materials	166.99	David A. Freed	200.00
NAPA Auto Parts	119.14	DVRPC	1,250.00
North American Benefits Company	1,032.38	Eagles Peak Spring water, Inc.	30.65
North Penn Water Authority	60.78	Fromm Electric Supply Corp.	201.83
PECO Energy	28.42	George Allen Portable Toilets	150.00
PPL Electric Utilities	296.09	Home Depot Credit Services	13.84
Richter Drafting Office Supply	327.08	Indian Creek Foundation	502.50
Ricoh	687.02	J. P. Mascaro & Sons	35,913.51
Shelly Enterprises-USLBM, LLC	154.65	Keystone Health Plan East	30,013.85
Souderton-Telford Main Streets	7,125.00	Moyer Indoor/Outdoor	1,648.48
Suburban Propane	395.22	Network Concepts	53.98

TRM-Telford Recycling Materials	\$210.00	North American Benefits Company	\$1,032.38
U. S. Municipal Supply, Inc.	1,251.53	PA One Call System	100.86
Univest Bank and Trust Company	1,800.00	Postmaster, Lansdale	779.25
Univest VISA	226.01	PPL Electric Utilities	1,381.69
Univest VISA	4.00	Richard Halbom	58.85
Unum Insurance Company	890.00	Rodney Shoemaker Plumbing	48.75
Verizon Wireless	40.01	Shelly Enterprises-USLBM, LLC	35.80
Wise Electric	1,076.83	Suburban Propane	129.69
Boucher and James, Inc.	9,606.22	Univest VISA	309.42
Clemens Uniform Rental	113.06	Univest VISA	14.99
Delta Dental	1,379.76	Unum Insurance Company	890.00
Eagles Peak Spring Water, Inc.	44.55	Total General Fund	\$237,191.34

SEWER FUND

Bearing & Drives Solutions	\$607.62	EVOQUA Water Technologies	\$2,599.20
Blooming Glen Quarry	470.00	Farm Bureau Garage, Inc.	370.43
Cintas First Aid & Safety	266.00	Fisher Scientific	322.59
Clemens Uniform Rental	191.50	H & K Materials	514.18
Coyne Chemical	4,995.35	J. P. Mascaro & Sons	480.00
Derstine Company, Inc.	8,045.00	Jesse Baro, Inc.	2,345.54
EVOQUA Water Technologies	2,584.84	Metlife	230.70
Fisher Scientific	304.22	NetCarrier Telecom, Inc.	153.15
Gouldley Welding & Fabrication	1,022.85	Shelly Enterprises-USLBM, LLC	8.76
Hach Company	398.04	Suburban Water Testing Labs	1,746.30
Hajoca Corporation	813.08	Univest VISA	121.70
Home Depot Credit Services	233.12	Verizon	72.51
Jesse Baro, Inc.	3,675.38	Analytical Laboratories, Inc.	60.00
Keystone Health Plan east	8,132.32	Clemens Uniform Rental	42.75
Landis Block Nycecrete Company	104.40	Coyne Chemical	3,562.60
North American Benefits Company	253.82	Freedom Systems Corp	843.75
North Penn Water Authority	58.99	Hach Company	1,246.79
NYCO Corporation	50.71	Hajoca Corporation	1,137.35
PPL Electric Utilities	14,911.83	Home Depot Credit Services	28.37
PRWA	360.00	Jesse Baro, Inc.	3,675.38
Pyrz Water Supply Co., Inc.	10.90	Keystone Health Plan East	8,132.32
Reuter & Hanney, Inc.	4,950.00	Moyer Indoor/Outdoor	182.94
Unum Insurance Company	234.82	North American Benefits Company	253.82
Wise Electric	1,394.65	Perkasie Regional Authority	1,125.00
Altek Business Systems, Inc.	62.25	Shelly Enterprises-USLBM, LLC	4.51
Analytical Laboratories, Inc.	80.00	Unum Insurance Company	234.82
Clemens Uniform Rental	72.25		
Delta Dental	321.47	Total Sewer Fund	\$84,100.87

