

### **Slippery Rock Borough Council**

Slippery Rock Borough office, 306 East Water Street, Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1170  
Council Meeting Minutes for **Tuesday July 14, 2020** from 7pm to 8:30pm

**President Russ Karl called the meeting to order at 7pm.**

**Mayor Longo led the Council members in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Shawn Pugh performed the roll call. Those present:** Russ Karl, Ronald Steele, Gene Allison, Jeffrey Campbell, Lauren Christmann, Royce Lorentz, Denton Zeronas, Mayor Jondavid Longo, Solicitor Rebecca Black, Borough Manager Shawn Pugh.

**President Karl thanked people for attending the meeting both in person and for those in attendance via GoToMeeting.**

#### **OUTSIDE ENTITY REPORTS:**

- **Rob King (SRU)-** Mr. King could not be at the meeting. He sent an email to Shawn Pugh with the updates and Mr. Pugh read the email.  
Mr. King reports that the University will announce its Fall 2020 reopening plan on Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup>. It will be featured on the website. It is a living document and will change as circumstances do. He also remarked that the PSAC will decide the status of fall sports this week. They may announce that the fall sport season will be moved to the spring but that will not be known until the conference makes a final decision.
- **SRU Student Government Association-** None
- **Karen Pierce (Slippery Rock Community Library) -** Karen Pierce could not attend in person but provided Shawn Pugh with a written update. Mr. Pugh read the update aloud. The details were as follows: The library is open and busy. Many are utilizing services such as books, e-books and audio books to satisfy their reading needs. The computers and the wireless printers are steadily being accessed as well. Karen is looking into the addition of a fax line as she is seeing a need for it. She remarked that the 2<sup>nd</sup> story walk is up and the partnership with Parks and Rec to share a story along the walking trail is something many are enjoying. Lastly, she noted that on Wednesdays from 11-3pm the library is working to register voters. She thanked Denton Zeronas for his part.
- **Shaun Brown (Slippery Rock Municipal Authority)-**Shaun Brown was able to attend via GoToMeeting. Shaun reported that due to COVID-19, their billable usage is down \$125,000 so far for 2020. Their current available account balance is \$2,564,273.00. Shaun stated that in the last 7 years they have rehabbed a wastewater treatment plant and two water treatment plants which cost 3.5 million dollars. In addition, 3.2 million will be needed for Penvest projects which will begin in August. This project will replace the water lines in the Borough and part of the Township. Ron Steele asked what impact the Penvest project will have on the town with Gene Allison asking if it will affect local businesses. Shaun stated that if at all, it may be a few hours at most. The Mayor asked about the possibility of the work being done in the evening. Shaun stated that it would be up to Penndot. Jeff Campbell stated that he has had several inquiries regarding the

Annual Consumer Confidence Report. Shaun stated that it is offered on the website and that a link to the report is on the consumer's monthly statement.

**At this time there was an interruption via GoToMeeting that included foul language and inappropriate content from an unidentified caller. Borough Manager Shawn Pugh ended the online meeting.**

- **Mary Messer (Slippery Rock Parks and Recreation)**- Mary was able to attend the meeting via GoToMeeting. Mary reports that the Slippery Rock Park is open and there are rentals available. The outdoor restroom is complete. Mary thanked the Slippery Rock Borough Streets Department and the SR Municipal Authority for their efforts. With the Council's approval, after the final inspection on 5/29, the restroom will open to the public. The restroom will be cleaned once daily and will be used at each own's risk. Although enrollment is down, the Summer Adventure Camps are under way and sports teams continue to play. Preschool Fall Enrolment is now full. The children will be required to wear masks and will follow CDC guidelines and recommendations.
- **Tom Mcphearson (Slippery Rock Development)**- It was reported that there had been two zoom meetings in 2020. All events have been canceled, apart from the Farmer's Market and Light Up Night. Tom stated that the SRD is entering a transitional phase with some members joining and some leaving after serving many terms. With that the SRD is looking at what the future will look like and what their purpose will be. Tom had met with Shawn Pugh to discuss where they could pool resources. The SRD is fully funded by donations and grants. The SRD and the SR Borough Streets Department are collaborating on July 23 to remove trees on Main Street that are causing the retaining walls to bow outward. Tom is meeting with a tree service this Friday to receive recommendations on replacement trees that will be more suitable for the space. The SRD is taking an interest in the replacement of the light poles and the repair of the fountain. They are willing to fundraise and contribute to those projects.
- **Regina Greenwald (Slippery Rock in Bloom)**- Regina stated that they have been working this summer with 4 students. They have removed mulch around the small tree wells on the west side of Main Street and replaced it with small rocks in hope of warding off weeds. SRD is paying for the materials needed. The students work from 20-40 hours per week depending on how much watering the plants need due to lack of rain. This effort by the Rotary saves the Borough from hiring summer help and allows the Borough's Street Department the freedom from weeding, watering and trimming the bushes and shrubs from May-October. The Rotary contributes around \$15,000 by way of community donations. Regina would like to meet with the Council to determine how the Borough will resume the maintenance and responsibilities as she plans on turning it over to the Borough next year.

#### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

Mayor Longo thanked the SRD for their part in making the fireworks program successful. He reported that the Veteran Banner Project has come to an end and at this time we are not accepting applications for new banners for the light poles. He commented that a new business will be opening at 126 S. Main Street. He did not state which business it will be.

**CITIZEN INPUT FOR AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

**POLICE REPORT:** (Mayor Longo) See Attached

**BOROUGH UPDATES:**

President Karl announced that he received a verbal and a written request that he would like to address. The verbal request was that all after hours use of the Borough Building be limited. It could potentially cause police interference and poses as a safety risk. The President also received a written request from Slippery Rock Volunteer Fire and Rescue stating that Council members are not to be present at emergency scenes. It is a safety concern adding complication and strain on site.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A motion was made by Ron Steele for the approval of the 7-7-2020 minutes. Royce Lorentz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
- A motion was made by Denton Zeronas to approve Resolution 444. Gene Allison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- President Karl addressed the Committee assignments. He explained how he chose the committees and stated that he looked at the appropriateness of each assignment and where they could be best served. Solicitor Black read an excerpt from the Plum Boro website regarding committees as an example of how committees are formed and what their function is. The Mayor stated that this is a good time to take initiative to brainstorm within their committee regarding what needs done or what could be done to make improvements. Royce added that it may be a good idea to add a member or two of the public to certain committees to take advantage of their knowledge or thoughts.

**CITIZEN INPUT:**

- **Regina Greenwald-** Regina stated that she likes the GoToMeeting and believes it to be accessible. She also asked Council to not go the cheaper route when it comes to the light poles. She stated that SRD worked hard for the poles and hopes that Council can find a solution to replace them with the same type of care. Her last concern is for the fountain. She is hoping that it can be restored.
- **John Stephens-** Mr. Stephens resides at 107 Willow Drive. He spoke to Council regarding alternative ways to deal with the water that is running onto his property. As it stands, the water drains from the road onto his property creating a swampy area. He stated that he is open to signing an easement if there is another method found to divert the water.

**COUNCIL REMARKS:**

- **Royce Lorentz:** Royce commented that the Borough needs to do a better job at working with the Planning Commission and building the relationship with them.

- **Gene Allison:** Gene reminded everyone to fill out their census and to ask others to do the same.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With nothing else on the agenda, President Karl asked for a motion to adjourn. Jeff Campbell made the motion with Royce Lorentz providing the second. The motion passed unanimously.