

Slippery Rock Borough Council

Slippery Rock Borough Office, 306 E. Water Street, Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1170
Council Workshop Meeting Minutes for **Tuesday September 1, 2020** from 7:00pm to 8:35pm

President Russ 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: Russ Karl, Ronald Steele, Gene Allison, Jeff Campbell, Royce Lorentz, Lauren Christmann, Denton Zeronas, Mayor Jondavid Longo, Borough Manager Shawn Pugh. Solicitor Black was not in attendance.

Citizen Input for Agenda Items Only:

Janine Simmons from the North Country Brewery stated that they are in support of the Slippery Rock Borough hosting an Oktoberfest. She added that if the Carlisle Car Show with 20,000 attendees can happen without incident, she believes that Slippery Rock can host an Oktoberfest.

Dr. Mary Jo Ross from Slippery Rock University was in attendance via Zoom. Dr. Ross is a professor teaching Hospitality and Tourism. She is currently in Orlando, Florida. She addressed Council regarding a 34 ft. Christmas Tree that is decorated and lit with new LED lights. She would like to donate the tree to the Borough. The tree would be transported to the Borough at no cost and would be stored at the Borough Building in the basement. Her goal is to get the tree here and up in time for Light Up Night. She plans to have her students help and fundraise to offset any cost that may be accrued and to expand in years to come to include family holiday events all season such as carriage rides and pictures with Santa. Dr. Ross would like to work with local businesses and the Borough.

Reports:

Mayor Longo reports that The Butler County Republican Committee is planning to hold the grand opening of their GOP North Headquarters Wednesday September 2nd. The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. at 140 South Main Street in Slippery Rock.

Gene Allison stated that there is an area on South Main Street near Miller Auditorium that is washed out. He reports that it needs attention and may be a safety concern. Russ stated that it is part of the plan to work on it next year in conjunction with the state paving on South Main Street. Royce Lorentz also noted that there is water coming up from the ground at the North end of the post office and asked that the Municipal Authority be notified.

Jeff Campbell reports that although we were originally told that there could not be one-way traffic on Main Street during the water line replacement project, there is work being done currently north of the Sheetz building where one-way traffic is being directed. Russ Karl suggested that a possible reason it cannot be done in town is the sidewalk bumps out into the street in places on Main Street.

Royce Lorentz reports that there is an internet scam happening currently that uses personal email addresses asking for gift cards to be sent. He wants the public to be aware.

Ron Steele states that Penn Dot has given the Borough an RFP for Lab Alley and Library Drive. He also mentioned that Willow Drive is also in need of repair. He would like to see that done next year.

Russ Karl stated that even with COVID-19, the Borough has been working to improve the community with projects such as the streetlights, turning lane and the Poplar Forest water abatement.

Borough Updates:

Cares Grant: Borough Manager Shawn Pugh states that the Borough has applied for and expects to be awarded \$151,670.88 from the CARES Grant. The reimbursement is for police salaries and benefits, legal costs, and needed technology due to COVID-19. Shawn states that the Borough was able to get \$1,115.52 of that money for Parks and Recreation to help them with costs accrued due to COVID-19. There will be a second round of the grant that the Borough Manager plans on applying for as well.

Front Porch: The front porch of the Borough building has been removed. During the removal, the brick walls leading to the basement were damaged. They will need to be removed. The architect will submit plans and the permits will be filed for. Once they begin work it should be finished in two weeks. Royce Lorentz expressed concerns regarding the water and where it will be abated to. Shawn stated that it will be taken care of.

Discussion Items:

Poplar Forest Paving: The Borough received a bid for the paving in Poplar Forest. The 1st bid was from Plain Grove Paving. It was for \$10,360.00. The Borough was advised to get two more bids for the project. Several other companies were approached but there is only one other company that was able to provide a bid. Castle Asphalt provided a bid for \$8,988. Jeff Campbell advised that the Borough provide a written statement of why there is not a third bid. Approving the bid from Castle Asphalt will be placed on the agenda for next week.

Christmas tree: The approval of Dr. Ross moving forward with transporting the 34 ft. Christmas tree to Slippery Rock will be placed on the agenda for next week. Council discussed the importance of working with businesses and the community in enhancing the holiday celebrations.

RFP for Lab Alley and Library Drive: The motion to approve sending out the RFP for Lab Alley and Library Drive will be placed on next week's agenda. Penn Dot provided the RFP and the RFP if approved will be due by the 2nd meeting in October.

Slippery Rock Infrastructure Grant: Shawn Pugh reports that the Borough is applying for a grant from the state for \$711,828.00. This grant will be used to replace 50 streetlights on Main Street and New Castle Street and the lights on the 1st block of Franklin Street.

The Mayor asked if there is a matching obligation. Shawn stated that he has placed a \$7 matching obligation on the grant. A motion to place a resolution stating the Borough's intent to apply for the grant will be placed on the agenda for next week.

Oktoberfest: The mayor would like to discuss the option of hosting an Oktoberfest outside at the park. The event would be open to Slippery Rock vendors. He had spoken to the Parks and Recreation board and they have agreed to have it if Council allows it. He is asking Council to allow the selling and purchasing of alcohol in the park on that day only for a four-hour time limit. He stated that the vendors have their own insurance and that they are RAMP certified. Council discussed the alcohol, the date and time and the parking situation. Having security and a constable was also discussed as well as having an alternative date and time. It will be added to next week's agenda for vote.

New Business: none

Citizen Input:

Bonnie Davis stated that the downspouts from the house across the street from her office drains water onto the street causing it to freeze in the winter. She is asking that the water be re-directed. She stated that she doesn't understand why several employees were granted raises and compensation without being voted on by the council. President Karl stated that every hiring decision was discussed with all Council Members and every decision was voted on and it was agreed upon. Some of these decisions were made during the executive session due to it regarding personnel.

Councilperson's Remarks:

Jeff Campbell wanted to thank Shawn Pugh for looking for and finding grants and for all that he does for the Borough.

Royce Lorentz would like to have a meeting focused on the budget. Russ stated that the budget committee will review the budget and Council will receive the information needed to discuss and vote on it.

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, Russ Karl asked for a motion to adjourn. Royce Lorentz moved, and Ron Steele provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

