

BOROUGH OF SCOTTDALE
REGULAR MEETING
June 10, 2024

The regular meeting of Scottsdale Borough Council convened at 6:44 pm with President Donald Stansak presiding.

ROLL CALL Mr. Chronowski, Mrs. Colebank, Mr. Pinsky, Mrs. Robson, Mr. Siwula, President Stansak, Mrs. Yeager, Engineer Eby, Borough Manager Pallone, Solicitor Falatovich were in attendance.

Councilperson Hovis and Mayor King were absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Council entered executive session at 6:45 PM.

Regular Session was reconvened at 7:26 PM.

Moved by Mr. Chronowski, second by Mr. Siwula to amend the agenda to include the agreement with the Private Industry Council under Old Business. Motion passed.

CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO MINUTES – Mr. Pinsky requested a correction to the May 13, 2024 meeting minutes. On Page 5, it states “Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Siwula to reject all bids and advertise for glass block windows and have alternate double-hung window bids. Motion passed with Mr. Pinsky opposed based on MBE/WBE funding.” Mr. Pinsky requested for it to be changed to “Mr. Pinsky opposed based on mandated MBE/WBE funding.”

Moved by Mr. Pinsky, second by Mr. Siwula to accept the May 13, 2024 minutes as amended. Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Siwula, second by Mr. Chronowski to accept the May 24, 2024 minutes as written. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – Nothing to report.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLLS – Moved by Mr. Siwula, second by Mrs. Robson to approve the payrolls. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND LATE BILLS – Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Chronowski to approve the bills and late bills. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS
OLD BUSINESS

Welcome Sign Location – Moved by Mrs. Robson, second by Mrs. Yeager to locate the sign on Jack Davis’s property (near the old Stanley’s Fruit Market) in the back of the guardrail. Motion passed.

Private Industry Council – Moved by Mr. Chronowski, second by Mr. Siwula to approve the Borough Manager to execute all documents for the Private Industry Council. Motion passed.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Fire Department Doors – Tabled.

Amend Ordinance Related to Borough Manager – Solicitor Falatovich explained that the ordinance includes that 5 votes are needed to hire or terminate the Borough Manager, with the creation of contract for the manager position renewable every 2 years. The ordinance has been advertised and is available to vote on at tonight's meeting.

Moved by Mr. Pinskey, second by Mrs. Robson to approve the ordinance. Motion passed.

Hiring of New Borough Manager – Moved by Mr. Siwula, second by Mr. Chronowski to hire Stacey Coffman for the position of Borough Manager with a salary of \$55,000 per year, prorated for the remainder of 2024 with an evaluation at the beginning of 2025 for determining her 2025 pay, starting at 10:00 AM on June 11, 2024. A question was asked about Coffman's residency. She is a resident of the Borough of Scottdale.

A roll call vote was taken with all seven council members voting in favor of hiring Coffman.

Increasing Janitor's Wages – Moved by Mrs. Robson, second by Mrs. Yeager to increase the janitor's hourly rate from \$11.65 to \$15.00. The janitor has been doing an excellent job in less hours than what was budgeted. Working less hours at \$15.00 per hour would save the Borough \$19.80 per pay, equating to \$514.80 per year.

A roll call vote was taken with six council members voting in favor of increasing the wages, with Mr. Chronowski voting no.

Interviewing Secretary/Treasurer Candidates – Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Siwula to interview Secretary/Treasurer candidates at 5 PM at 5:45 PM on June 12, 2024, and hold a special meeting on June 26, 2024 to hire a new Secretary/Treasurer. Also included in the motion was to advertise the special meeting. Motion passed.

Mid Penn Bank 3-Month CD – Moved by Mr. Chronowski, second by Mrs. Colebank to take out a 3-month CD with Mid Penn Bank, using the funds available from a 6-month CD that recently matured at Mid Penn Bank. Motion passed.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Multimodal Grant for Paving and Crosswalks – The bids for the grant were opened and read by Engineer Eby:

Boney – CROSSWALKS – Alternate \$144,777.40 (Thrown out; improper paperwork)
El Grande – CROSSWALKS – Base \$128,750.00, Alternate \$10,300.00
KGD – CROSSWALKS – Base \$75,000.00, Alternate \$6,200.00
N and N Landscaping – CROSSWALKS – Base \$168,049.81, Alternate \$12,996.38
Nevaeh – CROSSWALKS – Base \$95,450.00, Alternate \$7,700.00
No Sweat Services – CROSSWALKS – Base \$162,500.00, Alternate \$13,000.00

Falino Construction – PAVING – Base \$90,493.20, Alternate \$11,139.00
El Grande – PAVING – Base \$81,320.00, Alternate \$10,058.00
Morgan Excavating – PAVING – Base \$83,584.80, Alternate \$10,338.12
Nagy Construction & Asphalt – PAVING – Base \$94,240.00, Alternate \$11,656.00
Redstone – PAVING – Base \$82,840.00, Alternate \$10,246.00
Tresco – PAVING – Base \$78,280.00, Alternate \$9,682.00

The engineer will give his recommendation on bids by the time of the Engineer's Report on the agenda.

