

Slippery Rock Borough Council Meeting

306 East Water Street Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Tuesday September 19, 2023, from 7:00 pm to 8:38 pm

Jeff Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

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

Christian Laskey performed the roll call. Those present: Jeff Campbell, Denton Zeronas, Lauren Christmann, John Hicks, Royce Lorentz, Ron Steele, Alex Tuten, Mayor Jondavid Longo, Borough Solicitor Rebecca Black, Borough Manager Christian Laskey.

Public Recording Announcement: – Stand and State Your Name for the Public Record
Mike Pavelek, Borough Resident, announced that he was recording the meeting.
Irina Bucur, from the Butler Eagle, announced that she was recording the meeting.

Outside Entity Reports:

Slippery Rock University: (See Attached) Justin Zackal gave an update on behalf of SRU for the first month of the school year.

Slippery Rock Community Library: (See Attached) Christian Laskey gave an update on behalf of the library for the month of August.

Slippery Rock Municipal Authority: Christian Laskey gave an update on behalf of the SRMA. They reported receiving their new vacuum truck and stated that they are updating their policies and procedures for vehicle use.

Slippery Rock Volunteer Fire Company & Rescue Team: (See Attached) Ryan Hanchosky gave an update for the fire hall for the month of August.

Slippery Rock Student Government Association: None

Mayor's Comments: Mayor Longo reported that Village Fest was a success and applauded Slippery Rock Development for a job well done. He voiced a reminder that Oktoberfest will be held on October 14, 2023 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

Solicitor Report: Solicitor Black addressed the Noise Ordinance amendment stating that the proposed amendment is more restrictive than the current ordinance. She advised council to set the limit to a reasonable decimal so that it can be easily enforced. Solicitor Black suggested setting the limit at 90 after researching similar borough's noise ordinances and taking guidance from the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs.

Citizen Input for Agenda Items Only:

Mike Pavelek addressed the noise ordinance. He asked that an exemption be placed in the noise ordinance stating that there be no property maintenance be done in the Borough between the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.

Andrew Coluin addressed the noise ordinance. He asked that Council consider amending the noise ordinance to include modified cars with loud engines.

Tom Sparrow questioned the 90-decibel limit in the noise ordinance. Solicitor Black explained that this limit was chosen based on research of neighboring boroughs and recommendations from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. She clarified that the ordinance aims to address violations that are excessive or unreasonable to the majority of people.

Gizella Goyak expressed concerns about the noise ordinance, emphasizing that continuous noise at the 90-decibel level is dangerous. Rebecca emphasized that adding the exemption of no continuous noise between the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am would eliminate her concern.

Katie Cooklin raised concerns with the noise ordinance amendment. She noted that the amendment doesn't address loudspeakers for advertising and lacks clear time restrictions for noise. She was troubled by the section that expands council authority to permit nighttime construction or activity that could potentially disturb residents. Solicitor Black explained that the section applies to emergency situations only and would require a permit and council approval.

Ian Oman discussed the noise ordinance. He mentioned that if a noise complaint were to fall below the 90 decibel limit, the person making the complaint would have to pay for the testing, which might discourage valid complaints. He asked the difference between noise complaints and disorderly house citations and suggested Council considering alternative noise measurement methods.

Police Report: (See Attached) Mayor Longo gave a report on behalf of the police department for the month of August.

Committee Updates:

Personnel: None

Finance/Budget: Christian Laskey stated that he had begun working on the budget and that a financial report will be distributed at the next meeting for council review.

Streets: Ron Steele reported that Kelly Blvd, Oak Street, Park Lane Drive and Boller Drive have been tar and chipped.

Facilities/Properties: Christian Laskey reported that the Borough is waiting on a start date from S & N Industries for the new borough building roof.

Public Safety: Mayor Longo reported that the Borough is awaiting on civil service commission consultant to update ordinance before starting the hiring process for police officers.

Economic Development: None

Intergovernmental Relations: None

Park: Denton Zeronas reported that the park entrance has been tar and chipped. He also mentioned that the Play Safe program is in progress and work on the ADA Playground will be starting soon. Additionally, there are upcoming events like Fall Family Fun Night on Saturday October 7, 2023 and Oktoberfest on Saturday October 14, 2023. Lastly, he added that the park is putting on a haunted trail for fall family fun night and are accepting volunteers to work on the walking trail that night.

Zoning: None

Planning: None

Civil Service: None

Comprehensive Plan: None

Borough Updates:

Comprehensive Plan: Christian Laskey reported that the town hall that occurred at the Alumni House on September 13, 2023, was well attended. He stated that the Borough received great input and that the next meeting for the Comprehensive Plan will be held at the Borough building at 6:00 pm on September 28, 2023.

New Business:

*John Hicks made the motion to approve the August 1, 2023, meeting minutes. Lauren Christmann provided the second. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

*Ron Steele made the motion to approve the August 15, 2023, meeting minutes. Royce Lorentz provided the second. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

*Royce Lorentz made the motion to approve the Slippery Rock University Foundation Subdivision for ROTC and Campus Police Facility. John Hicks provided the second. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

*John Hicks made the motion to table the discussion on the Amendment to Chapter 193, Noise until the 10-3-2023 meeting. Alex Tuten provided the second. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

*John Hicks made the motion to approve the Oktoberfest Street and Parking Lot Closure and partial closure of Gateway Parking Lot on Saturday October 14, 2023, from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Royce Lorentz provided the second. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

*Ron Steele made the motion to approve the Homecoming Street Closure, closing School Drive from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on October 21, 2023. Denton Zeronas provided the second. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

*Ron Steele made the motion to approve Ryan Hanchosky as Slippery Rock Borough's Local Emergency Management Coordinator. Denton Zeronas provided the second. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

*Ron Steele made the motion to approve Resolution 475, electing to withdraw Slippery Rock Borough's Municipal Pension Plan from PMRS. John Hicks provided the second. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

*Denton Zeronas made the motion to approve the Slippery Rock Volunteer Fire & Rescue Team's Halloween Parade on Tuesday October 31, 2023, at 6:00 pm with Trick or Treat occurring from 6:00 pm through 8:00 pm. Lauren Christmann provided the second. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

Citizen Input: None

Councilperson's Remarks:

John Hicks stated that he is happy with the community showing up and being involved and hopes that the people who spoke feel heard. He expressed that Council is doing the best they can to make as many people happy as possible.

Adjournment and Executive Session:

With nothing further on the agenda to discuss, Jeff Campbell announced that Council would be adjourning into an executive session in which no action will be taken and in which they will not return. Royce Lorentz made the motion and John Hicks provided the second. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.