

Slippery Rock Borough Council Meeting

306 East Water Street Slippery Rock, PA 16057
Tuesday October 17, 2023 from 7:00 pm to 8:20 pm

Denton Zeronas called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Longo led Council Members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Christian Laskey Performed the Roll Call. Those Present: Denton Zeronas, Lauren Christmann, John Hicks, Royce Lorentz, Ron Steele, Alex Tuten, Solicitor Rebecca Black, Mayor Longo, Borough Manager Christian Laskey. Councilperson Jeff Campbell was not in attendance.

Public Recording Announcement: – Stand and State Your Name for the Public Record

- *James Cressman**, from the SRU Rocket, announced that he was recording the meeting.
- *Jayden Linder**, an SRU student stated that he was recording the meeting.
- *Janey Cessna**, from SRU SGA, announced that she was recording the meeting.

Outside Entity Reports:

Slippery Rock University: (See Attached) Justin Zackal provided an update for the University for the month of September 2023.

Slippery Rock Community Library: None

Slippery Rock Municipal Authority: None

Slippery Rock Volunteer Fire Company & Rescue Team: (See Attached) Christian Laskey gave an update on behalf of the fire department and rescue team for the month of September 2023.

Slippery Rock Student Government Association: Janey Cressman gave an update for the on behalf of the students of SRU. She mentioned new organizations that were added such as a pickleball club. She also mentioned that students are busy working on Homecoming activities.

Mayor's Comments: Mayor Longo addressed the unfortunate event where a young child was hit by a car in the Borough while attempting to get to her school bus. He stated that public safety is his top priority and that speed-related concerns are being addressed. The mayor also expressed his hope to hire a fourth full time officer now that the Civil Service language is current.

Citizen Input for Agenda Items Only:

Katie Cooklin: Mrs. Cooklin spoke on the Noise Ordinance Amendment voicing her concern about the 90 decibel limit. She believes it to be too high for a residential area and cited several boroughs with limits that are lower.

Ian Oman Mr. Oman addressed the Noise Ordinance Amendment. He stated that OSHA regulates noise in factory work areas and has set a limit of 85. He believes a 90-decibel limit is too high for a residential area. He also stated his concern for the section in the amendment that

states that the complaining party must pay the cost occurred if there is no violation found. He believes this to be a deterrent.

Jonathan Foust: Mr. Foust stated his agreement that 90 decibels is too high for a residential area.

Police Report: (See Attached) The Mayor gave an update for the police department for the month of September 2023.

Committee Updates:

Personnel : None

Finance/Budget: None

Streets: Ron Steele asked why there was a concrete repair on the corner of East Cooper and South Main Street. Christian Laskey replied that a bus had damaged a hitching post. The bus's insurance company paid to have the concrete replaced.

Facilities/Properties: None

Public Safety: None

Economic Development: Mayor Longo reported that two new businesses will be moving into the building on Main Street that was formerly Big Shot Bobs. The mayor added that there is still interest in the vacant lot and that he looks forward to getting the lot sold and back on the tax roll.

Intergovernmental Relations: None

Park: Denton Zeronas stated that Oktoberfest was a success even with the rainy weather. He expressed his appreciation for all volunteers that helped on Saturday. He reported that \$2500.00 was made from Oktoberfest and will go to scholarships for children to be able to attend park programs. Lastly, he added that excavation for the new ADA program will begin next week.

Zoning: None

Planning: None

Civil Service: Ron Steele reported that the Borough will look to hire a 4th full time police officer.

Comprehensive Plan: None

Borough Updates:

Comprehensive Plan & Downtown Redevelopment: Christian Laskey reported that another town hall will take place on November 29, 2023 at 6:00 pm at SRU's Alumni House. Christian stated that he has spoken with consultants Denny Puko and Ben Levenger regarding grants for street lights in the borough. The consultants believe that in order to be eligible for a grant, a detailed plan must be in place. The quote for the creation of a plan for the street lights will be approximately \$9,000.00. Christian is hoping that other entities such as Slippery Rock Development may be willing to split the cost.

Solicitor's Report: None

New Business:

*Ron Steele made the motion to approve the September 5, 2023, meeting minutes. Royce Lorentz provided the second. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

*John Hicks made the motion to approve the September 12, 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 SRMA/Cornelius Lot Line Revision. Alex Tuten provided the second. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

*Royce Lorentz made the motion to approve the advertisement of the Noise Ordinance Amendment to be voted on at the November 21, 2023 meeting. Ron Steele provided the second. The motion passed with Lauren Christmann being the only opposing vote. Alex Tuten, John Hicks, and Ron Steele spoke in favor of advertising the proposed ordinance believing 90 decibels to be reasonable.

***2024 Budget:** There was a discussion regarding the 2024 budget. Christian Laskey distributed a proposed balanced budget for review. The 2024 budget will be placed on the agenda for the November 7, 2023 meeting for discussion.

Citizen Input for Non-Agenda Items:

Tyler Doyle: Mr. Doyle spoke in favor of the Borough working with SRU on a Distractive Drivers Awareness campaign. He added that he would like to see the state petitioned to lower the speed limit on state roads where bus stops are located. Christian Laskey reported that the Borough will purchase speed readers in an effort to slow traffic down. Alex Tuten suggested the purchase and placement of school bus alert signs as well. Christian stated that he will look at purchasing the signs. Royce Lorentz remarked that drivers running stop signs is a problem in the Borough as well.

Andrew Colvin: Mr. Colvin addressed the noise ordinance and his concern with the noise and speed of modified vehicles. He would like to see the police department be more active in dealing with this public safety issue.

Regina Greenwald: Mrs. Greenwald announced that the borough won the Outstanding Achievement Award for Overall Impression from America in Bloom. The mayor added that the flag was cited in the America in Bloom report as being one of the reasons for the award. Regina asked the borough to remember while looking at the 2024 budget that Slippery Rock in Bloom raises over \$15,000.00 annually for wages, plants and materials for downtown maintenance. The mayor asked if Slippery Rock in Bloom uses borough employees to complete some of those projects. She stated that they did. Slippery Rock in Bloom will be planting the annual tulips in the borough on October 28, 2023 starting at 9:00 am at Memorial Park. Volunteers are needed and appreciated.

Ian Oman: Mr. Oman stated that he felt unfairly singled out by the mayor regarding the flag. The mayor asked the borough manager to confirm the lawyer costs and hours of labor spent on collecting data due to Mr. Oman's complaint. The mayor stated that the flag was a project independent of the borough and that no borough funds were used to purchase, erect or otherwise maintain the flag.

Councilperson's Remarks:

Alex Tuten remarked that she has not heard from the high school regarding the student councilperson position. She suggested that Council may have to find another way to seek out a student council member.

Adjournment:

With nothing left on the agenda to discuss, Denton Zeronas asked for a motion to adjourn. John Hicks made the motion and Alex Tuten provided the second. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.