

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
SEWICKLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
SEWICKLEY, PENNSYLVANIA  
FEBRUARY 12, 2019**

**1. BOARD, COMMISSION, & AUTHORITY INTERVIEWS**

There were no interviews scheduled or held.

**2. MEETING OPENING**

Item 2. A. Call to Order

7:00 P.M. – The meeting was called to order with President Jeff Neff presiding.

Item 2. B. Pledge of Allegiance

President Jeff Neff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2. C. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Christine Allen, John Dunn, Sean Figley, Jeff Neff, Todd Renner, Hendrik van der Vaart, Michelle Denk, Cynthia Mullins.  
Absent: Larry Rice

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

Item 3. A. New Business

1. A motion to reappoint Paul Pigman, of 311 Linden Place, to a four-year term, expiring on December 31, 2022, as an Alternate to the Planning Commission was approved with a motion by Renner and a second by Dunn and a unanimous vote.
2. A motion to appoint Erin Huber as Treasurer and Opens Record Officer and to adopt Resolution No. 2019-004 appointing Richard Hadley as Chief Administrative Officer for Borough Pension Plans was approved with a motion by Figley and a second by Mullins and a unanimous vote.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### Item 4. A. Approval of Minutes

1. The minutes of the January 8, 2019 were approved with a motion by Renner, second by Figley and a unanimous vote.

#### **5. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR**

##### Item 5. A. Mayor Brian Jeffe

Mayor Jeffe commented on the success of the fundraiser that was conducted to benefit a Sewickley Police Officer. He expressed his appreciation for all involved and especially for all the donations received. The donations from some of the sports celebrities were a huge part of the success of the event and a huge factor in the total amount of money that was raised.

##### Item 5. B. President Jeff Neff

Present Neff reaffirmed the success of the fundraising event and thanked all who attended and supported the event in any way.

##### Item 5. C. Council Members

There were no comments from Council Members.

#### **6. STATEMENT OF CITIZENS**

##### Item 6. A Mark Schuster – turnKey Taxes

Mr. Schuster described the nature of his business and how they collect delinquent Business Privilege Taxes. He stated that the number one comment he hears from businesses is that they were unaware that there was a Business Privilege Tax they were required to pay. He suggested that a Business Welcome Packet would help and that it should be posted on the Borough web site. He also stated that his focus is to get the data correct. Mr. Schuster further commented that he would provide suggestions to the Borough on what other municipalities are doing successfully. Council Member van der Vaart commented on the success of the program and that it is not the intent of the Borough to alienate the business community.

#### Item 6. B. Explore Sewickley

Hudson Colletti followed up on his presentation to Council at the January 8, 2019 Council meeting where he outlined his idea of placing a public piano in the Gazebo in Wolcott Park. He said he had received several offers for donations of pianos. He stated that he has a web site set up and that he had discussions, as requested, with the Village Garden Club and was ready to proceed with the concept.

Natalie Muller, Civic Garden Council President, submitted a letter to Council expressing concerns over the placement of a piano in the gazebo. She pointed out that they had used private money to replace the gazebo at a cost of \$11,500. She further stated concerns over vandalism, graffiti, and structural damage with the placement of a piano in the gazebo. Ms. Muller suggested that other areas in the community be explored for the placement of a public piano and specifically the Tull. She further inquired what protections would be put in place to protect from vandalism and from damage incurred from moving a piano in and out of the structure. There was also concern for who would be responsible financially should damage occur. This led to general discussion by several members of Council, Ms. Muller and the Colletti's. Council President Neff asked that a detailed plan be developed. Further discussion ensued and a consensus was achieved that any damage that occurred to the gazebo would be covered by the Borough's Insurance, which has a \$1,000 deductible, with Mr. Colletti being responsible for the \$1,000 deductible and would place a \$1,000 in escrow.

A Motion was made by Council Member Renner with a second by Council Member Figley to have the Solicitor draw up an agreement to be executed by the appropriate parties and was approved with a unanimous vote.

#### Item 6. C. Sewickley Valley Chamber of Commerce

There was no report from the Chamber.

#### Item 6. D. Village Garden Club Event Request

Kate Johnston, President of the Village Garden Club of Sewickley, made a presentation to Council on an event The Village Garden Club Road Rally to be held on September 14, 2019 and described their proposed plan that included the closure of Broad Street between Thorn and Beaver on the morning of the rally from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Concerns were expressed by Council Members about the street closure, the cost and need for the Police, traffic control and the fact that the Harvest Festival will be the week prior to this event. Council President Jeff Neff suggested that they move the event to War Memorial Park where they could reserve the entire park and use parking available at the hospital. Ms. Johnston then expressed an interest in using

the park for the event and asked that the park be tentatively reserved for the event and they would meet with Borough Staff to discuss the details.

#### Item 6. E. Girl Scout Cookie Sales

Brianne Kilghtlinger made a request of Council to be able to use the gazebo, as they did the previous year, to sell girl scout cookies on three consecutive weekends (Saturday & Sundays) from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. beginning February 22, 2019.

A motion to approve this request was made by Council Member Denk with a second by Council Member Renner and was approved with a unanimous vote.

#### Item 6. F. Request From St James for Bank Street Closure on May 3, 2019

St. James had made a request to close Bank Street on May 3, 2019 for the purpose of conducting a race.

A motion was made by Council Member Figely with a second by Council Member Renner to approve the closure of Bank Street on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 contingent on the Church agreeing to the costs involved per the fee schedule and was approved with a unanimous vote.

### **7. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. General Fund & Sewer Fund Budget Reports
- B. General Fund – Sewer Fund
- C. Statement of All Funds
- D. Labor & Vendor Report
- E. Legal Expenses Monthly Review
- F. Building Inspector's Report
- G. Public Works Report
- H. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report
- I. Police Report
- J. Cochran Hose Company Report
- K. Civil Service Commission
- L. Historic Review Commission
- M. Planning Commission
- N. Shade Tree Commission
- O. Zoning Hearing Board
- P. Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Council Member Renner with a second by Council Member Figley to approve the Consent Agenda and was approved with a unanimous vote.

Council Member Dunn asked Council to consider approving the Military Banner Program and presented a flyer with the details of the program.

A motion was made by Councilmember Renner to approve the Military Banner Program at no cost to the Borough with a second by Council Member Figley and was approved with a unanimous vote.

## **8. BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT**

### Item 8. A. 2018 Road Project

There was no discussion

### Item 8. B. 2019 Road Project

Dave Kovac from LSSE presented a potential 2019 road program totaling \$212,952.00. Council Member Mullins commented on homeowner problems along Elizabeth Street. Council also discussed various other streets including Grove. Council Member Renner inquired when the Borough would need to go to bid. Mr. Kovac recommended to go to bid in March. It was recommended that a committee be formed to make recommendations to Council for 2019 projects. Volunteering to be part of the committee were Council Members Neff, Allen and Mullins along with Franco Verbene of Public Works, and Dave Kovac of LSSE.

### Item 8. C. Banner Community Program

A motion was made by Council Member Allen with a second by Council Member van der Vaart to adopt Resolution No. 2019-003 to join with the Allegheny League of Municipalities in declaring April 9 through April 12, 2019 as 2019 Local Government Week and was approved with a unanimous vote.

### Item 8. D. Monthly Pension Reports

No Comments

### Item 8. G. Franchise Payments

No Comments

### Item 8. H. Fuel Prices for Month of January

No Comments

#### Item 8. I. DEP Review of Sewickley Borough's HHW Collection Program

No Comments

#### Item 8. J. Volunteer Service Credit Program

A motion was made by Council Member Renner to approve the lists submitted by Cochran Hose Company of Volunteers eligible to apply for credits under the program with a second by Council Member Figely and approved with a unanimous vote.

#### Item 8. K. Savvy Citizen Update

Council Member van der Vaart asked Council Members for suggestions on what kind of content would they like to see for Savvy Citizen notifications and to please forward to him any recommendations.

#### Item 8. L. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Brave American Classic

The Classic will be held on March 9, 2019. Council discussed if they would be charged fees per the fee schedule. With the event taking place prior to the next meeting of Council it was decided that Council Member Renner and Interim Manager Hadley would decide what fees should be applied.

#### Item 8. M. VFW Parking Lot Project

A developer had proposed that the VFW property be developed for use of a private paid parking lot. It was explained that parking is the primary use of the property today which is a non-conforming use under the provisions of the Borough's zoning ordinance. The proposal would require the rezoning of one parcel to commercial and the removal of the VFW building. This would bring the property into a conforming use. The Board expressed general favorability of the proposal.

#### Item 8. N. Sheriffs Sale 929 Crescent

The Solicitor explained that this was the property on Crescent that was of concern of a landslide by a Borough resident and has back taxes owed of around \$25,000 of which \$8,000 is owed to the Borough. He inquired if Council was interested in seeking demolition of the property. Council discussed and decided to wait to see the what the outcome is with the Sheriffs Sale.

## **9. SOLICITORS REPORT**

### Item 9. A. Solicitors Report

The Solicitor commented that Mr. Liberoni has not responded to his last communication.

### Item 9. B. Approval of Election Certification

The Solicitor reviewed the Allegheny County Election Certificate for the upcoming 2019 Municipal Elections and Council agreed to submit the Certificate to the Bureau of Elections.

### Item 9.C. Solicitors Invoice

No Comments

### Item 9.D Zoning Hearing Board of Appeals

The Cherock case has been settled  
The Straka Appeal Briefs has been filed

### Item 9. E. Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals

No Comments

### Item 9. F. Sewickley Acquisition Update

Council commented that work activity has been going on and things seem to be headed in the right direction. Parking spaces and the sidewalk has opened up.

## **10. Tax Collector Reports**

### Item 10. A. Real Estate Tax Collector Report

A motion to accept and order received and filed Real Estate Tax Collector's Report and Exonerations for the month of January 2019 was made by Council Member van der Vaart with a second by Council Member Dunn and approved with a unanimous vote.

#### Item 10.B. Earned Income Tax Collector Report

A motion to accept and order received and filed the Allegheny North Earned Income Tax Report from Keystone Collections for the month of December 2018 was made by Council Member Mullins with a second by Council Member Figley and approved with a unanimous vote.

#### Item 10. C. Jordan Tax Services Delinquent Real Estate Tax Reports

No Comments

Council convened an Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

### **11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council conducted an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Council concluded Executive Session and returned to resume the regular meeting at 9:36 p.m.

### **12. CORRESPONDANCE**

#### Item 12. A. Invitation to Representative Valerie Gaydos Open House

Council Members received an invitation to an Open House for Friday February 15, 2019.

#### Item 12. B. Right to Know Request

No Comments

#### Other Business

Council President Jeff Neff updated Council on a meeting with Leetsdale and DEP and stated that the Borough would need to redo the Act 537 Plan and he had obtained two quotes. One from Nichols & Slagle Engineering of up to \$35,000 and a second from LSSE of \$110,000. He further stated that the cost of the interconnect would be \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 and Leetsdale would consider splitting the cost.

A motion was made by Council Member Renner to hire Nichols & Slagle Engineering to redo the Borough's Act 537 Plan with a second by Council Member Figley and was approved with a unanimous vote.



A motion was made by Council Member Mullins to execute an agreement letter with Karl Jaric to conduct a forensic audit with a second by Council Member Renner and was approved with a unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Council Member Renner to send a letter to EIT Tax Collector Keystone Collections requesting detailed taxpayer information with a second by Council Member Figley and approved with a unanimous vote.

### **13. Adjournment**

At 10:10 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Mullins with a second by Council Member Figley and approved with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Richard M. Hadley  
Interim Borough Manager

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Jeff Neff  
Council President