POOL FUND

Airgas National Carbonation	\$330.99	PECO Energy	\$279.79
American Red Cross	197.00	Philip M. Coll	199.50
Comcast Cable	170.72	Pyrz Water Supply Co., Inc.	285.00
Derstine's	2,750.76	Shelly Enterprises- USLBM, LLC	9.26
Home Depot Credit Services	41.93	Stat Pads	157.94
Irvin G. Tyson & Son, Inc.	438.00	SYSCO Philadelphia, LLC	697.24
Kathy Armitage	296.54	Wise Electric	143.00
Moyer Indoor/Outdoor	47.00	Airgas National Carbonation	58.00
Nelsons Creamery, LLC	191.57	Derstine's	76.70
NetCarrier Telecom, Inc.	131.28	Moyer Indoor/Outdoor	179.55
North Penn Water Authority	1,560.25	Total Pool Fund	\$8,242.02

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Andrew Randazzo Architects	\$3,325.00	Phillips & Donovan Architects	\$7,885.00
Boucher & James, Inc.	1,811.91	Univest Capital	3,155.23
CC Construction Services	\$53,254.42	Asphalt Maintenance Solutions	6,388.80
Good Plumbing Heating A/C, Inc.	1,205.88	Blooming Glen Quarry	630.00
Phillips & Donovan Architects	13,391.50	CC Construction Services	239,461.72
SEPTA	578.86	H & K Materials	1,582.87
Univest Bank & Trust Co.	1,399.28	Naceville Materials	98.02
Univest Capital	3,155.23	Styer Associates	3,200.00
DCED	\$1,800.00	Total Capital Reserve Fund	\$342,323.72

LIQUID FUELS FUND

PPL Electric Utilities	\$7,209.62	Pendergast Safety Equipment	\$170.88
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PPL Electric Utilities	\$85.76	PPL Electric Utilities	\$7,094.37
Sealmaster	1,449.08	Sealmaster	667.86
Shelly Enterprises-USLBM, LLC	57.96		
Asphalt Maintenance Solutions	21,681.11	Total Liquid Fuels Fund	\$38,416.64

A motion was made by Councillor Richard Godshall, seconded by Councillor Jeffrey Gross, to authorize payment of the bills for the month of September, 2016, as presented. The motion was approved.

President Brian K. Goshow opened the floor to the audience who may wish to address Borough Council on any topic or matter of concern.

Bernard Blanche, 521 Lincoln Avenue, expressed concern with the Borough adopting the 2015 version of the International Property Maintenance Code. In particular he expressed concern that the occupancy restriction per square feet of bedroom space may be used as a detriment to minorities and low income families.

Alexander Grande, 339 Madison Avenue, expressed appreciation to Borough Council for implementing municipal trash collection service.

Richard D'Amico of Consign for Design and Artistic Director Thomas Quinn of the Montgomery Theater discussed the success of Montgomery Theater, current and future shows and planned fundraising events to support the operations of the Montgomery Theater. Councillor Ned Leight will be joining the theater board. Mayor Reynolds was a prior board member and continues to be a strong supporter of the Montgomery Theater.

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

A motion was made by Councillor Ricard Godshall, and seconded by Councillor Daniel Houser, to enact Ordinance No. 16-727-05 granting a non-exclusive franchise to Comcast of Southeast Pennsylvania, LLC to operate a cable system in the Borough of Souderton for a term of fifteen years. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Jeffrey Gross, and seconded by Councillor Richard Halbom, to approve a Change Order to the Souderton Train Station Restoration General Construction contract with CC Construction Services, 1209 Hausman Road, Allentown, Pennsylvania to complete an addition and exterior renovations to the Freight Building at a cost of \$374,948.00. The motion was approved by a vote of 8 yeas to one nay, with the dissenting vote cast by Councillor Kevin Souder.

Councillor Daniel Yocum noted that he will not participate in the discussion or vote concerning the Uninvest loan given his employment with Uninvest Bank and Trust Company.

A motion was made by Councillor Richard Godshall, and seconded by Councillor Ned Leight, to authorize execution of the loan commitment letter dated August 17, 2016 from Uninvest Bank and Trust Company to extend a \$500,000 general obligation loan for renovations to the freight building and authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare required loan documentation and advertise an Ordinance authorizing the borrowing. The motion was approved by a vote of 7 yeas, one no vote from Councillor Kevin Souder and one abstention from Councillor Daniel Yocum.

A motion was made by Councillor Richard Halbom, and seconded by Councillor Daniel Houser, to appoint Robert R. Wellington, 101 Forrest Road, Telford, Pennsylvania to serve a five year term on the Souderton Industrial Development Authority through August 4, 2021. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Richard Godshall, and seconded by Councillor Daniel Yocum, to appoint Ryan Godshall, 318 Madison Avenue, Souderton, Pennsylvania

to the Souderton Industrial Development Authority to fill the unexpired term of Kenneth Edmonds through August 4, 2018. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Ned Leight, and seconded by Councillor Richard Halbom, to approve the 2015 General Purpose Financial Statements as prepared by Styer Associates, Certified Public Accountants. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Daniel Yocum, and seconded by Councillor Jeffrey Gross, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters of pending litigation with the Borough Solicitor. The motion was approved.

Borough Council adjourned to executive session at 8:15 pm and convened to public session at 9:45 pm, at which time the meeting was promptly adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary

WORK SESSION MINUTES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works Work Session – October 10, 2016 (7:00pm-9:40pm)

Council Attendees: John Reynolds, Brian Goshow, Jeffrey Gross, Richard Godshall, Daniel Yocum, Daniel Houser, Tracy Burke, Richard Halbom and Kevin Souder.

Staff Attendees: Police Chief James P. Leary, Public Works Director Steven Coll and Borough Manager Michael Coll.

The work session began with a presentation from Patrick Mills who is working on an Eagle Scout Project. He proposed to construct and install wood trash receptacles in the Souderton Community Park. The receptacle will be constructed from pressure treated lumber and will accommodate a plastic trash can, similar to the existing metal containers around the pavilion. The receptacle will have a removable lid, tethered with a chain, with a cut out appropriately sized to control dumping large trash bags. He plans to construct four to six units, with installation in the spring. The wood will be stained with a green color to match the paint scheme on the pavilion and band shell. Borough Council approved the concept and asked him to work more closely with staff on the details and eventual installation.

President Brian Goshow next recognized developer Clayton Heckler and his planning consultant to discuss concept plans for the development of the remaining high school site. A concept plan was circulated showing additional townhouse units behind the approved units along Chestnut Street and School Lane with mixed use buildings within the interior of the site. A restaurant is shown along E. Broad Street with commercial units along County Line Road. Parking was provided to the rear of the units. The developer requested comments on the proposed plan and consideration to various amendments to the current Zoning Ordinance. Borough Council expressed concern with the additional townhomes and the overall residential density on the site. Suggestions were made to improve the interior flow of the site and provide better site amenities. Considerable discussion was held on the proposed concept plan ending with a suggestion to consider improvements and bring back alternatives for further discussion.

1. Sanitation Committee

- a. The Discharge Monitoring Report for the month of September, 2016 will be filed with no exception to permit limitations. The Borough Manager noted that

the plastic air diffusers have shown signs of warping and twisting due to excessive heat of the return air to the treatment units. Additional bracing will be added before the units are placed back in operation.

- b. Borough Manager Michael Coll noted that the grant application was completed and submitted under the PA Small water and Sewer Program for funding assistance to install of the new mechanical bar screen at the headworks to the plant. The Manager noted that this will be a very competitive grant program given the amount of available funding and the potential statewide number of applications. The deadline is October 31, 2016 with announcements in early 2017.

