

BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2025

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. Mr. Speth noted the meeting would be recorded by the newspaper reporter in attendance.

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 Alan Heller, James Speth, Bogan Goughler, Larry Baughman, Howard Barger, and Mayor Matthew Carlson. Also present were Chief Robert Wenner, Attorney Brian Spaid.

V. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA

VI. COUNCIL CHANGES TO AGENDA

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

- A. Beth Campbell, 790 Martin Hill Rd., said they did not know about the ATV Ordinance last month or they would have attended the previous meeting. Ms. Campbell expressed concerns over the use of ATV's, four – wheelers and dirt bikes that is currently going on. She also questioned if there is any monetary gain to the Borough. Mr. Baughman said it is yet to be seen. Mr. Speth said it was presented by Commissioner Bryan that there would be a monetary gain to the municipalities that would join. She is also concerned for those residents that walk along the road and the safety issues that would be presented.
- B. Dick Rial asked why a tax appeal has to be an Executive Session matter. Mr. Spaid said it is a litigation issue and he has to ask Council for what direction they want to go in the litigation. And that is information the Borough would not want to become public prior to negotiations.
- C. Terri Lowry asked what the status was on the hiring of a new Borough Manager. Mr. Speth said the process is still ongoing and the Borough is accepting and has received some applications.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Maintenance Foreman:

- 1. Mr. Freer said the street sweeper was broken down and they were waiting on a part, which took about a week. He said the repairs have been made and it is once again operating, but is behind schedule. They are also cleaning out ditches and trying to get as much antiskid cleaned out as they can. Mr. Freer also said they are removing and cleaning the snow removal equipment from the trucks. Mr. Speth asked if they are asking residents to move their vehicles when they are out sweeping. Mr. Freer said they do not, but some residents will move their vehicles for the sweeper. And the sweeping depends on the weather and the sweeper.
- 2. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to advertise for bids on road maintenance materials, including but not limited to antiskid, aggregates and asphalts. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Police Chief:

- 1. Mayor Carlson updated Council and the Public on the department and the officers who were summoned to Harrisburg for recognition in their actions against the ongoing war on drugs in the community. Chief said the department had responded to three (3) different drug overdoses recently, which required Narcan to be administered. Chief also encouraged the family members of those dealing with addiction issues; to come and speak with him and he can get them Narcan. Chief also presented Council with the department's quarterly report. The department was also able to give the Cub Scout Troop 323 a tour of the Council Room. The department's new radios are in and working well. Chief also reported the new ballistic vests just arrived today. Chief also wanted to alert Council to some issues the department is having with their main door sticking or being hard to open. Mr. Speth asked what the useful life is of the vests. Chief

said it is typically five (5) years, but they tend to get longer. Mr. Speth also asked if the new radios and equipment will get the department in compliance with 911's upgrades. Chief said they are ready and have been working better. Mr. Speth asked if there will be any additional upgrades needed in the near future. Chief said he does not foresee any; but discussed keeping the department's old radios for now.

C. Administrator/Special Projects:

1. Mr. Sporer reminded Council and the Public about the Spring Clean – Up Day on Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
2. Motion by Alan Heller, being duly seconded by James Speth to approve the 2024 Reno V.F.D. roster list for those volunteers eligible for the tax credit under Act 172. Mr. Baughman abstained. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Alan Heller to approve Resolution No. 2 of 2025, adopting rules regarding public meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Zoning Officer:

1. No report.

E. Solicitor:

1. Mr. Spaid said he had items for Executive Session; Joy tax appeal and land contract negotiations.

IX. COUNCIL REPORT

- A. Alan Heller thanked everyone for attending the Council meeting.
- B. Larry Baughman asked if the Zoning Officer could look at or around 525 Wilson Avenue. There was a garbage complaint brought to Mr. Baughman. Mr. Sporer said Mr. Moyer is aware of it and is working on it.

X. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by James Speth to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2025 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, 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

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

XIV. CORRESPONDENCE

XV. BOARD OF APPEALS

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council recessed at 7:22 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 7:56 pm.

XVII. NEW BUSINESS CON'T.

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by James Speth to set the appraised value of the Joy Chain Plant at \$1,550,000 and the assessed value at \$890,805 for tax year 2024 and all subsequent tax years. Motion carried unanimously.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Motion by Alan Heller being duly seconded by James Speth to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Joseph M. Sporer, Borough Manager

James Speth, Council President