

**BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

June 1, 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, Maintenance Foreman Doug Freer and Zoning Officer Larry Moyer.

V. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA

VI. COUNCIL CHANGES TO AGENDA

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

A. No Public Participation.

VIII. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning Commission
1. No report.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Maintenance Foreman:

1. Mr. Freer stated the Maintenance Department has begun their summer road work. He said they have begun the dust control work (tarring and chipping) and they will be doing that for about another 6 – 7 days, weather permitting. Mr. Freer updated Council on the new grader and broom the Borough recently purchased and received. He said the broom has saved a great deal of time in brooming the rural roads in the Borough. Mr. Carlson asked if the new broom cleaned better than the previous broom. Mr. Freer said there is a tremendous difference in the new broom.

B. Police Chief:

1. Chief Wenner introduced the new Police Officer, Travis Corbett and his family to the Council. The Council welcomed Officer Corbett to the Borough and to the Police Department. Officer Corbett thanked the Council for this opportunity and said he is looking forward to his new position. Chief also said the department has been keeping busy and he is looking forward to begin the training process with Officer Corbett. Chief said he will soon begin the hiring process for another officer.

C. Administrator/Special Projects:

1. Mr. Sporer updated Council on the progress of the Rocky Grove Playground. He said the crew that is assembling the playground equipment have another 3 – 5 days left and they will be done. Mr. Sporer also wanted to publicly thank the two (2) charitable trusts that were key in the Borough being able to make such upgrades to the playground. The Borough received \$75,000 from the Frederick and Ellen Fair Memorial Fund and the Samuel Justus Charitable Trust. The remaining cost of the playground will be paid for with the COVID Relief Funds the Borough received.

2. Mr. Sporer also wanted to remind the Public that sewer laterals must be in compliance prior to any change in ownership of properties located within the Borough. He wanted to make people aware that this is still a condition of closing of a property whenever ownership is sold or transferred in anyway.

D. Zoning Officer:

1. Mr. Moyer updated Council on the permits for 2022, so far. He said there have been four (4) new houses that have applied for permits. As of May 31, 2022, the cost value of

the permits for 2022 total \$1.3 million. Mr. Moyer also gave Council a list of the code violations he has been dealing with so far this year.

E. Solicitor:

1. Mr. Spaid noted that the Borough has signed a new contract with the Borough Police Department. He stated the 2019 – 2020 – 2021 contract that was dealt with in arbitration and the 2022 – 2023 – 2024 contract that was negotiated with the department have both been signed. Mr. Spaid wished to thank Officer Matthew Johnson for all his hard work that it took to get the new contract completed and signed. Mr. Spaid also wanted to let Council know that Attorney Greg Merkel would be filling in for him at the July 6, 2022 and September 7, 2022 Council meetings.

X. COUNCIL REPORT

- A. Mayor McDaniel wanted to make the Maintenance Department aware of all the positive comments he has been receiving about the department and their job in cleaning up after the numerous storms we have had lately.
- B. Mr. Speth wanted to let the Zoning Officer know he thinks he has been doing a good job and staying up on top of issues.
- C. Mr. Baughman asked Mr. Moyer if there was a Zoning Hearing held in May. Mr. Moyer said there was one held for 94 Second Avenue and it was approved for a salon in the basement of the residence.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Larry Baughman to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2022 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Matthew Carlson to approve the payment of bills/issuance of checks as presented by the Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Mr. Heller had a question concerning the payment of \$350.00 for the psychological evaluation for the new police hire. He asked if the Borough always paid for it. Chief Wenner said it is a requirement of MPOTEC and a condition of employment with the Borough and the Borough would be responsible for the payment.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

XV. CORRESPONDENCE

XVI. BOARD OF APPEALS

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council recessed at 7:15 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 7:29 pm.

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS CON'T.

1. Chief Wenner wanted to make Council aware of issues he has been having with the outside door to the Police Department. He said the door does not shut properly and the building appears to be shifting. Bruce Smeal, Whalen Contracting, said they fixed the shifting of the building on the left side of the door and the foundation. He said that repair has held up well. Mr. Smeal recommended the Borough look at having a structural engineer come and assess the shifting and what corrections/repairs could be done. He said they may have to drill some test holes, as they did previously, to see what is moving or shifting and what the Borough's options would then be to do the necessary repairs. Mr. Baughman asked if the door is still able to be secured. Chief Wenner said it is and they just have to double check that it shuts properly and completely.
2. Chief Wenner presented Council with a request to purchase a new Police cruiser, to replace the 2007 Chevy Tahoe. Chief said he has spoken with a dealership and the current price for a 2022 Ford Interceptor, before the needed police equipment, is \$39,866.00. Chief was not able to get an exact quote prior to the meeting on the final cost with the needed equipment, but the

dealership was confident in saying it would be under \$50,000. Mr. Heller asked Chief how many cars the department currently has in rotation. Chief said they currently have three (3) other vehicles and the 2007 Tahoe. Mr. Heller asked how many vehicles would be out at one time, once the manpower is available. Chief said it would be four (4) and he is currently trying to balance the mileage among all the vehicles to keep the mileage down on the vehicles. Mr. Baughman asked if this vehicle was budgeted. Mr. Sporer said it will be purchased with the second round of COVID – Relief funds and was not in the 2022 budget. Mr. Sporer said he does agree with Chief’s request of a new vehicle. He said the Borough sometimes waits too long to replace vehicles or equipment and the Borough may then not have the ability at the time to replace that vehicle or equipment. He also said the ability to be able to go a dealership whenever and purchase a pickup truck or police vehicle like they have done in the past is gone. Also, many vendors are dropping COSTARS since they are obligated by state law to sell to municipalities at a lower rate. Chief Wenner said his original plan was to request the vehicle for the 2023 budget, but with the COVID – Relief funds becoming available and the wait times, he felt this was a good time to request the purchase.

- a. Motion by Matthew Carlson, being duly seconded by James Speth to approve Chief Wenner to purchase a new 2022 Ford Interceptor police cruiser, purchased using COVID – Relief funds. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Mr. Sporer reminded Council of the meeting for the local fire departments, to be held on June 15, 2022, at 7:00 PM. Mr. Sporer said he received an e – mail from the merger/consolidation consultant about arranging a meeting between the Borough, the City of Franklin and the City of Oil City.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

1. James Speth adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Joseph M. Sporer, Borough Manager

James Speth, Council President