2. Highway Committee

- a. Public Works Director Steven Coll discussed plans to complete paving work on Green Street and complete milling and base work on East Chestnut Street. Paving of Green Street is expected to be completed by the end of October, with a request to PennDOT to authorize an extension to complete the base paving on East Chestnut Street into mid-November. Crews will be completing the extension of storm drainage up the alley into the Holly Hill Park prior to the completion of paving.

3. Sidewalk Committee

- a. County Line Road curb and sidewalk construction plans are complete and have been submitted to PennDOT for permitting. The Borough will need to request an extension to complete this project in spring of 2017. The Borough needs to complete the review of plans with PennDOT and schedule the relocation of the utility poles. Borough Manager Michael Coll noted that the Borough will have two open CDBG projects going into 2017 and as such the Borough will not pursue another grant until the open projects are closed out.

4. Recreation Committee

- a. Borough Councillor Richard Godshall noted that consideration should be given to replacing the existing benches in the Souderton Community Park. The existing concrete and frame benches are very heavy, in relatively poor condition and have sunken in the ground. A more modern style bench would provide a better appearance and be more useable by the residents. He also noted that the Borough needs to address maintenance of the play structure and add additional play equipment. The Borough Manager noted that Club Genesis has donated a play structure from their County Line Road club that the Borough intends to install at the Community Park for use in 2017.

5. Property Committee

- a. Borough Manager Michael Coll reported on the status of the Train Station project. SEPTA continues to review plans to relocate electric service to the train station building. This has turned out to be a monumental task between SEPTA and PPL Electric Utilities. The Borough is in conversation with a local restaurant to lease the train station building. SEPTA has completed review of the freight building plans and has authorized the work to begin, with a condition that as built drawings be submitted to SEPTA when the project is complete.

Borough Manager Michael Coll distributed copies of the budget comparison reports for all funds through the third quarter ending September 30, 2016. The budget comparisons will serve as the basis for developing 2017 Budget estimates.

Administrative Work Session- October 17, 2016 (7:00pm-10:10pm)

Council Attendees: John Reynolds, Brian Goshow, Ned Leight, Jeffrey Gross, Richard Godshall, Daniel Yocum, Daniel Houser, Tracy Burke, Richard Halbom and Kevin Souder.
Junior Councillor Shane Myers.

Staff Attendees: Police Chief James Leary, Borough Manager Michael Coll.

1. Police Committee

- a. Police Chief Leary reviewed the statistical and narrative reports of police activities through the month of September.
- b. The speed trailer has been located in the area of School Lane and Central Avenue in response to resident concerns about speeding and potential accidents. Speeds were printed out and circulated to Borough Council. While the percentages are within expected normal ranges, Borough Council members suggested that the data does seem to indicate potential speeding issues that need further evaluation. Stronger enforcement may be an appropriate response.
- c. Chief Leary did make some evaluation of the handicapped parking request for 64 Hillside Avenue. He noted that a handicapped parking space already exists in proximity to this property that appears to be utilized about fifty percent of the time. Further consideration will be made before offering a recommendation.
- d. Chief Leary commented that there are many successful and popular community events in the Borough. The success of these events is directly attributable to the Public Works department who sets up barricades, detour routes and handles street sweeping and trash. The Souderton Fire Police unit is a very reliable resource to aid the police officers with traffic control and details.

2. Administrative Committee

- a. Borough Manager Michael Coll presented Borough Council with a revised draft copy of the proposed ordinance adopting the 2015 Property Maintenance Code with local modifications. The section regulation the visibility of trash containers has been softened. A new section addressing parking on lawn surfaces was added. The Ordinance will be advertised for consideration at the November 7, 2016 Borough Council meeting.

3. Development Committee

- a. Developer Clayton Heckler did have a follow up telephone conversation with the Borough Manager following last week's work session. He will be working with his planning consultant to address the comments of Borough Council and anticipates that he will return next month with additional information.

4. Finance Committee

- a. Borough Manager Michael Coll discussed a proposal to modify the Souderton Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan to increase the retirement age for all employees hired in 1980 or later from age 60 to age 62 with 25 years of service. The plan revision will also add a three year Deferred Retirement Option Plan for employees who meet the retirement criteria. The DROP provision is neutral to plan costs, with the increase in retirement age creating a positive actuarial cost effect on the plan. A recommendation to advertise the pension plan revisions for formal consideration will be made at the November 7 Borough Council meeting.
- b. The Borough Manager circulated a confidential draft of a Letter of Intent concerning the potential lease of the train station building to a local restaurant. Depending on the reaction of the prospective tenant, a recommendation is

expected to be made at the November 7, 2016 to approve the general terms of the lease agreement and consider a Resolution supporting the issuance of a liquor license for the train station restaurant.

- c. Borough Manager Michael Coll circulated a draft of the 2017 General Fund Budget for review of Borough Council. The General Fund budget is the primary fund of the Borough that impacts and feeds some of the other major funds. Considerable time was taken to discuss this initial draft. Reviewing the trash service program, the Borough Manager noted an issue with the optional bag program which has a negative impact on the overall Borough trash collection service. There are 160 active accounts under the optional bag program; however, only 40 of the 160 accounts have purchased trash bags. The Borough only charges a base fee of \$7.50 per quarter for this option with additional revenue expected from the sale of trash bags. The current cost to service these accounts is \$47.25 per quarter. The Borough is clearly experiencing a significant operating loss, which left unaddressed will jeopardize the ability to hold the \$60.00 per quarter rate for standard service through 2018 as promised to the residents. The optional bag program is not available to any new account going forward. Borough Council discussed possible alternatives to address this problem, with a possible suggestion to raise the quarterly rate closer to \$25.00 per quarter, which will include three trash bags. While there will still be a loss, the gap will be much less. A special work session will be held on Monday, October 24, 2016 to further discuss the 2017 Budget.

Budget Work Session- October 24, 2016 (7:00pm-9:55pm)

Council Attendees: John Reynolds, Brian Goshow, Daniel Yocum, Daniel Houser, Tracy Burke, Richard Halbom and Kevin Souder.

Staff Attendees: Police Chief James Leary, Borough Manager Michael Coll.

President Brian Goshow first recognized Joanne Coppens, Manager of Souderton-Telford Main Streets. Joanne Coppens described efforts of Main Streets to help promote the business community. The recent Art Jam in the Souderton Community Park was very successful and continues to grow. Joanne Coppens also serves as the BID Manager with a 9 member advisory council that recommends the priorities and uses for the funds assessed within the Business Improvement District. Borough Council discussed the benefit of retaining membership in the DVRPC Classic Towns program. The website is very disappointing and it seems to be difficult to access classic towns' information. A recommendation was made to leave the membership dues in the 2017 Budget for further discussion later in the year.

Borough Council reviewed the draft of the 2017 Budget for all major funds. A number of corrections and adjustments were suggested to several line items. Borough Council discussed paving priorities and capital improvements to the Souderton Municipal Building. Borough Council discussed a desire to make capital improvements to the Community Park playground, replace benches and complete the paving of the added parking area off the alley. Considerable discussion was held on the Sewer Operating Budget and the need to consider an increase in rates. The auditors have expressed concern over stagnant revenue growth for several years. The Borough is facing potential upgrade expenses that may be mandated with the issuance of a new NPDES permit in 2018. Phosphorus and nutrient loads have been under increasing scrutiny. The cost for the potential upgrades will be several million dollars. A recommendation was made to implement a rate increase in 2017 to better align revenue and expenses and to help grow revenue to the Sewer Capital Fund.

The 2017 Budget will be presented at the November 7, 2016 Borough Council meeting with a recommendation to advertise the 2017 Budget and 2017 Tax Ordinance for formal consideration at the December 5, 2016 Borough Council meeting.