

**BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

April 6, 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. Don McNany said he spoke with Josh Sterling in regards to using CDBG Funds to pave Parker Avenue. Mr. McNany was told those funds were being used to pave Baker Street instead. He asked if there were any plans to pave his end of Parker Avenue, near Miller Street. Mr. Freer said that portion of Parker Avenue is going to be paved this summer. Mr. McNany had a complaint about a property located at the corner of Parker Avenue and Kennerdell Street. Chief Wenner said he and the Borough Manager discussed this property earlier and they are going to speak with the Zoning Officer about it.
- B. Sandra Sciallo – Baughman expressed concerns over a lack of police coverage. She said she has called 911 and they told her that there was no current police coverage in the Borough. She said she finds it disturbing that 911 would relay such information. Chief Wenner said 911 should have worded it differently and referred the calls to State Police. Chief said he will bring the concern up to the 911 Advisory Board at their next meeting.
- C. Sid Gramley asked when the front door will be unlocked. Mr. Sporer said the Borough has done a good job keeping COVID out of the building, with the exception of a few cases in the Maintenance Department. But he said Council has the final say in when it is opened. Mr. Speth said Council will discuss it.

VIII. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Planning Commission
 - 1. No report.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Maintenance Foreman:
 - 1. Mr. Freer said they have begun sweeping the streets with the hopes that winter weather is over. He also updated Council that the new grader is to be delivered April 7, 2022. Mr. Sporer said the grader will be paid with the COVID – Relief money.
- B. Police Chief:
 - 1. Chief said he has finished up the interview process and is currently doing the background checks.
- C. Administrator/Special Projects:
 - 1. Mr. Sporer informed Council that Truck #12 did not pass inspection in March. Mr. Sporer and Mr. Freer had been looking for trucks for several weeks and came across a truck after last month's meeting. If the Borough was to order a new truck, the current wait time is 18 – 24 months. Mr. Sporer said he and Mr. Freer made the decision to go look at it and purchase the truck. Mr. Goughler asked if it was low mileage. Mr. Freer said there were 45, 000 miles on it. Mr. Carlson asked if this was replacing a truck. Mr. Freer said it was replacing the truck that did not pass inspection.

- a. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Matt Carlson to approve the purchase of a 2004 International Dump Truck, at a purchase price of \$47,000, from East Lackawannock Township thru Municibid. Motion carried unanimously.
 2. Mr. Sporer also reminded Council and the Public about the Spring Clean – Up Day, which will be Saturday, April 30, 2022, from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
 3. The Rocky Grove Community Yard Sale is being held on Saturday, May 14, 2022 and the organizer asked for it to be announced at the meeting.
 4. Mr. Sporer said the Borough's Reserve Fund is currently at First United National Bank and the interest rate is 0.65%. He has contacted other banks and Edward Jones about their rates. Edward Jones is offering a 9 – month CD at 0.75% and a one – year CD at 1.0%, which would result in an approximate additional \$200/month. Mr. Sporer said he would like to move around \$750,000 from the Reserve Fund and for Council to think about it. Mayor McDaniel asked if First United National Bank could or would match what Edward Jones is offering. Mr. Sporer said there is now a new CFO and President at F.U. N. Bank and the Borough was previously getting 1.25% on the Reserve Fund. Mr. Sporer said this is a temporary move and money will remain in the account.
 - a. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Matt Carlson to approve to invest \$750,000 from the Reserve Fund at Edward Jones, as recommended by the Borough Manager. Motion carried unanimously.
 5. Mr. Sporer said he and Chief Wenner discussed the different options for the intersection and traffic light signals at Rt. 62/8 and Front Street. Mr. Sporer said the preemptive signal for emergency vehicles is not feasible and they recommended staying with the regular emergency signal. Chief did not recommend the audible pedestrian signals at the crosswalks and Mr. Sporer agreed. Mr. Sporer and Chief also recommended the radar detection, as opposed to the video cameras, for the intersection.
 - a. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to approve the recommendations for the intersection at Rt. 8 and Front Street as presented by the Police Chief and Borough Manager. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. Zoning Officer:
1. Mr. Baughman asked what the ruling was on the former Mong Store in Reno. Mr. Sporer said it was approved for a new retail business. The new owner said it was going to be a donation store and any profits will be donated to the fire departments in the County. Mr. Baughman asked what happened to the previous company that was looking at the property. Mr. Sporer said they just backed out.
- E. Solicitor:
1. No report.

X. COUNCIL REPORT

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Alan Heller to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2022 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler 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 7:19 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 8:46 pm.

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS CON'T.

1. Motion by Matt Carlson, being duly seconded by Alan Heller to affirm the Council's prior acceptance of the 2019 – 2021 arbitration award with the Police Department. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Motion by Matt Carlson, being duly seconded by James Speth to authorize the appropriate Borough Officials to execute the letter of intent for the DCED study concerning the fire district consolidation. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Mr. Baughman asked if there was any word on if there was a business(es) interested in the Klapec Building in Reno, along Rt. 8. Mr. Sporer said he had heard of an organization that may be interested in renting a portion of the building for office space.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

1. James Speth adjourned the meeting at 8:49 PM.

Joseph M. Sporer, Borough Manager

James Speth, Council President