

## **SLIPPERY ROCK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Slippery Rock Borough Office, 306 E. Water Street, Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1170  
Council Workshop Meeting Minutes for **Tuesday June 2, 2020** from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

**Meeting Notice Clarification:** Several scheduled Borough Council meetings were recently cancelled because of a health need to minimize interpersonal contact & to practice “social distancing.” To conduct important business, a “virtual” meeting was arranged through “Gotomeeting.” Notice of this meeting was posted at the Borough Office and Downtown Kiosks, on the Borough WEB site, in some e-mails & by occasional personal communications.

**President Karl called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.**

**Mayor Longo led the Council Members in the Pledge of Allegiance**

**Shawn Pugh Performed the Roll Call. Those Present:** Russell Karl, Ronald Steele, Gene Allison, Jeffrey Campbell, Lauren Christmann, Royce Lorentz, Denton Zeronas, Mayor Jondavid Longo, Borough Manager Shawn Pugh. Solicitor Black was not in attendance.

**Moment of Silence:** President Karl asked for a moment of silence for the tragic current events that are taking place in our nation.

**Citizen Input for Agenda Items Only:** None

### **Reports:**

**Mayor Longo** informed Council that a new business (Earth West) had opened in town and asked everyone to show their support.

- Butler County will be going “green” this Friday. Please show support to any and all businesses within the Borough.
- The Mayor has arranged for the VFW and the American Legion to partner with private sponsors to fundraise for a July 4<sup>th</sup> firework display within the borough. This display will cost approximately 3-5 thousand dollars. Sky King Fireworks will put on a 10-15 minute show. He requests the Council to approve the event to take place from the Slippery Rock Park. He also requested that the Slippery Rock Fire Department be present.
- The Mayor congratulated the local high school graduates. He plans to conduct an on-line presentation to recognize the graduates.

**Gene Allison** reported that the North Main Street sidewalk project is almost complete, but the asphalt still needs to be completed as there is a steep grade from the road.

**Jeff Campbell** echoed the mayor’s congratulations of graduating seniors and the support of local businesses.

**Lauren Christmann** also congratulated the local graduates.

**Royce Lorentz** reported that the Catholic Parish parking lot was selectively patched. The lot is owned by the church, with the university and the Borough having rights of use. He also congratulated the Mayor on his Memorial Day service remarking that it went well.

**Denton Zeronas** reported that he has been meeting with Karen Pierce, the Librarian for SR Community Library regarding Teenage Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Mental Health Workshops. Please submit any ideas you may have regarding this issue to him.

**Ron Steele** asked about the park opening on Friday, baseball registration, and the Farmer's Market. As we are going "green on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup>", the park will be open to the extent allowed. Shawn Pugh reported that baseball registration is currently taking place for a summer season, and it was confirmed that the Farmer's Market will start on Saturday (June 6). Ron also commented that the waterfall/fountain is in disrepair and the Borough has the responsibility to remedy this. The fountain pumps no longer function, and there is a hole in the liner for the left side. We also still have streetlights on main street that need replaced. He commented that we could ask about the PCIB loan from the county at about less than 0.5%. This will be discussed at the July 7<sup>th</sup> Workshop Meeting. **Russ Karl** reported that the Council had earlier decided to wait on repairing the fountain until the construction was complete on New Castle Street in case damage was accidentally done to the fountain. Gene Allison added that if the Borough decides to repair the fountain then we should repair the water feature of the artistic monument beside the gazebo. Jeff Campbell suggested that perhaps the liner could be repaired or patched.

#### **Borough Updates:**

**-Sidewalk Project-** Russ Karl reported that the sidewalk is almost completely done. Shawn Pugh reported that we are waiting on the specialized asphalt that we need to complete the project to become available.

**-New Castle Turning Lane-** Russ Karl reported that this project is slated to be completed by the end of July.

**-Keister and Main-** Shawn Pugh reported that the groundwork (pouring concrete and running electricity) on this project is going to take place over the next two weeks. After that we will be waiting for the signal pole which may take up to 6 months to be delivered.

**-Poplar Forest-** Russ Karl reported that we have received positive comments from the community on this project. On individual projects where an easement is required and refused, we have skipped that project.

