



## Borough Council- Regular Meeting March 4, 2024

The Regular Meeting of Souderton Borough Council, held on Monday, March 4, 2024, was called to order by Council President Tracy W. Burke at 7:04pm. President Burke stated that this evening's meeting will be recorded this evening. Councilor Matthew Sholly provided the Invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Borough Secretary Stacy E. Crandell noted that the following Borough Council and staff were present:

Council President Tracy W. Burke	Mayor Daniel L. Yocum
Councilor Matthew Sholly	Councilor Richard M. Walczak
Councilor Stephanie Hall	Borough Manager Stacy E. Crandell
Councilor Edward M. Huber	Police Chief Brian A. Newhall
Councilor Daryl W. Littlefield	Public Works Director Steven Coll
Councilor Julie A. Munden	Solicitor John A. Torrente
Councilor Donna M. Rogers	

Missing were Councilor Matthew DiNenna and Junior Councilor Elijah Steglik.

Council President Tracy Burke asked for motion to approve the consent agenda. A motion made by Councilor Matthew Sholly, and seconded by Councilor Daryl Littlefield, to approve the minutes from February 5, 2024, Regular Borough Council Meeting and February 20, 2024, Work Session Minutes and approve the bills for the month of February 2024 and the recurring bills for the month of March 2024. The motion was approved.

Jessica Cimini, Souderton Connects Manager, reported that they were very busy with their Third Friday planning. They have been hearing from Food trucks and vendors and have a great social media presence. Their Economic Development Committee hosted a trivia night and attended a Ribbon Cutting at the Legacy Barbershop. SC was looking to partner with Love Obsessed for a Souderton Business Egg Hunt. Eggs would be hidden in various stores filled with coupons and gift cards in hopes of creating more foot traffic for the local businesses. Their Business Bytes programs have been successful with the latest hosted at the N.F. Landis Building and featured Maria Sosa talking about Electricity Rebates and Solutions.

Mayor Dan Yocum introduced Tristin from the Souderton Arrow newspaper who was working on a story about Souderton Borough. Mayor Yocum also invited everyone to attend a screening of "Souderton in Time" at the Broad Theatre on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. John Ruth, Souderton's local historian, would be in attendance. Mayor Yocum announced the Concert Sundaes 2024 Summer Line up.

- June 2, 2024 – Souderton Area High School Alumni Men's Chorus & Indian Valley Middle School Select Chorus
- June 9, 2024 – Zydeco -A- Go – Go
- June 16, 2024 – 80's Revolution
- June 23, 2024 – KY3 Show Band
- June 30, 2024 – All Worn Out Band
- July 7, 2024 – Allentown Band
- July 14, 2024 – Reservoir Hill
- July 21, 2024 – Travis Wetzel Band
- July 28<sup>th</sup> – Best Shots – A Pat Benatar Tribute



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- August 4, 2024 – Robert Eric’s Piano Man

Chief Brian Newhall referenced the information in his monthly report. 118 traffic stops, 42 citations issued and 10 vehicle crashes. Five arrests so far this year. Our police continue to assist people who have been the victim of fraud. At 3pm on weekdays there have been several incidents of juveniles causing problems at our local Wawa. The police have had a daily presence since the report was made and there have been no more reported issues. Building renovations are complete, except for the bathrooms. Officer Meinhardt is now a certified field training officer and will assist in training our new officers. Our police candidate passed her psychological exam and will now take the next step of enrolling at the police academy. The MCCC will be giving a police exam on April 27<sup>th</sup>, and we will be prepared to give an oral exam immediately following any eligible candidates. We are still waiting for the Bus Patrol legislation to be reinstated.

Steve Coll reported about the Public Works activities for February. Most of the projects related to municipal building & equipment maintenance, general highway work and sanitary sewer work. There will be a meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> about the Basketball Court coating in which samples and colors will be provided. It will take the crew 3 hours for 3 days to do the coating and a 4<sup>th</sup> day to stripe.

Solicitor John A. Torrente brought two items to the attention of the board.

- 650 E Broad Street Land Development – will be discussed at the March 6<sup>th</sup> Planning Committee
- Ordinance update for codes regarding Animal control and Dead Trees

Borough Manager Stacy Crandell spoke on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Committee that Pool Memberships are now available for purchase.

The Public Safety Committee will be establishing monthly meetings and are looking to update signage in the Borough.

Councilor Donna Rogers stated that the Finance Committee met and have a lot of information to review.

Councilor Donna Rogers spoke of the Public Outreach Committee and stated they will be having a table at 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays and working to find other avenues for residents to talk to Borough Council.

Council President Tracy Burke opened the floor to the audience for public comment.

Mark Cubranich of 569 E. Broad Street has owned the Optical Gallery for 20 years. He contacted Steven Toy about the overgrowth of weeds and trees at the property at the corner of School and Broad. The property has had 2 or 3 different owners. He has sent emails and photos to Steve, but Steve does not know who owes it. Borough Manager Stacy Crandell asked for the information to be emailed to her and we will find out who owns it.

Brad Meister of 328 N. School Lane asked about storm drainage as he saw blue and green markings near his property. He contacted the Borough office, and they did not know what the markings were for. Steve Coll believed it was part of the Telford project and how it would affect the curb drains that were added 10 years ago.

Jennifer Arevalo, CEO and Director of Organizational Operations for the Souderton Charter School thanked the police for their help with the school’s event.



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Council President Tracy Burke closed the floor to the audience for public comment.

Borough Manager Stacy Crandell deferred the business part of the meeting to Chief Brian Newhall. Chief Newhall's first point of business was the approval by the board to purchase 2 police vehicles to replace the Gold Vehicle that has over 600,000 miles on it. Chief Newhall has already spent 40% of his maintenance budget for the year. Koch is holding a 2023 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor for \$46,900 that would be outfitted for police use for \$14,000 for a total of \$52,534. Councilor Ed Huber thought this matter was going to be tabled until the work session as more information was requested. Chief Newhall stated that they have run into some major equipment costs, the replacement of tires and preventative maintenance. Mayor Dan Yocum stated he was fine with the purchase.

For the second vehicle, Chief Newhall plans to sell the Trailblazer and the DARE vehicle for a used 2014 Dodge Charger from the Towamencin Police Department. It has 36,000 miles and costs \$5,000. He plans to use the Municibid money from the other sales to purchase this vehicle.

Councilor Julie Munden motioned to approve the purchase of the two vehicles, and it was seconded by Councilor Richard Walczak. Councilor Huber asked to still see the itemized costs. Council President Burke asked that moving forward a more detailed replacement schedule be drafted. The motion passed without opposition.

Chief Brian Newhall updated the council regarding the progress on grants. Last year, they did not get a portion of the DCED grant due to the smaller rate of crime in our community. Representative Steve Malagari worked to get our police \$52,684 to purchase a new license reader, body armor, computers and other technology.

Chief Newhall is also working on another grant to assist our police cadet with the cost of the police academy and a grant to assist the department with 50% of the cadet's salary.

Public Works Supervisor Steve Coll requested the outsourcing of lawn mowing bids so Public Works can work on other projects. Mayor Dan Yocum asked Steve to provide costs for employees to mow the grounds. Councilor Ed Huber asked why we contract out our more important location (especially Souderton Community Park). It was asked if this bid was going to be a lump sum bid. Steve said it would be for all. Councilor Donna Rogers made a motion to authorize the advertisement for Bids on PennBid for our Mowing Contract. Councilor Daryl Littlefield seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stacy E. Crandell*

Stacy E. Crandell, Secretary