

SELINGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 4, 2024 – 7:00PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: C/P Richard Mease, C/P Bobbie J. Owens, C/P Sara Maul, C/P Todd Cox, C/P Christian Schlieder, C/P Scott M. Frost

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Jeff Reed, Solicitor Robert Cravitz, Borough Manager/Secretary Lauren Martz, Assistant Borough Manager/Treasurer Sheri Badman, Administrative Assistant Carrie Briggs, Selingsgrove Police Chief Mitchell, Sgt. Petrovich, Selingsgrove Chamber of Commerce Helen Walter, Daily Item Marcia Moore, Resident: Jason Rice, Catherine Rice & family, Bryan & Rita Deklinski, REC Shellie McCurdy, Michael & Derek Savidge, CK-COG Rodney Neitz & Jim Emery, SU Kelly Waldron, Faith Butler, Darm Martin

Others Absent: C/P Shane Hendricks

Zoom: DH&L Assistant Chief Jason Kaufman

President Mease called for a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FROM COUNCIL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 5, 2024:

C/P Frost made a motion to accept the minutes for February 5th as written. C/P Maul seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO BE HEARD:

DH&L Fire Company: Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kaufman was not present but plans to join via Zoom if he can.

DH&L Ambulance League: President Mease read the report provided by Chief Hipple. There were 179 total calls with 60 of them in Selingsgrove Borough. There were no missed calls in the borough. All the licensed ambulance units are currently in service. DH&L is working closely with other agencies in the region to be sure anyone needing emergency care receives it.

Selingsgrove Projects Inc: No report.

Selingsgrove Chamber of Commerce: No report.

Selingsgrove Area Recreation Inc: No report.

Selingsgrove Flood Task Force: No report.

Parks & Recreation Board: No report but there is interest from Shellie McCurdy to join the Parks and Recreation Board.

C/P Frost made a motion to appoint Shellie McCurdy to the Park and Recreation Board. C/P Owens seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

OTHER PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

A. Rodney Neitz and Jim Emery of CK-COG were present to answer any questions Borough Council or residents have concerning their role in the community. There were some questions about rental registration costs and what is involved with the inspection. C/P Owens asked about sitting down to re-evaluate the program since some of the reasons the program was adopted in the first place have been eliminated reducing the need for some requirements.

B. Manager/Secretary Lauren Martz spoke about the Grease Trap program which was developed prior to her arrival. She explained how the self-monitoring program currently works and some issues the Borough has been facing to include the cost of remediation when a situation arises. Jim Emery of CK-COG stated when there is non-compliance with self-monitoring the Borough has them do an inspection of the business grease trap. They do the inspection and some training on the cleaning and logging process. The sewer line clean-out process is necessary when there is a clog, but it is costly.

C. Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kaufman joined via Zoom at 7:29PM to provide a report for DH&L Fire Department. For the month of February there were 27 incidents, many of these incidents were reported the day of the snowstorm. There was no significant fire loss in the Borough. Pictures of the new fire truck were provided and presented for all at the meeting to see. The week of March 20th four members of DH&L Fire Department will be traveling to Appleton, WI to do the final inspection. The DH&L Easter Open House will be March 30th.

D. Bryan Deklinski addressed Council concerning a penalty fee on his water/sewer/recycling billing for the third quarter of 2023.

C/P Maul made a motion to approve a one-time forgiveness of the penalty fee since Bryan Deklinski has never been late on a payment. C/P Cox seconded the motion.

AYES: FOUR(4) NAYS: TWO (2) MOTION CARRIED

(Nays)C/P Owens, C/P Frost – Both stated they would like to have this topic taken to the Committee for further discussion to establish guidelines prior to approving any forgiveness.

E. Shellie McCurdy from The REC stated since her last report the Drop-In Program has had 901 daily check-ins with an average of 53 students per day. There are currently 294 students registered with 15 new students since the February report. Activities and Events since the last report include: Teen U from Transitions of PA, Yoga, Healthy Coping Workshop for teens, Lewisburg Children’s Museum – STEAM Workshop, Shellie and approximately 32 students are preparing a mural to hang in the lobby at the Susquehanna Valley Chorale Concert on March 16 and 17th, the Cornhole Fundraising Tournament was a success on March 2nd, on March 23rd there will be a Trivia Event at 6:00PM and the cost is \$5.00/person, on April 6th there is a Dance-A-Thon Fundraiser (see The REC website).

F. Michael Savidge of Selinsgrove Apartments, owner, and manager of 168 regulated rental units in Selinsgrove Borough spoke in support of Central Keystone Council of Governments (CK-COG) after interacting with them and other code offices over the past 20 years in Selinsgrove Borough and several other municipalities. He recommends the Borough continue to work with CK-COG for Code Enforcement. He stated they conduct themselves with a high level of professionalism, complete their inspections in a timely manner and at a fair price compared to local competitors. He stated Selinsgrove Apartments pays per unit – full fair – and has no problem doing so. C/P Maul stated she believed the discussion was mainly about whether CK-COG has exclusivity for Code Enforcement, Property Maintenance and Rental Registration. She asked if Mr. Savidge had an opinion on that. He stated he understands the validity of having one entity having uniform service in Selinsgrove Borough for continuity. Manager/Secretary Lauren Martz stated a concern for the Borough staff if allowing multiple entities to perform the services of Code Enforcement, Property Maintenance and Rental Registration would be tracking. Currently, CK-COG currently manages all of that as the third-party entity. The Borough does not have the staff or the software to manage the data. Mr. Savidge stated CK-COG also protects the landlords by holding proof of inspection and compliance with health and safety.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION/BOARD REPORTS:

A. ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE COMMITTEE – BOBBIE OWENS, CHAIR

1. C/P Owens made a motion to pay the bills. C/P Frost seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

2. Gelnett Trust Requests:

a. C/P Owens made a motion to approve the carryover of SPI’s remaining \$5,000.00 from 2023 funds to purchase new trash receptacles. C/P Frost seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

b. C/P Maul made a motion to release the \$10,000.00 deposit from the already approved funds for the Rudy Gelnett mural project at the library. C/P Schlieder seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

c. C/P Owens made a motion to release the approved annual donation of \$65,000.00 to Selinsgrove Area Recreation Inc. C/P Frost seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

3. C/P Owens made a motion to award the bid for the Dog Park Project fencing to Buffalo Valley Fence in the amount of \$22,600.00 and to pay the required 1/3 down in the amount of \$7,533.33. C/P Frost seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

4. C/P Frost made a motion to pay the engineering fees for the 2024 Street Program in the amount of \$24,300.00. C/P Owens seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

5. C/P Owens made a motion to approve the FEMA/PEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant with \$98,437.50 of Federal funds awarded through PEMA and \$32,812.50 coming from Local funds. C/P Schlieder seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

6. C/P Frost made a motion to approve the Professional & Administrative Services Agreement with Seda-COG in the amount of \$6,250.00 for the administration of the Federal Grant. C/P Schlieder seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

B. PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE – SARA MAUL, CHAIR

1. Minutes were provided for the February 21, 2024 meeting.

2. C/P Maul made a motion to authorize the sale of equipment on Municibid. C/P Frost seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

3. The next meeting will be held March 21, 2024 at 2PM

4. Manager/Secretary Lauren Martz asked for a couple of Council members to be present at the meeting with Kyle Postupack, Property Manager of the Seda-COG Joint Rail Authority on Thursday, March 7th at 1:00PM to discuss

upgrades to the Selinsgrove Industrial Track's Section 130 Corridor. C/P Maul, C/P Owens, and President Mease all may be able to attend.

C. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/CONSTITUENT OMBUDSMAN – SCOTT FROST, CHAIR

1. No minutes provided.

2. C/P Frost made a motion to approve the hanging of Susquehanna University's Congratulations Graduates banner from May 16 through May 21, 2024. C/P Maul seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

3. C/P Frost made a motion to approve the hanging of Susquehanna University's Welcome Home banner from August 21 through August 27, 2024. C/P Maul seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

4. C/P Frost made a motion to approve the hanging of Susquehanna University's Homecoming banner from October 18 through October 20, 2024. C/P Maul seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

C/P Owens wanted to clarify there should be wind holes in the banners. Administrative Assistant Carrie Briggs stated she would reach out to the person who submitted the form on Tuesday, March 5th to be sure they are aware of the change.

D. PLANNING COMMISSION – JANET POWERS, CHAIR: No meeting.

E. ZONING HEARING BOARD – CYRIL RUNKLE, CHAIR: No meeting.

F. CIVIL SERVICES COMMISSION – DALTON SAVIDGE, CHAIR: No meeting.

G. SHADE TREE COMMISSION – ED SLAVISHAK, CHAIR:

1. Meeting for February 21, 2024 was cancelled due to no business.

2. Next meeting is April 17, 2024.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

A. MAYOR – JEFF REED

1. January 2024 police report presented.

2. C/P Frost made a motion to approve Chief Mitchell to complete an application for the JAG Grant which is due at the end of March. Council authorized applying for grant funds for body cameras, health & wellness, and active shooter training. C/P Owens seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

B. BOROUGH SOLICITOR – ROBERT CRAVITZ, ESQ.:

1. C/P Owens made a motion to approve the reaffirming of the documents for the loan closing on March 25, 2024. C/P Frost seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

C. BOROUGH ENGINEERS

1. Stahl Sheaffer Engineering

a. Report provided dated February 27, 2024.

2. Larson Design Group – Shawn Downey is helping the Borough with a grant for leak detection.

D. BOROUGH TREASURER – SHARON BADMAN

1. Treasurer's report provided for February.

2. The March 2024 Newsletter is ok to send to the printer.

3. The edit to the Street Sweeping schedule is ok to print to include with the newsletter.

E. BOROUGH MANAGER/SECRETARY – LAUREN MARTZ

1. No report.

2. Complete the Statement of Financial Interest before May 1, 2024.

3. The PSAB Annual Conference will be in Hershey Lodge on June 4-7. Any member of Council wanting to attend should contact Borough office staff to sign up.

F. ZONING – LINDSEY MULL:

1. Zoning and Sign Permit report provided.

G. EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY REGIONAL AUTHORITY (ESCRA)– SHANE HENDRICKS & RICHARD P. MEASE, BOROUGH DELEGATES – Draft meeting minutes from February 21, 2024 provided.

H. NORTH-EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY JOINT AUTHORITY – SHANE HENDRICKS AND DIANNE MENGEL -

No meeting.

I. SELINGSGROVE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – TIM CHARLES, CHAIR – No meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. C/P Cox requests going into Executive Session if Chief Mitchell is still available at the meeting.

2. C/P Frost would like a committee to set guidelines to discuss penalty waivers on late water bills now that there has

been a waiver. He also would like a committee to look at creating revisions to the Central Business District specifically covering grease trap requirements and inspections with the potential progressive fines for those not following the ordinance. C/P Frost will set up a meeting for the Community Development/Constituent Ombudsman Committee to begin discussion on the grease trap topic. Solicitor Cravitz stated this will not be an easy process because it will need to be all inclusive.

MAYOR: None

OTHERS: Helen Walter asked if the restaurant owners know the problem and what it costs for remediation with the grease? Are there recycling programs for grease? C/P Maul stated there are recycling and disposal programs for grease, but a certain amount will still go down the drain. Helen asked about creating a reward program for the ones following the program. Helen stated she also wanted to speak in response to comments brought forward by Michael Savidge. She said she wanted to point out he was not at the Council meeting last month when C/P Hendricks brought his concerns about CK-COG, and he wasn't at the Chamber of Commerce meeting when Rocky Baer spoke about his proposal. She stated there was not a specific mention of getting rid of CK-COG but a suggestion to give options to the residents and businesses owners. Solicitor Cravitz stated the ordinance does provide for the use of a different third-party inspector for anything but the person requesting does have to pay the bill for that alternative firm. As the Borough's appointed building enforcement officers, CK-COG will then review to be sure the requested inspector is certified and that they meet all the criteria. That new inspector must certify that they will hold the Borough harmless and indemnify them for anything they do wrong just as the agreement with CK-COG allows for.

Adjourn to Executive Session for discussion of pending litigation and personnel matters at 8:36PM.

Adjourn Executive Session at 9:16PM with no action taken.

C/P Frost made a motion to adjourn at 9:17PM. C/P Owens seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Minutes Transcribed by Administrative Assistant Carrie Briggs

Reviewed by Borough Manager/Secretary Lauren Martz with final submission by Administrative Assistant Carrie Briggs.