

Special Borough Council Work Session

February 28, 2022

A Special Work Session Meeting of Souderton Borough Council was called to order by President Tracy W. Burke at 7:00 p.m. The Work Session was held in the Conference Room of the Souderton Municipal Building, which does not have necessary equipment to offer access through Zoom or to video record the meeting.

The Borough Council Work Session was attended by the following members of Borough Council and staff:

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| President Tracy W. Burke | Mayor Daniel L. Yocum |
| Vice-President Edward M. Huber | |
| Councillor Matthew J. DiNenna | |
| Councillor Daryl W. Littlefield | |
| Councillor Julie Munden | |
| Councillor Donna Rogers | Borough Manager P. Michael Coll |
| Councillor Matthew R. Sholly | |
| Councillor Richard M. Walczak | Police Chief Brian Newhall |
| Councillor Courtney L. Wampole | |

President Tracy Burke commented that the primary purpose of this Special Work Session Meeting is to discuss the organizational structure of Souderton Connects and their relationship with Souderton Borough Council. There will also be a discussion on Borough Council and Committee protocol and any other matters that may develop.

Souderton Connects was represented by Manager, Christina DiVergigelis; Bid Coordinator, Liz Peitzman; Past President, Margaret Zglinicki and current President, Martin DiVergigelis.

Manager Christina DiVergigelis provided Borough Council with a history of the former Souderton-Telford Main Streets and the evolution to Souderton Connects. She further provided a history of the Souderton Business Improvement District and the current expanded Business Improvement District as authorized by Souderton Borough in the fall of 2020. Telford Borough has now developed their own specific organization to manage the Telford Night Market and other special Telford Borough events.

Bid Coordinator Liz Peitzman provided Borough Council with a report of marketing analytics and reviewed the Souderton Connects website. Currently there are 194 stakeholders within the Business Improvement District. The challenge is getting the businesses to supply content for marketing and advertisement. The Board of Directors must be comprised of 60 percent actual BID stakeholders. Souderton Connects has reformatted their annual budget which upon the approval of the Board of Directors will be posted to the Souderton Connects web site. Borough Council requested copies of the

2021 and 2022 Budget reports.

Borough Council discussed the policy for assessments on residential properties. During the reauthorization process it was represented that the Business Improvement District will not assess residential properties, however, Borough Council has heard complaints concerning assessments on residential properties. Souderton Connects does have an Exemption Form that a property owner can complete for consideration.

Borough Council questioned the process of the Board of Directors and their oversight over the approval of expenditures. The recent mural project was mentioned with limited conversation given the current pending litigation. This particular matter may be discussed at a later date upon resolution of the current litigation.

Following the conclusion of discussion with the Souderton Connects representatives, Council President Tracy Burke and Mayor Daniel Yocum discussed Borough Council meeting protocols, application of Roberts Rules of Order and the interworking and reporting of committee activities.

Police Chief Brian Newhall reported on the condition of the fleet of patrol vehicles. He was informed that the oldest Chevrolet Tahoe is no longer serviceable and there are significant repair issues with the other Chevrolet Tahoe that are not feasible to pursue. There is funding in the 2022 Budget towards the purchase of patrol vehicles which was not anticipated in 2022, but has now become apparent. Fred Beans Ford has a used vehicle fully equipped for police service for purchase at \$18,000. There is \$25,000 set aside in the 2022 Budget. A recommendation was made to authorize the purchase at the March 7, 2022 Borough Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary