

REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL, BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY HEIGHTS,
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021,
VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The meeting was called to order by President Hundley at 4:30 p.m.

Present via zoom were Council Members Sirianni, Pangburn, Means, McCargo, Kinney, and Snyder; Mayor Oliver; Solicitor Stone; and Borough Manager/Secretary Briggs.

Visitors present via zoom were Mrs. Verna Corey, 895 Blackburn Road; Mr. Frank Cservak, Jr., 174 Barberry Road; Mrs. Terri Fetterolf, 528 Scaife Road; Mrs. Kim Krysiniski, 317 Scaife Road; Dr. Geoff Wilcox, 11 Thawmont Drive.; and, Mr. Patrick Connors, Executive Director of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments.

Council President Hundley made an announcement regarding the Borough's public meeting procedures during the COVID-19 Global Pandemic and reminded the public of the Rules of Decorum for public meetings. President Hundley commented on Council's desire to return to in-person public meetings when mandated to be safe for all participants.

Council President Hundley opened the meeting and turned the floor over to visitor Dr. Wilcox to discuss property maintenance concerns regarding a neighboring property on Thawmont Drive. Dr. Wilcox reported that the adjacent property is generally unmaintained. The residents own horses, dogs, and chickens; store a boat with trailer on site; and store other goods across the property. Dr. Wilcox indicated that he has spoken with the neighbor about property conditions on several occasions with no meaningful improvements. President Hundley commented on the unique challenges presented by private drive communities and requested that Solicitor Stone speak to whether any Borough Ordinances might apply to the matter. Solicitor Stone discussed certain provisions of the Zoning Ordinance relating to boat/trailer storage, animal density, and general nuisance conditions. During the discussion, Mayor Oliver indicated that he has visited the property and observed its current state, which he described as in poor condition. Solicitor Stone proposed that the Zoning Officer visit the property and discuss the matter with the residents as the first step to remediate the issue. President Hundley and Members of Borough Council thanked Dr. Wilcox for bringing this matter to the Borough's attention and advised that Manager Briggs would follow up with the residents.

Council President Hundley welcomed Mr. Connors to the meeting and offered him the floor to speak. Mr. Connors introduced himself as the Executive Director of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments (QVCOG) and noted that the intention of his visit was to introduce himself and gain insight into how public meetings proceed in Sewickley Heights. He then proceeded to discuss several initiatives that he is currently undertaking including: the QVCOG Annual Dinner, the Quarterly Police Chiefs Training Program, the QVCOG administration of the Allegheny County Gaming and Economic Development Grant Program, and the travelling Glass Recycling Program. President Hundley thanked Mr. Connors for his visit and expressed intention to work with the QVCOG on local projects.

Council President Hundley next opened the floor for comments from the public on matters on the agenda.

No public comments were made regarding agenda items.

Motion by Mr. Kinney, seconded by Mr. Means, to approve the Consent Agenda to include the Accounts Payable Report, the Balance Sheet, the minutes from Borough Council's September 20, 2021 Regular Meeting, the Mayor Report, and the Manager Report, was unanimously approved.

President Hundley made comment on Real Estate Tax collection to date, the variability of Earned Income Tax and Real Estate Transfer Tax collection, and the current status of building projects in the Borough.

Motion by Mr. McCargo, seconded by Mr. Kinney, to approve the award of the Hunt Road Culvert Replacement Project contract to NorthRock Construction, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$98,500.00, and authorize the Borough Manager to execute all necessary contract documents, was unanimously approved.

Mr. Means asked about the timeframe for the project, to which Manager Briggs replied that delays and seasonal construction restrictions on the waterways in the Borough have pushed the prospective start date to January 1, 2022 at the earliest. President Hundley noted that the project would be paid for by outside funding. Manager Briggs reported that funding would come from the Allegheny County Conservation District and would also utilize American Rescue Plan funding.

Motion by Mr. Means, seconded by Mr. Kinney, to accept the results and recommendation of the 2020 Financial Audit performed by Hosack, Specht, Meutzel and Wood, was unanimously approved.

President Hundley asked Mr. Means if he would make comment on the 2020 Financial Audit as a member of the Finance Committee. Mr. Means indicated that the audit showed that the Borough's 2020 financial activity was in accordance with State requirements, supported by comment from Manager Briggs. Mr. Means also noted that the Borough has commenced its 2022 budgeting process.

Motion by Mr. McCargo, seconded by Mr. Kinney, to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness, for historical purposes only, for the following proposals, based on the recommendation of the HARB, was unanimously approved.

- a. Stein, 222 Pink House Road, Roof Replacement
- b. Valantassis, 960 Blackburn Road, Window to Door Replacement

Mr. McCargo commented that the projects were simple and easily moved through the review process.

Council President Hundley made the following public announcements:

The next HARB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 4:15 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Borough Council will be held on Monday, November 15, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Borough Council and Manager Briggs then reviewed the status of, and next steps with respect to, the following Items for Discussion:

- State-owned road maintenance for the end of 2021 and 2022 will include crack sealing and tar and chip application.

- The Sewickley Water Authority and Columbia Gas are currently completing asphalt restoration on their respective replacement projects on Backbone Road.
- The Borough's September Glass Recycling Event was successful with 28 participants and a collection of 1,120 pounds.

Mayor Oliver discussed the condition of Way Hollow and emphasized the importance of continued discussion with the State. Manager Briggs noted that there is a meeting scheduled later in the week with Representative Gaydos, PennDOT, and Edgeworth to discuss the fate of the road. Mayor Oliver suggested, with support from Council member McCargo, that it would be beneficial if he and a member of Council would join the call. Manager Briggs indicated that he would provide the information to them accordingly.

Council President Hundley then opened the floor for public comment on matters not included on the agenda.

Mr. Cservak offered comment on an alternative approach to waste collection and hauling in the Borough, specifically referencing the current contract in Sewickley Borough, a bid specification he submitted for the Borough's reference in contracting a commercial hauler for garbage collection and recycling. The specifications referred to were previously distributed to and reviewed by Borough Council Members and Mayor Oliver. Mr. Cservak also commented on his personal issues with Duquesne Light Company on his residential service, and his previous solar power installation submissions to the HARB.

President Hundley thanked Mr. Cservak for his comments and noted that neither he nor Borough Council receive any other complaints regarding garbage hauling in the Borough.

No further public comments were made.

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 5:04 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Secretary

President of Council