Frank Kapr Parking Lot Request – The Code Enforcement Officer checked Frank Kapr's request to have yellow lines painted at his parking lot access on Market Street. Cars parking at the entrance have made it difficult to access the lot. Per Mr. Eby, it's more of a problem for the police to handle. He recommends towing the vehicles and/or calling the police. Painting lines will set a precedent, leading to yellow lines being painted all over town. No action taken.

Vac Truck – Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Siwula to bring in a Vac truck for a day to jet vac storm drains at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00. Motion passed.

MS4 Issues – Response from DEP has not been received. Tabled until answer received.

PROTECTION

Changing Order of Agenda Items – Moved by Mr. Chronowski, second by Mrs. Colebank to change the order of Protection agenda items. Motion passed.

Police Officer Hiring Update – The last police hiring process resulted in only 2 individuals being interviewed for open police officer positions. There is a need to establish an eligibility list for future hiring.

Moved by Mr. Chronowski, second by Mrs. Colebank to readvertise hiring police officers. Motion passed.

Reimbursing New Police Hires for their Act 120 Certification – Solicitor Falatovich mentioned a contract requiring new hires to continue employment with Scottsdale Borough for 3 years from their hire date if they receive reimbursement. He also mentioned the need to meet with the police union to address the GPS system being used on the police cars and the tiered pay system. He asked council about talking with a representative of the police union (Matt Zelenak) and/or their attorney about these items. A memorandum of understanding needs to be written up. Council members would be welcome to participate in the discussions. Mr. Chronowski indicated that he would be interested. Solicitor Falatovich will handle setting up a meeting.

Blight Update – Solicitor Falatovich reported the following:

- 104 Newman Street – Property owner dropped off papers at Solicitor’s office. The case is now over. President Stansak mentioned that the grass has been cut and the property has been boarded up and secured.
- 102 Mount Pleasant Road – Property owner agreed per court order to participate in the Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority rehabilitation program to demolish the home. Solicitor Falatovich reached out to Brian Lawrence to get paperwork for funding to demolish the property. The family is to retain ownership; the daughter wants the property in her name.
- 616 Walnut Avenue – Stuart Adams was served. Mr. Adams contacted Solicitor Falatovich’s office. He advised him to respond per the papers served. Once the response is in, the Borough will apply to court for entry to the property and to close off entry and work on a walk-through with representatives of DEP and Diamond Communications about removing any toxic chemicals from the site. The case is now moving along.

Mr. Pinskey advised council about discussions he has had with Gorskey Engineering about the Feed Mill property. Solicitor Falatovich recommended that he talk with both attorney Bob Sloan and Attorney Zebley. Solicitor Falatovich will give Mr. Pinskey their phone numbers.

Mr. Pinskey also indicated that he is talking with Gorskey Engineering about possibilities with the Sheetz property.

Mrs. Yeager asked about the Fink Building. She reported that it has broken windows and loose bricks. Solicitor Falatovich advised that control of the building is in the hands of the trustee of the bankruptcy and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The excuse always used is that they don’t have the resources to repair the building and they can sign the building over to the Borough. The Borough obviously doesn’t want the building, which puts it in a bind. Mrs. Yeager asked if we could at least put barriers up to protect the public. Mrs. Colebank will have the street crew put barriers up.

Mrs. Yeager also asked about doing a traffic study on South Hickory Street. Since it was not on the agenda for this meeting, she requested the Protection Committee to consider it and have it on the next meeting’s agenda.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Hiring Summer Program Teacher – Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Siwula to hire Lisa Robbins as the Summer Parks Program Teacher at the same rate as last summer. Motion passed.

Loucks Park Bases – Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Siwula to purchase bases for the Loucks Park Ballfield for \$199.00. Motion passed.

Car Show – Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Chronowski to approve the closing of Pittsburgh Street, Spring Street, and Stoner Street for the Car Show on June 15, 2024, from 4:00 to 9:00 PM. Motion passed.

JACOBS CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION - Nothing to report.

JACOBS CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT – Nothing to report.

WESTMORELAND-FAYETTE MUNICIPAL SEWAGE AUTHORITY – Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Windows at Central Fire Station – Graham Construction was the only bid that qualified. There was discussion about using glass block windows instead of double-hung windows. Mr. Siwula felt that glass block windows were best. After the discussion, he changed his mind.

Moved by Mr. Siwula, second by Mrs. Robson to accept the bid from Graham Construction for double-hung windows at \$22,413.00. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Reimburse Mr. Pinsky for PSAB Conference – Moved by Mrs. Yeager, second by Mrs. Robson to approve reimbursement of Mr. Pinsky for \$1,502.22 for attending the PSAB conference. Mrs. Colebank asked about the cost and what benefit Scottdale gets from attending. Mr. Pinsky explained the benefits of his attendance and said that it is allowable by PA Borough Code. Council asks attendee(s) to share info from the conference. Mr. Pinsky stated that he understands and will share what he has. He has always shared information. Mr. Pinsky shared that some of the things he has brought back have fallen on deaf ears. Motion passed.

Mr. Pinsky asked why this was put under New Business instead of the Approval of Bills and Late Bills. Manager Pallone said, “You can blame me. I put it in New Business because it was going to be a matter of question that if it was put in the Bills and Late Bills, it was going to be discussed separately. Bills and Late Bills would have been approved except for this reimbursement. So, I thought it best to go under New Business.”

CORRESPONDENCE

PennDOT Municipal Agreement – Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mrs. Robson to accept the PennDOT Municipal Agreement for \$10,168.84 for the first year, totaling \$52,919.00 over 5 years. Motion passed.

Elks Riders – A letter requesting approval to host an Elks Riders Ride for Marshall event on August 17, 2024.

Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Siwula to approve the Elks’ request to host a Riders Ride for Marshall event on August 17, 2024. Motion passed.

Scottdale Chamber of Commerce – A letter requesting approval of the Scottdale Chamber of Commerce Block Party from 1:00 PM to dark.

Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mrs. Robson to approve the Block Party. Motion passed.

Westmoreland County – A letter awarding a \$1,000 grant for the Scottdale Concert in the Park series. The only thing needed is to sign and return the paperwork to Westmoreland County.

Westmoreland County Landbank – A letter updating information about the organization. No action needed.

Scottdale Chamber of Commerce – A letter requesting sponsorship for the Cheeseburger in Paradise event. The Borough is unable to sponsor due to PA Borough Code restrictions.

SEMINARS – Nothing to report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Engineer Eby recommended accepting the following bids for the ADA Crosswalks and Paving:

ADA Crosswalks – KGD, \$75,000.00 base bid and \$6,200.00 alternate bid
Paving – Tresco, \$78,280.00 base bid and \$9,682.00

Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mrs. Yeager to accept the bids as recommended by the Borough Engineer, contingent on Engineer and Solicitor review. The difference of \$480.00 over the grant amount is to be paid from the general fund. Motion passed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – The handicap parking ordinance needs minimum and maximum fine amounts added to it, along with those fine amounts posted on the handicap parking signs. Solicitor Falatovich recommends a minimum of \$100.00 and a maximum of \$300.00 and towing for violation of the ordinance. He also recommends renewals for the handicap spots.

The Solicitor will bring the Anti-Nepotism Ordinance to council for their review.

A letter was received from Attorney Dan Beisler regarding a request to change zoning on Gracestone Manor from R2 to C1 was received. Solicitor Falatovich explained what the next steps taken will need to be. He will handle it.

MAYOR'S REPORT – The Mayor was absent from this meeting. Mr. Pinskey reported that he accepted the PA Borough Association's Mayor of the Year award at the annual PSAB conference in Hershey. Mayor King was unfortunately unable to attend the award ceremony.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD NO. TWO

Dora Packowski – Asked the status of both the sound system and the conference call system. Mr. Siwula explained that he received an estimate on the sound system and needed to get quotes because the higher-than-expected estimated cost would require getting quotes. He also said he was waiting from a vendor for costs associated with

installing a conference call system. As soon as his committee gets the necessary information, both items can be addressed with council.

An individual who entered the meeting late asked about where the Welcome to Scottdale sign would be located. It was explained that this was already addressed, and the individual was told where it was going to be installed.

ADJOURN – Moved by Mr. Siwula, second by Mr. Chronowski to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. Motion passed.

Borough Secretary