



**Borough Council**

Tracy W. Burke, President  
Edward M. Huber, Vice President  
Matthew J. DiNenna  
Daryl W. Littlefield  
Julie A. Munden  
Donna M. Rogers  
Richard M. Walczak  
Matthew R. Sholly  
Stephanie Hall

**Mayor**  
Daniel L. Yocum

**Acting Borough Manager**  
Sara Jarrett-Eaton

**Code Enforcement Officer**  
Steven J. Toy

**Souderton Borough Council Regular Meeting Minutes**

June 3, 2024

The Regular Meeting of Souderton Borough Council, held on June 3, 2024, was called to order by Council President Tracy W. Burke at 7:04pm. President Burke stated that this evening's meeting will be recorded. Councilor Edward Huber provided the Invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Borough Secretary Sara E. Jarrett-Eaton noted that Councilor Matthew J. DiNenna and Councilor Matthew Sholly were absent with prior notice this evening. The following Borough Councilors and staff were present: Council President Tracy W. Burke, Mayor Daniel L. Yocum, Councilor Edward M. Huber, Acting Borough Manager Sara Jarrett-Eaton, Councilor Daryl W. Littlefield, Solicitor John Torrente, Councilor Julie A. Munden, Police Chief Brian A. Newhall, Councilor Donna M. Rogers, Councilor Stephanie Hall, Public Works Director Steven Coll and Administrative Assistant Christine Nicholas

**A motion was made by Councilor Daryl Littlefield, and seconded by Councilor Donna Rogers, to approve the Consent Agenda to include the May 6, 2024, Council meeting minutes and the bills for May & June. The motion was approved.**

**Special Presentations**

Daniel Hauser, Representative of Concert Sundaes, was pleased to announce that they have received their programs and had their first concert last night, Sunday, June 2, 2024. Mr. Hauser reviewed the booklet and thanked the Borough staff, Police Department and Public Works Department for all their help.

Chief Brian Newhall invited retiring Officer Divergigelis for a special presentation. Officer Martin Divergigelis served Souderton starting in 2006 and worked for 17 years with many accommodations, which Chief Newhall highlighted for the audience. He was presented with his retirement accommodation and retirement badge by Chief Brian Newhall.

## **Administrative Reports**

- a. Mayor Daniel Yocum had no report.
- b. Police Chief Brian Newhall summarized the monthly report of the police department activities which included 11 crashes, 59 traffic stops, 105 service calls, 4 arrests, 2 DUIs, and special event attendance. Chief Newhall offered comments on the ongoing concerns for the Safety of crossing guards. He explained that last week MaryAnn Duke was almost struck by a vehicle while performing her duties as a crossing guard. Chief Newhall explained that he has worked to contact PennDOT but has been unsuccessful. He encouraged that suggestions had been made and other ideas were welcome. Council President Tracy Burke spoke to the importance of this issue and educating the public.
- c. Public Works Director Steven Coll summarized the activities of the Public Works Department over the month of April. Mr. Coll reported that the department finished Wile Avenue paving and will be painting lines. The Basketball Court was completed earlier that day, and the fence will be taken down. A lot of work has been completed at the pool due to the plastering, and the heater issues have been rectified. Banners have been hung and the brush collection has been completed for June. The mowing contract is going well for the department. Mayor Yocum inquired about the condition of some of the banners and if there was a process for replacement.
- d. Borough Solicitor John Torrente submitted his report. Item #3 on his report related to the 650 E. Broad Street project which is on the Planning Committee agenda this Wednesday. He reported that he will have more information regarding the project by the work session.
- e. Acting Borough Manager Sara Jarrett-Eaton provided her report covering various updates across the Borough. She highlighted the building improvements at the municipal building, her ongoing training as she onboards with the Borough, and the opening of Community Pool and its success. She also reported on increased vandalism at Community Park and encouraged patrons of the park to report any issues they observe. Councilors expressed concern regarding the vandalism and inquired about possible solutions.

## **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee – Councilor Munden introduced Eli Steglik as the Borough’s Junior Councilor over the past two years. Junior Councilor Steglik will be graduating this month, and his term will expire. Councilor Munden highlighted Junior Councilor Steglik’s impact over the course of his term and thanked him for his work. Junior Councilor Steglik shared that he will be going to Bloomsburg University for a teaching degree to teach grades fourth through eighth. Junior Councilor Steglik thanked the council for the opportunity to serve.

Public Outreach – Councilor Littlefield reported that the committee is working on the IV Newsletter for the fall edition. He also reported that we will be participating in hosting the council table at 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays.

Public Safety – Councilor Munder reported that the committee met in May and plan to schedule for June or July and will discuss crossing guard issue.

## **Public Comment**

Charlie Brown 433 Central Avenue- Mr. Brown addressed the council regarding the safety concerns for the crossing guard at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Broad Streets. He walked to 2<sup>nd</sup> and Broad where MaryAnn was almost hit and had a similar experience. He expressed that people have forgotten a school is there. He suggested having signs and reduced speed to preempt a tragedy. Ms. Coon and Mr. Brown have been in contact with Steve Malagari’s office about the issue and what can be done. He added that a large group of parents want to help.

Elizabeth Coon, 128 E. Summit Street- Ms. Coon expressed that safety is a huge concern at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Broad and Front Street. She requested changes to be made and to hold people accountable. She referenced a report citing that 25 miles per hour can kill a child and 15 miles per hour is more appropriate.

Councilor Munden expressed that her husband was hit by a car in that area while walking their dog. She will do everything she can to do to help with this issue.

Mary Montray from South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street suggested pushing the car park back so drivers can see to help visibility better when making a turn.

Councilor Burke said it is very important feedback we are receiving this evening.

Charl Wellner of Hunsberger Lane in Souderton- Ms. Wellner explained that in front of the Broad Theater, people dart out from between the cars. She added that at Wile Avenue and Green Street there is a big divot in the middle of the road and requested it be patched. Steve Coll said it is a PECO project and he will contact them. She also inquired about potential solutions to the issues at Community Park.

Mary Ann Duke, Crossing Guard responded that the flashing sign does not flash. Steve Coll says its solar sign and there is an issue with it getting enough sunlight to power it. She added that she does not just cross kids, but all pedestrians cross the street. She also made comments about the speed in that area and expressed concern with the truck traffic and their braking.

### **Business:**

- a. Conditional Use Decision for School Lane Development: John Torrente presented written decision for the approval of the Goddard School at the School Lane Development. Councilor Burke explained that it was conceptually approved by the council at the last meeting.

**Councilor Edward Huber made a motion to approve the conditional use decision for the Goddard School located at the Town Gate Commons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stephanie Hall and passed unanimously.**

The general meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. and the Council met in the conference room for an Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sara E. Jarrett-Eaton*

Sara E. Jarrett-Eaton, Borough Secretary

Transcribed by: Christine Nicholas, Executive Assistant