

# BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2023

## I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Council President James Speth opened the meeting at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted there will be no hurtful or harmful speech allowed.

## II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (American Flag)

Council President Speth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed.

## IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present at the meeting were Council members Larry Baughman, Alan Heller, Bogan Goughler, Matthew Carlson, James Speth and Mayor Charles McDaniel. Also, present were Maintenance Foreman Doug Freer, Chief Bob Wenner and Attorney Brian Spaid.

## V. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA

## VI. COUNCIL CHANGES TO AGENDA

## VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (limited to 3 minutes each)

A. No Public Participation

## VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Maintenance Foreman:

1. Mr. Freer updated Council on pricing for the new truck. He is hoping to have prices for Council at the February meeting. Mr. Freer presented Council with a quote from Dick Shingledecker for the guardrail along Rt. 417/ Rocky Grove Ave., near Village Auto. The quote was \$8,449.00 and the guardrail would extend from Village Auto to the intersection at Coefield's Corner. Mr. Speth asked if the road would have to be closed. Mr. Freer said he does not anticipate it needing closed, but may need flaggers to get the equipment on and off the sidewalk.

- a. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Matthew Carlson to approve the quote of \$8,449.00, by Shingledecker's Welding to install a new guardrail along Rt. 417/Rocky Grove Ave. between Coefield's Corner and Village Auto. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Police Chief:

1. Chief Wenner said the new Police cruiser will be available in about 4 weeks. Chief presented Council with a request for a \$75.00 donation to Vo – tech, for framing new maps for the Borough. The Police Department received new magisterial district maps after the realignment of the districts and Vo – tech built and framed the new maps. Chief also presented Council with a letter from Bill Weller, President of the Allegheny Valley Trails Assoc., requesting the donation of the bicycles that are collected by the Police Department; which are often lost or unclaimed bikes. The Allegheny Valley Trails Assoc. will repurpose the bikes and give them to the Children & Youth Services of Venango County. Chief said the Borough would be the first department in the County to donate. Mr. Baughman asked how many bikes the department currently has. Chief said there are approximately 12 bikes available. Mr. Baughman asked how long the department holds the bikes for before they are deemed unclaimed. Chief said the department holds them for 60 days and also places an advertisement in the newspaper. Chief also said there have been new signs for the school zones and speed signs for Shaffer Run Rd. ordered. He is said he is still working on the distance for the new Shaffer Run Rd. speed limits.

- a. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Matthew Carlson to approve Chief Wenner to donate any lost and/or stolen bicycles recovered by the Police Department to the Allegheny Valley Trails Association. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Motion by Matthew Carlson, being duly seconded by James Speth to approve the donation request of \$75.00 to Vo – tech, as presented by Chief Wenner. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Administrator/Special Projects:

1. Mr. Sporer updated Council on a request he received earlier in the day from Reno V.F.D. for the annual \$25,000 donation and the \$2,000 reimbursement for vehicle insurance, for 2023. The Borough also received their volunteer/member list for the 2022 tax rebate. Mr. Sporer said he has not reviewed the list yet. The \$25,000 donation would be used to pay on the loan taken to remodel the Fire Hall and other operating expenses. Mr. Sporer said this is a budgeted item.
  - a. Motion by Matthew Carlson, being duly seconded by Alan Heller to approve the 2023 allotment/donation request as presented by Reno V.F.D. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Mr. Sporer also updated Council on the vacant lot at 103 2<sup>nd</sup> St., in Reno. He informed Council and the Public that the Borough will be accepting bids for the purchase of the property. If the Borough receives any bids, it will be awarded at the February Council meeting.
3. Mr. Sporer and Mr. Freer contacted Dick Shingledecker in regards to the foot bridge along Transit St., Reno, which was discussed at the previous meeting. The Borough received two (2) quotes; one to remove the bridge and secure both ends of where the bridge was located and the other is to replace the bridge. To only remove the bridge and not replace it, there would be no cost to the Borough. To repair and replace the bridge, the quote was for \$127,429.00. Mr. Sporer recommended to remove and eliminate the bridge, at no cost to the Borough. Mr. Baughman asked if Shingledecker's Welding would be keeping the removed bridge as compensation. Mr. Freer said Shingledecker's Welding would be able to use it at work sites.
  - a. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to approve the quote given by Shingledecker's Welding to remove the foot bridge, along Transit St., in Reno, at no cost to the Borough. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Zoning Officer:

1. No report.

E. Solicitor:

1. Mr. Spaid asked Council if they have reviewed the firework ordinance he gave them at the previous Council meeting, if they had questions or wanted to take action on it. Mr. Carlson said he would like to review it further. Mr. Goughler did not have any issues with it. Mr. Baughman said he would oppose the ordinance. Mr. Spaid said he only needs a decision made on it, if Council wants it to apply Borough – wide or just to the Villages of Rocky Grove, Reno and Sugarcreek. Mr. Speth asked Mr. Baughman if he had issues with wording or just the ordinance in general. Mr. Baughman said he opposes it in general, since the State already has regulations. Mr. Baughman requested to table the discussion until next month's meeting.

**IX. COUNCIL REPORT**

- A. Alan Heller said he has received some concerns about speed limit postings on Borough roads; not necessarily speeding vehicles. He said all of Seysler Road, Cherrytree Road between Seysler Rd. and Keely Rd. and Keely Road between Rt. 417 and Patchel Run Road, are not posted. Mr. Heller also said there is a faded "Watch Children" sign in the 400 block of Cherrytree Road. Chief Wenner said he will look into the ordinance and sign requests.
- B. James Speth said he received complaints about speeding vehicles on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Chief Wenner said they are patrolling that area but will continue to watch for speeding vehicles.

**X. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Larry Baughman to approve the minutes of the Dec. 7, 2022 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- A. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Alan Heller to approve the payment of bills/issuance of checks as presented by the Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

**XII. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Mr. Speth asked if the graffiti has been removed from the Andy White Bridge. Mr. Carlson said it has been painted over.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**XIV. CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Mr. Carlson asked if the Zoning Hearing Board met about an undercoating business on Patchel Run Road. Mr. Sporer said they met and approved the request on October 27, 2022.

**XV. BOARD OF APPEALS**

**XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council recessed at 7:24 pm for an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege of information or confidentiality protected by the law and any action to follow. The meeting was reconvened at 8:01 pm.

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Joseph M. Sporer, Borough Manager

James Speth, Council President