

Slippery Rock Borough Council

Slippery Rock Borough office, 306 E. Water Street, Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1170
Council Workshop Meeting Minutes for **Tuesday March 2, 2021** from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

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: Russ Karl, Ron Steele, Gene Allison, Jeff Campbell, Lauren Christmann, Royce Lorentz, Denton Zeronas, Mayor Jondavid Longo, Borough Manager Shawn Pugh

Citizen Input for Agenda Items Only: None

Guest:

Honorable Richard Goldinger addressed the Council. Mr. Goldinger is running for Butler County Judge Court of Common Pleas. He is currently a Butler County District Attorney and has been so since 2007. Prior to that he was a defense attorney. He wanted to introduce himself and make Council aware of his credentials.

Reports:

Mayor Jondavid Longo reported that Campus Edge is still accepting donations in their lobby for the food drive. He also reported that on April 3, from 10am to 1pm, he is partnering with Clean Up 412 to clean up garbage in the Borough. Lastly, he reported that he has spoken to Sky Team Fireworks. They would like to confirm a date and suggested that July 3, 2021 would be a good option.

Royce Lorentz reported that he was approached by someone who wanted to thank Council for the new light at Kiester and Main Streets.

Ron Steele reported that he was approached by his son, Jeff Steele, regarding the Pony League Baseball team. They have been told that they can no longer play in Prospect or West Sunbury. Ron would like to see the Borough work with Parks and Rec and the Baseball Association to add a Pony League baseball field, possibly in the 2.4 -acre empty lot in Poplar Forest. Russ stated that Mary Messer is looking into grants that could possibly aid in developing that space. Royce stated that in planning for that space, he would consider parking lots and lighting and how that may affect nearby residents.

Borough Updates:

Kiester and Main Street Light: The new light at Kiester and Main Streets is completed. The Boro is awaiting reimbursement from the State. Bronder is in the process of removing the old poles and West Penn Power will be removing the power box.

FNB Vacant Lot: Shawn Pugh spoke to Nikki Kovacik, a local real estate agent. She stated that she would look at the comps in the area. The comps showed a range from \$30,000 to \$300,000. There is the option of listing it for two separate prices. The first would be placed with a contingency such as the build would need to take place within a certain time frame. The second price would be higher but not include a contingency. The next

step is to obtain an official appraisal. Russ stated that Council will need to decide if the space will remain a green space or if it will be sold to a business. Ron asked what the restrictions would be for a new business. Royce asked for a list of the restrictions. Christian Laskey, the Borough's Code Enforcement Officer stated that he will compile the restrictions and make them available for Council.

Discussion Items:

Property Maintenance (Christian Laskey): Christian distributed a proposed draft updating the International Property Maintenance Code to 2021. See Attached. The proposed amendment is to Chapter 217- Quality of Life Ticketing. Council stated that they would deliberate on this.

Part Time Police Officers: There was a discussion regarding hiring additional part time police officers. Hiring additional officers could lead to more flexibility, more coverage, and a savings in overtime costs. Ron is opposed to hiring police officers. He states that the cost to outfit new officers is more than our budget can support right now. He would like to explore the option of having the part time officers work more. Denton stated that it would be cost effective to hire more part time police officers. Jeff stated that adding additional officers to provide extra coverage is necessary. Lauren stated that it would be a good idea to have extra coverage especially with the College resuming full time in person classes in the Fall. Royce agrees that at the least a third part time officer is needed. Russ stated that the Police Chief is asking for an additional 2 part time officers making four in all. It will be moved to next week's agenda for vote with all but Ron's approval.

Doug Cook's Interest in Serving on the Zoning Hearing Board and Rich Wozniak's Interest in Serving an Additional Term on the ZHB: Doug Cook was present to introduce himself and to express his want to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board. Rich Wozniak is interested in serving an additional term. Both submitted letters of interest. It will be moved to next week's agenda for vote.

Comprehensive Plan: There was a discussion regarding updating the Borough's Comprehensive Plan. Christian Laskey stated that the Planning Commission is responsible to updating the comprehensive plan. Jeff Campbell stated that the committee must be made up of people with various expertise and that the process is extensive. Doug Cook offered to help as he has done an update previously. Russ Karl stated that Council will direct the Planning Commission to begin the process of updating the Comprehensive plan. The next Planning Commission meeting will be on March 11, 2021.

Citizen Input:

Regina Greenwald stated that Bob's Cupboard, a collaborative project between SRU Student Government Association and the Bonner Leader Program, is looking for donations. This project provides food to SRU students experiencing food insecurity.

Donations can be dropped off in the Student Union. Regina also reported that the University students, faculty, and staff will join on March 12, 2021 for a community clean up event. Regina asked that Shawn Pugh give her contact information to Doug Cook so that they may connect regarding volunteer opportunities. Regina reiterated that in selling the vacant bank lot, the Borough must keep in mind the restrictions that would come with that sale such as parking, the buried bank vault, and the lack of access via driveways or drive throughs. She reminded Council that she knows of a buyer that would like to purchase it and have it remained a green space. Lastly, she introduced Stephanie Ralston, a Slippery Rock Borough resident that would like to run for Slippery Rock Borough Council. Stephanie spoke briefly, stating her desire to run for Borough Council and her support of hiring additional officers to provide 24/7 coverage.

Council Person's Remarks:

Denton Zeronas remarked that he would like to see items 3,4,5 on the Mayor's Goals Proposal (see attached) moved to next week's agenda for vote. Russ Karl stated that he would like to speak with the Mayor privately regarding his proposal. Russ stated that he believed Council had agreed to not renew reduction in fees for new and incoming business due to the budget being stressed due to COVID-19. As for items 3 and 4, Russ stated that Council had some time before deciding on the matters.

Adjournment:

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