

Borough Council Work Session

March 13, 2023

The monthly Work Session meeting of Souderton Borough Council, held in the rear Conference Room of the Souderton Municipal Building on the above date, was called to order by President Tracy Burke at 7:00 p.m. The Borough Council Work Session was attended by the following members and staff:

President Tracy W. Burke
Vice-President Edward Huber
Councillor Matthew DiNenna
Councillor Daryl Littlefield
Councillor Julie Munden
Councillor Donna M. Rogers

Mayor Daniel Yocum
Junior Councillor Elijah S. Steglik
Junior Councillor Estrela T. Sadiboko
Borough Manager P. Michael Coll
Police Chief Brian A. Newhall
Public Works Director Steven Coll

POLICE ITEMS

Police Chief Brian Newhall summarized recent police activities. All police officers have their own radios, some programming issues have been addressed.

HIGHWAY ITEMS

Public Works Director Steven Coll summarized public works activities for the month. Monthly brush collection is complete. Crews installed bollards around the Broad Theater which was part of the original streetscape plan. The ADA ramps at Broad Street and Washington Avenue will need to be replaced prior to paving W. Broad Street. LVL Engineering completed the plans for the ramps and there is an approved Permit with PennDOT to install the new ramps.

The overflow inlet to the rear of Jesse’s Barbeque has been started. P. K. Moyer is assisting with the installation. The construction area is very tight. The project is expected to be completed within the week.

Following a resident complaint, we will schedule Trout Brothers Concrete to install an ADA curb ramp at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and N. Fourth Street. For some reason three of the four corners have ramps, but one ramp has not been installed at this intersection.

Public Works Director Steve Coll reported that he is scheduling to begin the site work around the freight building, starting with additional storm drainage between the plaza and railroad tracks, then starting the installation of the rear retaining wall. Work is planned to complete the sewer main replacement project in the 400 block of Wile Avenue in order to mill and base the road prior to the opening of the swimming pool. Later this summer,

plans are being finalized to replace sewer main along Garfield Avenue which is developing root issues in the original clay line.

Borough Manager Michael Coll reported that the Hustler mower listed on MuniBid with an asking price of \$6,500, was sold at a price of \$9,000. The 2023 Capital Reserve Fund budget includes funding to purchase a new mower, which will be offset by the sale of this old mower. Quotes for a new mower were received through COSTARS, with a recommendation to purchase a SCAW Turf Tiger II, 72” mowing deck and a 38 hp fuel injected engine. The final COSTARS price is \$14,772.00. A motion was made by Councillor Matthew DiNenna, seconded by Councillor Donna Rogers, to authorize the purchase of the new mower through CDI Lawn Equipment, Collegeville, PA as recommended at a cost of \$14,772.00. The motion was approved.

Councillor Daryl Littlefield recommended that the Borough hold an Earth Day cleanup event as we had done in the past prior to COVID. The event will be held on Saturday, April 22 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, meeting at the Community Park. Councillor Littlefield will coordinate the planned event with the help of Borough staff and crew. Project sites will include the Park, Pool, Municipal Building and the parking area along N. Front Street. The Souderton Charter School has volunteered to assist with the event.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Mayor Daniel Yocum discussed a rough draft of a “Borough Representation Policy.” This policy addresses the posting of signs on Borough owned property, election signs are not permitted to be posted on Borough property. The Borough will remain neutral. The policy also addresses the digital sign on Main Street and the display of flags on Borough property. The draft policy was circulated to Borough Council and the Borough Solicitor for review and comment. Council president Tracy Burke noted that the flag policy provisions may become a separate policy document. President Burke and Mayor Yocum will further review some of the policy details and the Borough Manager was requested to forward the draft to the Borough Solicitor.

DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

Borough Manager Michael Coll reported on progress with the interior fit out of the Freight Building and the final plans for the construction of the adjoining plaza space.

SANITATION ITEMS

Borough Manager Michael Coll reported that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has recently sent out a draft NPDES permit for the Souderton Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Borough submitted an application for a new permit back in 2017. The permit maintains the same limits for nutrient and phosphorus but adds

several new parameter limitations that raises levels of concern. The new limits concern copper and parameters relating to the chemicals used in the treatment process. Our consulting engineer reviewed the new permit draft and forwarded comments and concerns to DEP. Borough Manager Michael Coll noted that the new permit is pushing Ultraviolet Disinfection in place of the gas chlorine and at some point the Borough will need to consider a third treatment unit to provide better flow equalization. Borough Council discussed potential future upgrade priorities and resulting impacts on the overall budget.

RECREATION ITEMS

The Lifeguard Management Contract with Bennington Pool Services for the 2023 summer season has been executed. Membership are now available for sale, with rates increasing by approximately 5%. The Borough continues to search for employees to run the front pool office, manage the sale of pool memberships and perform patron services during the summer season. The Committee continues to evaluate hiring our own staff to run the pool facility as early as the 2024 pool season.

Projects scheduled for the Community Park Improvement project include completion of the kitchenette, bathroom and storage building adjacent to the new playground, completion of the pathway paving and the construction of the rain garden.

PROPERTY ITEMS

The Borough manager is pushing Phillips and Donovan Architects to complete the plans and bid documents for the Municipal Building renovation project. Gilmore & Associates completed the site survey to provide grade for the building addition along with drainage improvements.

Gilmore and Associates has scheduled the survey and complete the design and specifications to expand the parking lot behind the Souderton Train Station to provide additional parking opportunities in the downtown core district. The Borough Manager suggested that Gilmore and Associates also look at a more basic design to improve the municipal parking lot off of W. Chestnut Street.

FINANCE ITEMS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary