

Regular Meeting

March 7, 2022

The Regular Meeting of Souderton Borough Council was called to order by President Tracy W. Burke at 7:00 p.m. President Burke reminded the members and audience that the Borough Council meeting is being recorded through Zoom and will be posted to the Borough web site.

The Invocation was given by Borough Council President Tracy Burke, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Borough Secretary P. Michael Coll conducted a Roll Call with the following members of Borough Council and staff present:

President Tracy W. Burke	Mayor Daniel L. Yocum
Vice-President Edward M. Huber	
Councillor Matthew J. DiNenna	Junior Councillor Nick Mancini
Councillor Daryl W. Littlefield	
Councillor Julie A. Munden	Solicitor Robert G. Bricker
Councillor Donna Rogers	Borough Manager P. Michael Coll
Councillor Richard M. Walczak	Police Chief Brian Newhall
Councillor Courtnee L. Wampole	Public Works Director Steven R. Coll

Absent from the meeting was Borough Councillor Matthew Sholly.

Consideration was given to the minutes of the February 7, 2022 Regular Borough Council Meeting, the February 21, 2022 Borough Council Work Session Meeting and the Special Borough Council Work Session held on February 28, 2022.

A motion was made by Councillor Daryl Littlefield, and seconded by Councillor Julie Munden, to approve the minutes of February 7, 2022 Regular Borough Council Meeting as presented. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Julie Munden, and seconded by Councillor Courtnee Wampole, to approve the minutes of February 21, 2022 Borough Council Work Session Meeting as presented. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Courtnee Wampole, and seconded by Councillor Daryl Littlefield, to approve the minutes of February 28, 2022 Special Borough Council Work Session Meeting as presented. The motion was approved.

President Burke first recognized Christina DiVergigelis of Souderton Connects for a brief report. The Main Streets Manager noted that Souderton Connects will be hosting the “So You Think You Can Cook” event on April 6, 2022 at the Franconia

Heritage. Third Fridays will start in May through October, information is posted on their web site.

Mayor Daniel Yocum commented that Richard Albright is an active volunteer firefighter with the Perseverance Volunteer Fire Company and has elected to expand his volunteer service as a member of the Souderton Fire Police unit. Mayor Yocum expressed his appreciation for his service and administered the Oath of Office to Richard Albright as he joins the Souderton Fire Police.

President Tracy Burke commented that Borough Council is pleased to add two full time police officers to the Souderton Police Department. The Souderton Civil Service Commission has certified Jason Saucier and James Throop as the top two candidates. James Throop currently serves as a part time police officer with Souderton Borough.

A motion was made by Councillor Julie Munden, and seconded by Councillor Courtnee Wampole, to appoint Jason P. Saucier to serve as a full time police officer with the Souderton Police Department effective February 28, 2022. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Councillor Julie Munden, and seconded by Councillor Daryl Littlefield, to appoint James C. Throop to serve as a full time police officer with the Souderton Police Department effective February 28, 2022. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Daniel Yocum provided a brief background on each of the two new officers and administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed police officers Jason Saucier and James Throop.

Mayor Daniel Yocum commented on a fundraising event for the Souderton Fire Company Auxiliary. The Souderton-Telford Rotary Club is hosting a fundraising event in March to support the Community Park Renovation project.

Police Chief Brian Newhall expressed appreciation to Souderton Borough Council for bringing the two new full time police officers on board. Chief Newhall summarized the February, 2022 monthly report to Borough Council. Councillor Julie Munden expressed appreciation to Chief Newhall and the department to address recent highway traffic calming initiatives. Chief Newhall noted that Officer James Throop will be tasked with this effort.

The Borough Solicitor's report for the month of February was distributed to Borough Council. The Solicitor advertised the Ordinance under consideration to revise and extend the previously approved \$500,000 general obligation loan for the Community Park Renovation project. The Solicitor met with the Economic Development Committee

to discuss the leasing process with interested tenants and SEPTA concerning the Freight Building. The Solicitor discussed property maintenance violations at 236 E. Broad Street with the Code Enforcement Officer. The Solicitor assisted the Borough with the filing of a DCNR Certification of Title and a DCNR Bid Compliance form as a condition of the DCNR grant for the playground equipment at the Community Park.

Public Works Director Steven Coll distributed his monthly report of public works activities to Borough Council for their review and information. Crews completed annual equipment maintenance, pothole patching and sign maintenance during the month. Two employees were on sick leave for minor surgeries during the month, both employees have since returned to work. The new brush chipper has been delivered and monthly brush collection will begin this week. Crews will remove the cover and drain the competition pool. The condition of the plaster and a potential leak are of concern prior to opening the pool for the summer season. Crews will begin adding mulch safety surfacing at the playgrounds as weather and ground conditions permit. Site work at the Community Park is expected to start towards the end of March.

Borough Manager Michael Coll noted that Borough Council will hold their monthly work session on March 21, 2022. The Borough Manager will be away on vacation during the week of March 14th. Officer Manager Beatrice Kaizar will serve as the primary contact should any issues arise in the manager's absence. The Zoning Hearing Board will be meeting on March 29, 2022 to consider a variance request for property at 105 N School Lane to locate a shed within the required setback from E. Chestnut Street. The next Borough Council meeting will be Monday, April 4, 2022.

The Borough Manager further noted a letter from Daniel Houser concerning a request to hold a fireworks event in the Community Park in conjunction with Concert Sundaes. The developer of Towne Gate Commons just inquired whether Borough Council will consider a day care use for the commercial pad site on Souder Way. The remaining agenda items for this meeting include formal consideration of the Ordinance revising the terms of the \$500,000 General Obligation Loan for the renovation of the Community Park. This loan was formally approved in 2019 but the pandemic delayed the implementation of the project and the initial draw down terms have since expired. The next item is authorization to purchase a used Ford Taurus police vehicle from Fred Beans Ford at a price of \$17,965.00. The 2022 Budget included \$25,000.00 towards a vehicle purchase. The last item requests authorization to sell the 1992 Ford F-350 utility truck to Sellersville Borough for a price of \$8,000.00.

Councillor Courtnee Wampole reported that the Economic Development Committee met with the Solicitor Charlotte Hunsberger to discuss the Freight Building lease to a microbrewery. The committee is also reviewing the estimated cost to fit out the building and complete the site work.

Councillor Richard Walczak reported that the Public safety Committee will be meeting next week and the Finance Committee will be meeting this week to discuss the planned capital projects and the use of the ARPA grant funds.

Councillor Daryl Littlefield noted that the Public Outreach Committee will be holding Borough Council office hours Saturday, March 19, 2022 in the Lobby of the Souderton Municipal Building from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Councillor Edward Huber reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee will be meeting this week in preparation for the opening of the Souderton Pool for the 2022 summer season. Bennington Pool Services will be attending this meeting. The Committee will be working to address membership rates, daily admissions and swim lessons.

Mayor Daniel Yocum noted that earlier this evening the Souderton Borough Economic and Revitalization Plan Committee met. There are 1,200 responses to the committee’s survey concerning revitalization planning priorities which is a very impressive response rate. Councillor Julie Munden also noted that the survey went out in Spanish to the community, nearly 17% of the population is Spanish.

President Tracy Burke suggested that the proposed day care facility for the Towne Gate Commons development be placed on the March 21st work session agenda for further review and discussion. The developer should be invited to attend the work session with any plans for the proposed facility.

Consideration was given to paying the bills for the month of February, 2022.

GENERAL FUND

Advance Auto Parts	\$207.98	NAPA Auto parts	\$56.84
Altek Business Systems, Inc.	151.96	Nationwide Trust Company	1,820.93
Clemens Uniform Rental	69.38	NetCarrier Telecom, Inc.	305.06
Code Inspections, Inc.	422.50	North American Benefits Co.	1,070.99
Copes Garage, Inc.	1,218.59	Nucitrus	100.00
Davidheisers, Inc.	91.00	PECO Energy	349.88
Delta Dental Gettysburg Benefit	1,214.04	PA One Call System	62.04
Donald D. Bergey	3,904.33	PPL Electric Utilities	2,149.28
Dunnes Towing, Inc.	292.50	PPL Electric Utilities	51.95
FP Finance Program	359.00	Richter Drafting Office Supply	485.03
Fretz Enterprises	59.88	Security Service Co., Inc.	1,076.52
Fromm Electric Supply Corp.	181.66	Shelly Enterprises-USLBM, LLC	4.94
George Allen Portable Toilets	146.00	Something Better, Inc.	1,100.00
Georges Tool Rental	790.00	Steven R. Coll	360.56
Good Plumbing Heating A/C, Inc.	164.00	Suburban Propane	486.67
Grand View Health	142.00	Telford Press Printers	41.00
Home Depot	100.61	The Harrison Group, Inc.	255.00
Independence Blue Cross	18,103.42	Univest Visa	275.90

I V Chamber of Commerce	\$624.40	Univest VISA	\$415.89
John R. Young & Co.	715.55	Univest VISA	111.73
Komatsu America Corp	136.78	Unum Insurance Company	1,172.05
Maryjane Yoder	718.12	Verizon	73.87
Metlife/Brighthouse/GASB	5,772.46	Verizon Wireless	191.67
Montg. Co. Boroughs Assoc.	175.00	Wise Electric	450.00
Moyer Indoor/Outdoor	6,722.05	Total General Fund	\$54,951.01

