

**BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

March 2, 2022

**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 Borough Solicitor Brian Spaid, Chief Bob Wenner and Maintenance Foreman Doug Freer.

**V. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA**

**VI. COUNCIL CHANGES TO AGENDA**

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

- A. Ed Conn expressed his support for the Borough purchasing 103 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Reno, through the Venango County Land Bank. He also wanted to bring other properties to the Council's attention. He said 202 Walnut St., Reno, was sold last year and there has not been any activity at the property for some time. He said there is garbage piled around it and the garage in the back appears to be falling in. Mr. Conn also asked on the status of 57 1<sup>st</sup> St., Reno. He said it is condemned, but has not seen anything done with it and it continues to deteriorate. He requested Council to look at taking some action and to help improve that area of Reno. Mr. Sporer said he will pass these addresses on to the Zoning Officer.
- B. Dick Rial asked if there is a timeframe for the Rocky Grove Playground equipment. Mr. Sporer said the Borough was told it would be delivered sometime in April and installed by May. Mr. Rial said he hoped the Borough has a plan to help keep the equipment from getting destroyed. He also said there is a drainage issue at the playground and it is always wet. Mr. Sporer said the drainage issue will be addressed before the equipment is installed.
- C. Janet Van Wormer, 339 Sugarcreek Dr., said the ditch and drain along the front of her property has been clogged and her yard and basement has been flooding. She said she spoke with PennDOT in regards to this and they told her they would address it and have not been back. Mr. Freer said the Maintenance Dept. will come out and look at it and see if they can dig out the ditch deeper to allow more water to flow through the drain.
- D. Ron Ferlin and Eric Starliper, SPK Engineering, came to present Council with the available options for the crosswalk and signaling at the Front St. and Rt. 8 intersection, for the Rt. 8 sidewalk project. Mr. Ferlin said the roadway will be widened to allow for trucks to turn and ADA compliant crosswalks will be installed. Currently, there is no emergency preemption for the emergency signals on the traffic lights at the Rt. 8 & Front St. intersection. With the preemptive system, transmitters that are in the emergency vehicles would trip the lights to change to allow emergency vehicles to proceed through the intersection. Mr. Carlson said an acoustic system was installed, but did not work properly due to the way Front Street was curved towards the end of the road. SPK is also proposing a high visibility crosswalk due to the increase in pedestrian traffic and the intersection being a busy intersection. Mr. Ferlin said the one down side is that it means more paint to maintain the high visibility of the crosswalk. The third item in question was the type of pedestrian signal to be installed. Currently, there is not an audible pedestrian signal there. The audible signal would give the pedestrian a countdown and tell them when they may proceed through the crosswalk or not proceed. Mr. Carlson questioned if these would be included in the funding. Mr. Ferlin said the initial installation would be included in the funding, as part of the construction. But then it would be up to the Borough for the maintenance of the crosswalks and signals. The final option in question is installing radar detection versus a video camera system at the intersection. Currently, there is a loop system installed and those are becoming an option of the past. He said they are finding that the radar systems are more reliable than the video camera systems in not showing vehicles a yellow light when they are in

the "dilemma zone," where they would be uncertain if they could safely stop at the intersection or proceed through it safely. He also said the radar system would last longer. Mr. Baughman questioned why there would be a crosswalk installed crossing over Front Street. Mr. Ferlin said it would be for future development. And when a crosswalk is upgraded, all four corners are to be upgraded. He said Sheetz currently has the curb cutouts for the crosswalks. SPK is proposing to cutback the hillside at the Penelec side of the intersection to allow the turning lane to be widened and allow for more room for pedestrians. Mr. Sporer said he will take these options to the Police Chief, discuss them and then present the recommendations at the next Council meeting. Mr. Speth asked how much wider the turning lane will be widened. Mr. Ferlin said there will be approximately 10 ft. of pavement added, beginning about 200 ft. back from the intersection. Mr. Spaid asked for clarity in the responsibility of the crosswalks, since the three new crosswalks being proposed are all crossing PennDOT roadways. Mr. Ferlin said the signals would be the Borough's responsibility but he is not certain on the crosswalks. And he is unaware of the Sheetz side of the crosswalk, since that is on private property and there may already be a maintenance agreement in place. Mr. Baughman asked what the proposed timeframe is. Mr. Ferlin said they are planning on beginning the bid process in June 2022. Mr. Spaid also requested SPK to provide maintenance/repair costs for the emergency preemption for the emergency vehicles. Mr. Carlson said the Borough is currently responsible for the loop systems. Mr. Spaid said he has reached out to the County and the County Solicitor in regards to developing an agreement with who is responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalk.

### VIII. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. Planning Commission

1. No report.

### IX. STAFF REPORTS

#### A. Maintenance Foreman:

1. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to advertise for bids on road maintenance materials and equipment, including but not limited to antiskid, aggregates and pipe. Motion carried unanimously.

#### B. Police Chief:

1. No report.

#### C. Administrator/Special Projects:

1. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Alan Heller to set the Spring Clean – Up Day for Saturday, April 30, 2022, from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Mr. Sporer presented Council with a request to purchase 103 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Reno through the Venango County Land Bank. Once purchased, the Borough would be responsible for the demolition of the property. Mr. Sporer estimates the demolition cost to be around \$4,000 - \$5,000. The Borough would back fill the property and then could bid the property out. Mr. Sporer said it must be addressed in order to maintain the integrity of the Borough. Mike Dulaney, Venango County Commissioner, said the County Land Bank has some demolition funds available and to contact them to see if the Borough would qualify for those funds. Mr. Conn asked to be contacted when it comes time to bid the project out.
  - a. Motion by Matthew Carlson, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to approve the potential purchase of the Reno property, located at 103 2<sup>nd</sup> St., through the Venango County Land Bank, as recommended by the Borough Manager. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Mr. Sporer also said he received an e – mail from Hilary Buchanan about an opening on the County's Planning Commission. Mr. McClelland is coming off of the Board, since it has to be an elected official who holds the office. He said they meet on the third Tuesday of each month. Mr. Sporer said anyone who is interested, may contact him and he will forward it to the County.
4. Mr. Sporer gave Council the Overview of the Final Rule for the COVID Relief funds. A portion of the Borough's relief funds will be used for the upgrades to the Rocky Grove Playground, along with the \$75,000 grant given by PNC Bank. The Borough is scheduled to receive a total of \$513,000 for the years the funds were issued. According to the Final Rule, the funds could be used for any service traditionally provided by a

government. Mr. Sporer wanted to bring this info to Council's attention and to be familiar with it, as they will begin discussing how to use the funds.

- D. Zoning Officer:
  - 1. Mr. Sporer said the Zoning Dept. is beginning to pick up for the season.
- E. Solicitor:
  - 1. No report.

**X. COUNCIL REPORT**

- A. Alan Heller said he had received a zoning complaint from a resident about garbage and junk at a property on Maple Street. Mr. Speth said he received the same complaint and he informed the resident they needed to file a written complaint with the Zoning Officer.

**XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2022 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**XII. 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.

**XIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XIV. NEW BUSINESS**

**XV. CORRESPONDENCE**

**XVI. BOARD OF APPEALS**

**XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council recessed at 7:41 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 8:03 pm.

**XVIII. NEW BUSINESS CON'T.**

- 1. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Matthew Carlson to authorize the appropriate Borough Officials to execute the separation and release agreement as presented to Police Officer Lt. Darin Baker. Motion carried unanimously.

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

- 1. James Speth adjourned the meeting at 8:03 PM.

Joseph M. Sporer, Borough Manager

James Speth, Council President