#### **Discussion Items:**

**-Front Porch-** Shawn reported that we are looking at demolition with the new excavator. We are considering building it out of composite lumber. The informal price we have received is \$20,000 to \$25,000 including demolition. If we do demolition ourselves Shawn believes the price will be reduced by several thousand dollars. We most likely will need to a RFP for the project. It was decided that this item will be placed on next week's agenda.

**-Website-** The new website address has been provided by Shawn to the Councilmembers. Royce Lorentz and Gene Allison remarked that the website is in need of more information. Russ Karl suggested that a committee be formed of Shawn, Royce, and Gene to address this issue. Jeff Campbell remarked that the website was supposed to be set up so the Borough Manager could edit it himself. Shawn remarked that that was not the agreement that the website designer relayed to him. Shawn will look into this.

**-RTK Policy-** Shawn reported that the Borough is in need of an updated and Council approved Right to Know Policy. Shawn has developed one based on the Office of Open Record's example. It has been approved by Solicitor Black. We would need a resolution to adopt the policy. It was decided that this item will be placed on next week's agenda.

**-Feed My Sheep-** The Feed my Sheep food cupboard is asking for a new lease as their current lease is up at the end of this year. They currently have a ten year lease, but prior

to this they had a 20 year lease. They would like to go back to the 20 year one if possible. Russ Karl was not sure why the lease went to 10 years. Royce Lorentz stated that he was more comfortable with a shorter lease. Other Council members also echoed this sentiment. It was decided that this item will be placed on next week's agenda.

**-Municipal Records Manual Adoption-** Shawn reported that Solicitor Black recommended that the Borough formally adopt this Records Manual which designates the time frame that various records be retained by the Borough. It was decided that this item will be placed on next week's agenda.

### **New Business**

**-Russ Karl** reported that we have a Council Meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>. He asked if we want to hold this meeting virtually, semi-virtually, or completely open. All members reported that they thought that this meeting should be held as a completely open meeting. Shawn suggested that perhaps this meeting should also be held virtually for anyone not comfortable or able to attend. It was decided that it will be broadcast via gotomeeting as well as be open.

**-Russ Karl** asked if the Council wanted to place the suggested Firework Display on next week's meeting. It was decided that this item will be placed on next week's agenda.

**-Russ Karl** asked for a motion to approve the minutes from last meeting. Ron Steele made the motion, and Denton Zeronas provided the second to the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Citizen Input:**

**-Jacob Campbell of 135 West Water Street** remarked that he is upset with Mayor Longo's letter to the Governor requesting that businesses in Slippery Rock be allowed to open, and also he is extremely upset that according to him Mayor Longo was inappropriate to him on social media. Mr. Campbell remarked that he believes that Council should have guidelines regarding Mayor Longo's use of social media. Russ Karl thanked Mr. Campbell for his input.

### **Councilperson's Remarks:**

**-Gene Allison** remarked that the street sweeping has been completed, and there is 1 more year on our current contract with PaveCare. Mr. Allison also remarked that the Municipal Authority has lost out in \$313,500.00 in revenue due to COVID-19.

**-Jeff Campbell** remarked that we need to look at establishing committees. Russ Karl explained that he was in the process of doing that when the Covid Pandemic hit, and that this will be done in the near future. He also asked Shawn Pugh about recovering Borough costs from FEMA, or the PA CARES Act. Shawn reported that he has compiled the figures and reported them to Butler County. As he understands it, the County is going to apply for reimbursement for all municipalities in the County from the state.

**-Royce Lorentz** presented the idea of highlighting positive events in the community on the website. He also reported that a child on a skateboard fell due to a crack in the street near Old Main. He also stated that it would be good to replace the two streetlights on the Marathon side of New Castle Street. Royce also requested to know the cost to hold the meetings virtually. Shawn reported that it costs \$24.00 per month. He also inquired about the Council meeting with the Planning Commission.

**-Russ Karl** reported that the Council would need to move to an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding potential part-time police additions. He then asked if there was any further business to discuss.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business to discuss, and with Mr. Karl reporting that Council would not be returning from the Executive Session, he asked for a motion to Adjourn. Jeff Campbell presented the motion, and Royce Lorentz provided the second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.