

**BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

April 5, 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. PROCLAMATION

A. Mayor Charles McDaniel presented Timothy Heffernan, CEO of the Innovation Institute for Tomorrow with the following proclamation recognizing April 2023 as STEM Education Month:

PROCLAMATION

By the

Council of Sugarcreek Borough and Mayor

In observance of STEM Education Month

WHEREAS, strong Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) educational programs are vital to the intellectual and economic future of the State of Pennsylvania and, further, the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, STEM education provides skills essential to workforce development, ensuring Pennsylvanians are ready for the jobs of today and tomorrow; STEM education is necessary to succeed and expand career opportunities in our competitive, knowledge – based economy; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania STEM academies, schools, and businesses have made a strong effort, working to close disparity between the number of STEM – field college graduates and the number of skilled workers needed in STEM industries; and

WHEREAS, Sugarcreek Borough would like to applaud the hard work, commitment and achievements of our families, school districts, non – profits, workforce and economic development agencies, business and industry and government; and their role in supporting STEM education programming that will prepare our students for the 21st century workforce and build a robust labor force in Venango County; and

WHEREAS, Sugarcreek Borough is excited to be an active participant in this STEM education ecosystem and embrace our role in supporting current and future residents in creating a community to grow and strengthen our 21st century workforce through education initiatives.

THEREFORE NOW IT BE RESOLVED, I, Charles McDaniel, Mayor of Sugarcreek Borough, Venango County, Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim April 2023, as “STEM EDUCATION MONTH” in Sugarcreek Borough, and commend its observance to all citizens.

In Witness Whereof, the undersigned have set their hands and seal to this proclamation this 5th day of April, in the year 2023.

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

A. Timothy Heffernan, CEO of the Innovation Institute for Tomorrow, said he has been in contact with Mayor McDaniel over the past couple of months and discussing the importance of STEM education in the schools and for the local economy.

B. Ryan Heffernan, RGVFD, requested the annual donation of \$25,000 by the Borough. He stated \$10,000 would be used for debt reduction on the 2019 brush truck and \$15,000 used towards the utilities and other expenses. Mr. Heffernan said the department has responded to 69 call

- year – to – date. He said they average 5 people responding per call. Mr. Heller asked if the department keeps track of mutual aid. Mr. Hefferman said their system does track the number of times they assist another agencies and how many times other agencies assist them.
- C. Mary Kay Brown expressed her praise for her son, Mayor McDaniel.
 - D. Casey Ward was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - E. Coty Burkhardt was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - F. Kimberly Berlin was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - G. Robert Wagner was there to support the STEM Proclamation and happy with the Mayor and Council.
 - H. Billie Jo Zinz was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - I. Alvin Zinz was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - J. Connie Brown was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - K. Jim Brown was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - L. David Bennett was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - M. Michele Burkhardt was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - N. Aaron Hall was there to spread veterans' suicide awareness and prevention through a local motorcycle organization, Leathernecks Nation. There currently are eight riders in the local chapter.
 - O. Julie McDaniel was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - P. Ernie Shorts was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - Q. Ken Bryan wanted to introduce himself to the public and Council and he is running for Venango County Commissioner.
 - R. Kendell Townsend was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - S. Casey Ward was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - T. Scott Sanderson, RGVFD, wanted to inform Council that the fireworks and a teen dance will be held on the Tuesday of Fair Week. And the department will also be holding a demolition derby on the Saturday of Fair Week. Mr. Sanderson is requesting any bleachers from the Council they could borrow. Mr. Speth asked for the dates of the fair. Mr. Sanderson said the fair will be held June 27 – July 1, 2023.
 - U. Catherine Dinger was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - V. Jake Heller was there for RGVFD.
 - W. Troy McGregor was there for RGVFD and will be helping build the track for the demolition derby. It will be held in the back parking lot of the department property. He said they will start with one and see how it goes and determine if any more will be held. Mr. Heller asked how many people they are anticipating. Jeremy Rankin is planning on setting up 3 – leveled bleachers and planning on around 250 people.
 - X. Chip Abramovich was there to support the STEM Proclamation and he said he is on the Board of Mr. Hefferman's organization.
 - Y. Seth Wilson was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - Z. John McClelland had no report.
 - AA. Donald Holben was there to support the STEM Proclamation.
 - BB. Jeremy Rankin wanted to continue with what Ryan Hefferman was explaining with the \$15,000 of the annual donation. He said they will use that \$15,000 mainly toward the department's insurance for the various fundraisers and activities. Mayor McDaniel asked how the Bingo nights are fitting in to the fundraisers. Mr. Rankin said there is a new board for the auxiliary and they are still trying to sort things out between them and the fire department.
 - CC. AJ Zinz wanted to inform Council that he has begun a drone inspection service in the County. He stated they are hoping to work with the local police and fire departments and be another tool in search and rescues. He said the drones will have thermal and mapping capabilities. Mr. Rankin invited Mr. Zinz to speak at an upcoming board meeting. Mr. Speth asked Chief if he could exchange info with him. Chief said he will speak with Mr. Zinz.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Maintenance Foreman:
 - 1. Mr. Freer said the new 2023 Chevy truck is in and being utilized. The street sweeper has swept in Rocky Grove and will begin sweeping in Reno soon. Mr. Carlson asked if they are waiting for it to rain when they sweep. Mr. Freer said it is ideal to sweep when it rains, but they cannot wait for it. And the sweeper has water in it to help control some of the dust.

- B. Police Chief:
 - 1. Chief Wenner said the new cruiser is in. The surveillance cameras have been installed at the playground. Chief wanted to thank RGVFD for allowing the Borough to use the building for the receiver. Chief also presented Council with March's report. He stated he would prefer to present the report quarterly, unless Council wants monthly reports. Mr. Heller said the report presented is what he was wanting to see. Mr. Speth said he is fine with quarterly reporting. Mr. Baughman, Mr. Goughler, Mr. Heller, and Mr. Baughman said they are fine with quarterly reporting as well.
- C. Administrator/Special Projects:
 - 1. Mr. Sporer reminded the Public and Council that the Spring Clean – Up Day is Saturday, April 29, 2023, 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
 - 2. Mr. Sporer said the Rocky Grove Community Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, 2023.
 - 3. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Larry Baughman to adopt Ordinance No. 300 of 2023, which is an ordinance fixing the maximum speeds at which vehicles may be operated upon public highways, streets, roads, ways, lanes, alleys and avenues within the business, residential and rural districts of the Borough of Sugarcreek and providing penalties for the violations thereof. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 4. Motion by Alan Heller, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to approve the annual donation to the Rocky Grove Fire Department, totaling \$27,000; \$25,000 for the annual donation and \$2,000 towards their insurance. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. Zoning Officer:
 - 1. Mr. Sporer said Larry Moyer is continuing to work on the uptick in permits with spring approaching. Mr. Carlson said there is a property on Cedar Street with a fence/wall of tires being built.
- E. Solicitor:
 - 1. Mr. Spaid said he will begin working on the new "stop sign" ordinance.

X. COUNCIL REPORT

- A. Mr. Carlson wanted to commend the Maintenance Dept. for their work during the storms. As well as the out – of – town crews for Penelec who came in to help restore power following the storms.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Alan Heller to approve the minutes of the Mar. 1, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Matthew Carlson 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 7:59 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 10:02 pm.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. James Speth adjourned the meeting at 10:03 PM.

Joseph M. Sporer, Borough Manager

James Speth, Council President