



Borough Council

Tracy W. Burke, President
Edward M. Huber, Vice President
Matthew J. DiNenna
Daryl W. Littlefield
Julie A. Munden
Donna M. Rogers
Richard M. Walczak
Matthew R. Sholly
Stephanie Hall

Mayor
Daniel L. Yocum

Acting Borough Manager
Sara Jarrett-Eaton

Code Enforcement Officer
Steven J. Toy

Souderton Borough Council Regular Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2024

The Regular Meeting of Souderton Borough Council, held on July 1, 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. Councilor Tracy Burke provided the Invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Borough Secretary Sara E. Jarrett-Eaton noted that Councilor Edward Huber and Councilor Daryl Littlefield absent with prior notice this evening. The following Borough Councilors and staff were present: Council President Tracy W. Burke, Mayor Daniel L. Yocum, Councilor Julie A. Munden, Councilor Donna M. Rogers, Councilor Stephanie Hall, Councilor Matthew Sholly, Councilor Matthew DiNenna, Public Works Director Steven Coll, Executive Assistant Christine Nicholas, Acting Borough Manager Sara Jarrett-Eaton, Solicitor John Torrente, and Police Chief Brian A. Newhall.

A motion was made by Councilor Julie Munden, and seconded by Councilor Stephanie Hall, to approve the Consent Agenda to include the June 3, 2024, Council meeting minutes, the June 17th work session minutes. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Julie Munden, and seconded by Councilor Stephanie Hall, to pay the bills for June & July. The motion was approved.

Special Presentations

Souderton Connects – Jessica Cimini of Souderton Connects reported that they had a nice turnout for 3rd Friday events. They are currently taking registrations for ArtsJam on September 28th. Souderton Connects has put their marketing services out for RFP and are reviewing responses. Ms. Cimini reported that Souderton Connects has awarded their second Facade Award. The award was granted to Michalaks Auto for updating their sign, which can be seen as you come into Souderton from Franconia.

Indian Vally Public Library – Penny Price reported that Beerfest is back and will be held at Souderton Community Park on Saturday, July 27th. Also, Dinner in White will be on August 17th in Souderton Community Park.

Sweatshirt of Hope – Terry Derstine explained that Sweatshirt of Hope is a community event that will be held on September 21st and 22nd in support of those recovering from addictions of all kinds. Daryl Strawberry will be the headliner. For more information, go to www.sweatshirtofhope.org

Swearing in of Police Officer Dayne Hagey – Brian Newhall introduced Officer Hagey and he was sworn in by Mayor Yocum. His new badge was provided to his wife to present to Officer Hagey.

Montgomery County Prothonotary - Hope Card Presentation – Noah Marlier, Prothonotary, explained purpose of the Prothonotary's office. He reported on the statistics of Restraining Orders and Protection from Abuse Orders within Montgomery County. Mr. Marlier explained the concept of the Hope Card program and its impact on those seeking protection from domestic abuse. He also reported on the newly released Online Protection from Abuse Packet. He explained that it will help quicken the process of abuse orders being issued. Mayor Yocum asked for clarity on the process and any needed waiting period between the original application for protection and the permanent order being issued.

EHD Insurance Liability – Zach Focht of EHD Insurance introduced himself and his colleague to the councilor and audience members. He explained met with Mrs. Jarrett-Eaton regarding their commercial insurance coverage and the opportunities for improvement to coverage and costs to the borough. He explained that his office and he work for the client and not the insurance company. He added that EHD works with 50 plus municipalities. Mr. Focht explained that EHD use strategic marketing and work with a handful of agencies and consortiums to find the best coverage. He added that this is simply a change in broker and not necessarily the carrier.

Administrative Reports

- a. Mayor Daniel Yocum provided a report highlighting several upcoming events across the borough.
- b. Police Chief Brian Newhall spoke to the Prothonotary's presentation. He provided a brief report for the council and will submit his full report for the work session meeting.
- c. Public Works Director Steven Coll summarized the activities of the Public Works Department over the month of June and their work plan for July.
- d. Borough Solicitor John Torrente submitted his report in writing to council.
- e. Acting Borough Manager Sara Jarrett-Eaton provided her report covering various updates across the Borough. She highlighted the redesign of the administrative position and hiring process for the receptionist and the success of the pool season. She added that the pool concession vendor will not be open for the July 4th holiday, but borough staff will facilitate some concession offerings in their absence.

Public Comment

Charl Welner – Thanked EHD for looking into a reduction of cost of services for the borough. She once again commented on the light at the corner of Hunnsberger Lane and Broad Street being out. She thanked the Public Works Department for the smooth paving on Wile Avenue. She inquired on the vandalism to the bathrooms at Community Park and how the borough is handling the issue.

Committee Reports

Public Safety – Councilor Sholly reported that the committee met and discussed the cameras and upgrades we can make to work more efficiently. Councilor Munden revisited the crossing guard issue at 2nd and Broad Street from last month and assured the audience that this issue remains top of mind for council. Chief Newhall reported that the engineer is looking at 2 different options for remediation of the concerns at that intersection. He added that the borough will reach out to the state representative for funding once final cost estimates are received.

Finance Committee – Councilor Walczak spoke of available interest rates for the borough accounts. It was explained that Univest has increased by .5% on the borough money market accounts. Additionally, the Borough has continued to use the PLGIT accounts for much higher interest rates on invested funds.

Business:

a. Resolution 2024-16- Handicap Parking Sign Request at 120 West Street

Mrs. Jarrett-Eaton reported that Chief Newhall has reviewed both of the requests for handicap parking spaces. Councilor Burke asked about continued accuracy of spots and continued need. Chief Newhall responded that does an annual check of the residents needing the spot.

Councilor Sholly made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-16 granting a handicap parking request at 120 West Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Walczak. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution 2024-17- Handicap Parking Sign Request at 28 Diamond Street

Councilor Sholly made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-17 granting a handicap parking request at 28 Diamond Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Walczak. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Ord. 24-800-02- Amending Article 1, Chapter 203 relating to Alcoholic Beverages

Chief Newhall spoke to the current ordinance and the current events, and the impact of the current ordinance has on those events. He explained that this ordinance limits alcohol to organizations' events and not to general rentals from the public. The councilors and Chief Newhall discussed the limitations of the ordinance and how it could impact current events.

Councilor Sholly made a motion to authorize Ordinance 24-800-02 for advertising. The motion was seconded by Councilor Richard Walczak and passed unanimously.

d. Ord. 24-801-03- Amending Ord. 219 Animal Ordinance related to Dogs Running at Large

Chief Newhall reviewed the old ordinance parameters, the included updates, and discussed mirroring state dog laws.

Councilor Hall made a motion to authorize Ordinance 24-801-03 for advertising. The motion was seconded by Councilor Richard Walczak and passed unanimously.

e. Ord. 24-803-04- Amending Article 1, Chapter 549 adding a Moratorium on Road Cuts

Mrs. Jarrett-Eaton reviewed the conception of the ordinance and its potential positive impact the borough paving projects. She explained that it would include a 5-year limitation for cutting on freshly paved roads. Solicitor Torrente explained provisions for emergency repairs.

Councilor Munden made a motion to authorize Ordinance 24-803-04 for advertising. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hall and passed unanimously.

f. Ord. 24-803-05- Amending Article 2, Chapter 581 Parking Provisions

Chief Newhall stated 12 issues were identified within the current ordinance. He added that revisions will make it clean, organized and easier to enforce. Chief Newhall explained how the municipal lots will be effected by the proposed ordinance.

Councilor Munden made a motion to authorize Ordinance 24-804-05 for advertising. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rogers and passed unanimously.

g. Ord. 24-804-06- Amending Ord 115 related to Definitions and Provisions for Grass, Vegetation, Trees, and Weeds

Solicitor Torrente reviewed the current ordinance citing dead trees and grass height and the request of the codes office for amendments to be made to the current ordinance.

Councilor Munden made a motion to authorize Ordinance 24-805-06 for advertising. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sholly and passed unanimously.

h. Change of the Borough's Broker of Record for Commercial Liability and Vehicle Insurance

Motion by Councilor Munden and seconded by Councilor Rogers to motion to appoint EHD Insurance as the Borough of Souderton's Broker of Record for their commercial insurance coverages.

The general meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. with a motion from Councilor Sholly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara E. Jarrett-Eaton

Sara E. Jarrett-Eaton, Borough Secretary

Transcribed by: Christine Nicholas, Executive Assistant