SEWER FUND

Bergey's Electric, Inc.	\$163.34	Moyer Indoor/Outdoor	\$186.17
CCP Industries, Inc.	484.50	NetCarrier Telecom, Inc.	108.77
Clemens Uniform Rental	47.23	North American Benefits Co.	254.20
Coyne Chemical	5,374.00	PPL Electric Utilities	232.53
Delta Dental Gettysburg Benefit	364.32	Richard D. Nelson	372.90
Derstine Company, Inc.	6,865.00	Rodney Shoemaker Plumbing, Inc.	104.00
Empire Scale Corporation	408.32	Suburban water Testing labs	1,866.00
EVOQUA Water Technologies	3,631.70	The Harrison Group, Inc.	75.00
Good Plumbing Heating A/C, Inc.	632.76	Univar Solutions USA, Inc.	1,515.00
Home Depot	396.96	Unum Insurance Company	269.87
Independence Blue Cross	4,390.18	USA Blue Book	1,950.50
J. P. Mascaro & Sons	2,229.50	Verizon	78.77
L/B Water Service, Inc.	1,240.00		
Metlife/Brighthouse/GASB	184.56	Total Sewer Fund	\$33,426.08

POOL FUND

Airgas National Carbonation	\$84.36	PECO Energy	\$243.70
Home Depot	14.87	PPL Electric Utilities	116.06
NetCarrier Telecom, Inc.	89.85	Total Pool Fund	\$548.84

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Montg Co. Conservation District	\$975.00	Phillips & Donovan	\$4,565.00
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LIQUID FUELS FUND

PPL Electric Utilities	\$6,908.36	PPL Electric Utilities	\$44.99
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A motion was made by Councillor Donna Rogers, and seconded by Councillor Julie Munden, to pay the bills for the month of February, 2022 and authorize the payment of recurring expenses for the month of March, 2022, as presented. The motion was approved.

President Tracy Burke opened the floor to the audience for public comment.

James P. Leary, 360 Wile Avenue inquired if Souderton Borough Council desires to consider a fireworks event for 2022. Celebration Fireworks has held successful events

in the Community Park starting with the 125th Celebration eight years ago. The average attendance has been 8,000. He has been working with Celebration Fireworks through the past years and would be glad to assist in any way to help arrange an event for this summer.

President Tracy Burke noted that this matter will be reviewed at the March 21st work session. President Burke recognizes the degree of public support, but also realizes the concerns and safety issues of others as well. Mayor Dan Yocum added that the safety concerns will be discussed with fire company officers and the Fire Marshall prior to the March work session.

Barbara Smith, owner of 143 Main Street, commented that the revitalization survey had a number of responses concerning the lack of progress on the Northend Market building at 140 Main Street. Bea Smith noted that she has not given up on the Northeast Market project, but has decided to focus available financing on renovations to the property at 143 Main Street. The renovation plans for the building at 143 Main Street propose a Mediterranean style restaurant on the first floor of this building, with a microbrewery in the street level store front. She is hoping to begin renovations at 143 Main Street by June of this year. The renovation plans are nearly complete and will be submitted for permitting very shortly.

Michael Pipe, 570 E. Garfield Avenue commented that the minutes of the January 24, 2022 Special Borough Council meeting did not accurately reflect his comments. He requested a revision to the minutes noting that the only municipal election Matthew Sholly voted in during the last ten years was the 2019 election. Michael Pipe further commented that Borough Council needs to consider reapportionment of the three wards pursuant to the provisions of the State Borough Code. The 2010 Census reported a Souderton population of 6618. The 2020 Census reported a Souderton population of 7,191, an increase of over 570. In order to have wards of equal population, Michael Pipe suggested that the ward boundaries need to be changed to move 94 of Ward 1 population into Ward 3 and to move 69 of Ward 2 population to Ward 3.

President Tracy Burke commented that this matter has been discussed. With the assistance of the Montgomery County Planning Commission, it has been determined that the relative proportion of population between the three wards is within seven percent (7%). President Burke suggested there is no reason to consider ward reapportionment at this time, but recommended that the proportion of population in the three wards be evaluated again in the future when the current developments are completed.

There being no further public comment, President Burke moved to the remaining scheduled items of business, starting with the Ordinance for the revised loan for the Community Park project.

A motion was made by Councillor Julie Munden, and seconded by Councillor Edward Huber, to enact Ordinance No. 22-752-01 authorizing the execution of a revised \$500,000 General Obligation Note with Univest Bank and Trust Company to serve as financing for the renovation of the Souderton Community Park. Mayor Yocum commented that Borough Council is sensitive to taking on debt. This is considered as interim financing with an expectation that this loan will be paid by community donations through DCNR grant funds, the Souderton-Telford Rotary Club fundraising campaign and other major project donors. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of Borough Council.

A motion was made by Councillor Daryl Littlefield, and seconded by Councillor Donna Rogers, to authorize the purchase of a used 2018 Ford Taurus police vehicle from Fred Beans Ford at a purchase price of \$17,965.00. Police Chief Brian Newhall noted that the vehicle is fully equipped, was used on a college campus and only has 38,000 miles. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Edward Huber, and seconded by Councillor Courtnee Wampole, to authorize the sale of the 1992 Ford F-350 Utility/Aerial Boom Truck to the Borough of Sellersville at a price of \$8,000.00. The motion was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary