

Slippery Rock Borough Council Meeting

306 East Water Street Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Tuesday January 16, 2024, from 7:00 pm to 8:11 pm

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

Mayor Longo led Council members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Public Recording Announcement: Stand and State Your Name for the Public Record: None.

Outside Entity Reports:

Slippery Rock University: None

Slippery Rock Community Library: None

Slippery Rock Municipal Authority: None

Slippery Rock Volunteer Fire Company & Rescue Team: (See Attached) Ryan Hanchoski gave an update for the Slippery Rock Volunteer Fire Company & Rescue Team for the month of December along with a year in review.

Slippery Rock Student Government Association: None

Mayor's Comments: None

Citizen Input for Agenda Items Only:

Gizella Goyak discussed the proposed Amendment to the Mayor's salary. She expressed her opinion, emphasizing that the position of Mayor should be regarded as one of honor. Goyak suggested that offering a stipend would not only allow residents to express their gratitude but also serve as a reminder to the Mayor of their duty to the community. Additionally, she recommended that Council consider nominating Jonathan Foust for the vacant council seat, highlighting his strong dedication to Slippery Rock.

Police Report: (See Attached) Mayor Longo stated that he will give a year end update on behalf of the police department at the next meeting.

Committee Updates:

Personnel: Christian Laskey reported that the Borough has received 26 applications for the laborer position. Jeff Campbell asked Alex Tuten, John Hicks, and Mayor Longo to join the Borough Manager and Borough Street Department in reviewing applications and initiating the first round of interviews.

Finance/Budget: None

Streets: None

Facilities/Properties: None

Public Safety: Mayor Longo reported that he had been asked why the speed readers were taken away. The speed readers are battery operated and must be brought in to charge from time to time.

Economic Development: The Mayor urged Council to have a discussion in the near future about LERTA, the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act. The provides tax breaks for commercial and industrial properties in specific areas to encourage the redevelopment of old or deteriorating properties.

Intergovernmental Relations: None

Park: (See Attached) Park Director, Denton Zeronas provided an update on the park. Alex Tuten added that the School's play rehearsals are underway.

Zoning: None

Planning: Alex Tuten requested to be removed from the Planning Committee and placed on the Park Committee. John Hicks and Jennifer Ravert have been placed on the Planning Committee.

Civil Service: None

Comprehensive Plan: Christian Laskey reported that the last Comprehensive Plan meeting had been canceled due to illness.

Borough Updates:

Laborer: As discussed earlier, the Borough has received 26 applications for the advertised laborer position. A review committee has been set up to review applicants and schedule interviews.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Black addressed the nominations for the vacant council seat. Considering the number of expected nominations, she suggested a suitable course of action would be to initiate the nominations process and allow council to cast their votes for the nominated candidates once the nominations have ceased.

New Business:

*John Hicks made the motion to approve the December 5, 2023, meeting minutes. Lauren Christmann provided the second. The motion passed following a roll call vote with Jennifer Ravert being the only abstaining vote.

*Alex Tuten made the motion to approve the December 19, 2023, meeting minutes. Lauren Christmann provided the second. The motion passed following a roll call vote with Jennifer Ravert being the only abstaining vote.

*John Hicks made the motion to approve the Mayor Salary Amendment. There was no second to this motion. The motion failed.

*Alex Tuten made the motion to advertise the invitation to bid on the property located at 100 South Main Street. John Hicks provided the second. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

*Alex Tuten made the motion to elect Benjamin Uber for the Junior Council Person position. John Hicks provided the second. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

*Jeff Campbell initiated the nomination process for the vacant seat on Council and requested nominations. Alex Tuten put forth the nomination of Russ Karl, while John Hicks nominated Paul Lueken. Following these nominations, no further nominations were made. Jeff Campbell then requested a motion to close the nominations, to which Alex Tuten proposed and John Hicks seconded. The motion to close nominations was passed unanimously. Council members then voted either for Russ Karl or Paul Lueken, the only two individuals who received nominations. Borough Manager Christian Laskey announced the voting results, with Paul Lueken emerging as the nominee with a vote of 3-2. John Hicks then made a motion to elect Paul Lueken to serve a 2-year term, which Jennifer Ravert seconded. The motion was unanimously passed. Finally, Mayor Longo administered the oath of office to officially induct Paul Lueken into his new position.

Citizen Input for Non- Agenda Items:

Chris Abbott addressed the difference between bulk and bulky items as outlined by Aiken. He requested that this information be publicly communicated to residents for their awareness. Christian Laskey elaborated on what qualifies as bulk or bulky items and suggested that residents can obtain garbage tags from the Borough if necessary. Mr. Abbott inquired about the previously discussed list of individuals requiring help with property maintenance. It was determined that the borough lacks a system to vet volunteers thus suggesting a park run program would be more efficient.

Councilperson Remarks:

Alex Tuten asked if the Mayor would be swearing in Benjamin Uber as the Junior Councilperson. Mayor Longo stated that he will administer his oath at the beginning of the 2-6-2024 meeting.

Adjournment:

With nothing left on the agenda to discuss, Jeff Campbell asked for a motion to adjourn. John Hicks made the motion and Alex Tuten provided the second. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.