

# Slippery Rock Borough Council Meeting

306 E Water Street Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Tuesday March 5, 2024, from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm

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

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

**Christian Laskey performed the roll call. Those present:** Jeff Campbell, Lauren Christmann, Paul Lueken, Jennifer Ravert, Alex Tuten, Junior council person Benjamin Uber, Solicitor Rebecca Black, Mayor Jondavid Longo, Borough Manager Christian Laskey. Councilpersons Ron Steele and John Hicks were not in attendance.

**Public Recording Announcement: Please stand and state your name for the public record.** James Cressen from Slippery Rock University announced that he was recording the meeting.

## **Citizen Input for Agenda Items Only:**

**Becky Lubold:** Becky Lubold stated her disappointment that the vacant lot has been put out to bid again. She would like the lot to remain a green space where the community can gather, socialize, and hold events.

## **Reports:**

**Jondavid Longo:** Mayor Longo reported that the President and Chief of Police of the University fulfilled their promise by purchasing and installing two speed readers on campus.

**Benjamin Uber:** Benjamin Uber reported seeing community members enjoying the nice weather this week. He noted that Slippery Rock High School spring sports season has started and reminded Council about Daylight Saving Time, which begins this Sunday, March 10, 2024.

**Lauren Christmann:** None

**Paul Lueken:** None

**Alexandra Tuten:** Alex Tuten reminded council that tickets for the Slippery Rock High School musical, Newsies, go on sale Wednesday March 6, 2024.

**Ron Steele:** Absent

**Jen Ravert:** None

**John Hicks:** Absent

**Jeff Campbell:** President Campbell commented on the nice weather as well noting seeing people utilizing the walking trail over the weekend.

## **Borough Updates:**

**GIS Intern:** Christian Laskey provided an update on the progress the intern from Slippery Rock University has made with the GIS mapping system.

**Civil Service:** Christian Laskey reported that the legal ad posted in the Butler Eagle is advertising that the Borough is now accepting applications to establish an entry level police officer eligibility

list. Applications are available at the borough building and are due no later than Friday March 29, 2024.

### **Discussion Items:**

**School Drive Street Closure:** The Steele Mill requested that School Drive be closed on 3-16-2024 from 10am-4pm for a St. Patrick's Day celebration. Jeff Campbell asked for a motion. Alex Tuten made the motion to approve the street closure. Paul Lueken provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

**Bands on the Bricks:** (See Attached) Slippery Rock Development has requested to reserve the Roxy Park Gazebo and adjacent grass lot for Bands on Bricks on June 7, July 5, August 2, and September 6, 2024, from 3:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Approval for Bands on Bricks will be placed on the 3-19-2024 agenda for vote.

**Farmers and Makers Market:** (See Attached) Slippery Rock Development is requesting use of the Gazebo and the Gateway Parking Lot on Saturdays from May 11, 2024, through October 5, 2024, from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm with the market hours being from 9:00 am to Noon. Approval of the use of the Gazebo and Gateway Parking Lot will be placed on the 3-19-2024 agenda for vote.

**Light Up Night:** (See Attached) Slippery Rock Development is requesting the closure of South Main Street from Franklin Street to Cooper Street from 1:30 pm to 8:00 pm on Saturday November 23, 2024, for SRD's annual Light Up Night. Approval of the street closure will be placed on the 3-19-2024 agenda for vote.

**Housing Authority Pilot Program:** Solicitor Black addressed the pilot agreement with Graystone Manor, where instead of taxes, an annual payment is made to the Borough. However, portions of that money designated for the school district and county were not distributed at some point, resulting in owed payments by the Borough. The solicitor and Borough Manager are collaborating with the school district and county to establish the method and timeline for repayment.

**First Energy Tree Grant:** (See Attached) First Energy gifted 136 native trees to be planted through out the Borough. The trees will be planted on April 22, 2024. Volunteers are welcome.

**100th Main Street Bid Opening:** Christian Laskey reported that no bids were submitted for the vacant lot. Council discussed the lot's future and will include it as a discussion item on the 3-19-2024 meeting agenda to determine the next steps.

### **Citizen Input for Non- Agenda Items:**

**Liz Conte** from Keystone Wellness Program addressed Council with efforts to protect communities from tobacco exposure. She is advocating for no smoking policies in Butler County, emphasizing initiatives such as work site policies, Young Ones At Play to reduce children's exposure to tobacco products and multi-unit housing policies for safe housing for all.

**Ella Bloom**, the Student Government President at Slippery Rock University, introduced herself and gave an update on behalf of the SGA. She reported that they are currently going through the election process as well as working on the budget and producing the student life survey regarding campus life. President Campbell thanked her for being at the meeting and stated that she was welcome to attend meetings and keep council updated.

**Becky Lubold** sought clarification on why the Borough must sell the vacant lot and asked about the availability of grants to assist in paying off the loan. Alex Tuten explained that the property was never intended to be maintained as a greenspace and was purchased by a completely different council.

**Gene Allison** remarked that he is in favor of selling the vacant lot but that the Borough needs to negotiate with potential buyers.

**Stephanie Ralston** asked if council will consider keeping the lot as a green space while maintaining the lot and paying the debt.

**Chris Abbott** asked if the Borough have discussed options for the vacant lot with the Comprehensive Plan consultants.

**Councilperson's Remarks:**

**Jen Ravert** reminded council that the park will need volunteers to help assemble the ADA playground on March 11, 2024, at 10:00 am.

**Adjournment:**

With nothing further on the agenda to discuss, Jeff Campbell asked for a motion to adjourn.

Jennifer Ravert made the motion and Lauren Christmann provided the second. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.