

# COUNCIL MEETING

## FEBRUARY 10, 2025

The Council meeting was called to order by President Donald Stansak at 6:30 pm February 10, 2025. Mayor Chuck King swore in Assistant Police Chief Michael Whipkey as the new Police Chief for the Borough of Scottsdale. Roll call was taken with Mr. Matt Chronowski, Mr. Caden Coppetti, Mr. Andy Pinskey, Mrs. Charity Colebank, Mr. Steve Eby, Mr. Mickey Siwula, Mr. Donald Stansak, Mayor Chuck King, Mrs. Mary Yeager, Mrs. Mary Robson, Mr. Gary Falatovich, Mr. Isaac House, and Mrs. Stacey Coffman in attendance. We have a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charity Colebank, all in g=faavor, none opposed, motion carries.

**Public Comment:** No one on the Agenda to speak

**Approval of Payroll :** A motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to accept payroll. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

**Approval of Bills and Late Bills:** A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to pay the bills and late bills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mickey Siwula, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries. Mrs. Charity Colebank asked for Mr. Gary Falatovich to

break the line items down on his monthly bill so that the council could have a better understanding of the charges. Mr. Gary Falatovich agreed to this.

Mr. Andy Pinskey asked Council to please speak into the microphones for everyone, including himself, to hear more clearly.

**Action Items: Old Business** Mr. Donald Stansak was able to locate the paperwork for Loucks Park. There were some questions as to whether the park was being used the way it is meant to be stipulated when the park was dedicated. After discussing with Mr. Gary Falatovich and looking over the agreement it has been decided that the Borough is using the park in accordance with the dedication agreement.

Mrs. Charity Colebank questioned the status of the Guardian collection bill that was addressed in last month's meeting. Mrs. Stacey Coffman stated that she had addressed this and that the bill was adjusted. Past administration had failed to provide the tax-exempt form, which was the only amount due. After faxing a copy of the Borough's tax exempt from the bill was adjusted to a zero balance and no longer in collections.

Mrs. Charity Colebank asked about the status of the Veterans Banner Program insurance topic that was sent to the General Government Committee to decide. Mrs. Stacey Coffman told Council that Scottdale Fireman currently put the banners up and are already covered under the Borough's insurance.

Mr. Andy Pinskey asked about the status of the Vacancy Chair position as it was not on the agenda. Mrs. Stacey Coffman has not received any interest in the position to date, it is currently being advertised on Borough's website.

**General Government: Skilled Gaming Device** Mr. Mickey Siwula stated the General Government Committee had discussed at length the topic of Skilled Gaming. The Committee has decided not to pursue this matter or any further action regarding this matter. The Committee does not believe that Council should be allowed to interfere and tell residents what they can or cannot do. Mrs. Mary Yeager disagreed with that and told Mr. Mickey Siwula to stick to the facts, not his opinion. Mr. Mickey Siwula said the General Government Committee is going to require the owners of these gaming machines post a notice stating no child under the age of 18 may play those machines or be in proximity of the machine.

**Audit:** A quote was given by Opst and Associates for \$7500, Singer Accounting \$10,000, A&B \$12,000, and Delusio and Associates \$13,000. It was discussed in the General Government Committee meeting that it is good practice to change Auditors every few years. Opst has been the Auditor for the past several years. Mrs. Mary Yeager questioned the schedule and what was being offered in Singer's proposal. She stated that A & B's proposal was the only one she saw to quote a detailed audit for 2024's personal changes. Mrs. Charity Colebank asked Mr. Mickey Siwula what the Committee recommends. The Committee was recommending Singer Accounting. Mr. Andy Pinskey stated that these are proposals, not formal bids. Mrs. Stacey Coffman stated the Auditors were given the specks. Mrs. Mary Yeager stated she believed these were actual bids, not an open-ended thing. Mr. Andy Pinskey questioned the language used where it states, "We propose" because they are not clearly stating these are formal bids, stating "There is a difference between a proposal and a bid". Mr. Gary Falatovich stated these

were actually requests for proposals, which is essentially the same thing as a formal bid in this case. Mr. Mickey Siwula made a motion to hire the Auditor, Singer Accounting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Robson. Mrs. Charity Colebank asked if Singer Accounting's price was included in this year's budget. Mrs. Stacey Coffman said the amount will be made up in the staff salary line item. Mr. Andy Pinskey clarified that Mrs. Charity Colebank is proposing that Council find a line item in the budget to correct the difference with. Mrs. Mary Yeager questions the proposal only stating personal changes for the audit's time frame, not including end of year. A roll call vote will be taken to accept Singer Accounting's proposal for 2024-, 2025- and 2026-years audits. Mrs. Charity Colebank-Yes, Mrs. Mary Yeager- No, Mr. Andy Pinskey- No, Mr. Donald Stansak- No, Mrs. Mary Robson- Yes, Mr. Caden Coppetti- No, Mr. Mickey Siwula-Yes, Mr. Matt Chronowski-No. Three yes, five no, motion fails. The Auditors will be asked to clarify the time frames the audits will include and bring to the General Government Committee before presenting this before the council at the next meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to table the bids for the audit by the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Charity Colebank, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

**AED Service:** The General Government Committee recommends that the AED service Contract be dropped. Mutual Aid is willing to order any supplies the Borough may need for the machine and bill the Borough. It is the recommendation of the Committee to end the Borough's contract with Cintas.

**Salary of Office Staff:** The salary for the Manager, Secretary/Treasurer, and Clerk were already approved when the budget was approved in December 2024. Mrs. Charity Colebank questioned the way in which the Secretary/Treasurer salary was paid considering there are two hourly rates for this position, and how the hours are broken down. Is it the same hours every week or do the hours change according to the position? She asked that the General Government look at combining this into one rate, not two separate rates. Mr. Angelo Pallone stated this is how it has been done for many years. There are two separate rates for the Secretary/Treasurer's position and both positions are paid for 35 hours per week. A motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to table the staff salaries and take it back to the General Government Committee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Charity Colebank, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

**SCCIA Lease:** Mr. Andy Pinskey made a motion that Borough Solicitor Mr. Gary Falatovich send a cleaned-up version of the lease to SCCIA with the amount of rent being \$500 a month and back rent amount totaling \$1800. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Charity Colebank. Mr. Matt Chronowski added that a lease can always be amended. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

**Tax Collector Salary:** The Tax Collector's salary needs to be determined and approved for the next 4 years and submitted by February 15th by law. The new Tax Collector term will start in the year 2026. The General Government Committee recommended \$16,000 for the 2026 year, \$16,480 for 2027, \$16,974.40 for 2028, and \$17,483.63 for 2029. Mr. Gary Falatovich advised Council they did not have to vote for

all 4 years by law, it is the Borough's Resolution that requires 4 years. This Resolution can be changed at any meeting. Mrs. Charity Colebank made a motion to keep the current salary of \$16,236 for the 2026 year and reevaluate this ahead of time next year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

**Fee Resolution:** The Parks Commission looked at the current amounts being charged for Park rentals. The Committee recommended the Chestnut Street Park and Loucks Park Pavilion Rental Fees Resolution as follows. For 60 people or less the rental fee will be \$125 with a deposit of \$125 due at the time of booking, for a total of \$250. This deposit will not be returned if there is any damage done to the property. 61 people and above will be considered an event and charged according to hours. For a four-hour rental the cost is \$1000 for 61-200 people, \$1200 for 201-400 people, \$1800 for 401-600 and 600 and above will be \$2000. A 6-hour rental for 61-200 people will cost \$1400, 201-400 people is \$1700, 401-600 people \$2700 and 601 and above \$3000. The 8-hour rental will charge \$ 1800 for 61-200 people, \$2200 for 201-400 people, \$3500 for 401-600 people, and for 601 plus the cost will be \$3900.00. These prices factor in the cost of the amount of Police needed for the event and Street crew needed for cleanup. The event must be reserved 30 days in advance. If the event is going to have a vendor the Borough must be listed as additionally insured. Mr. Andy Pinskey is working on the Ordinance to amend it to match the Resolution. A motion was made by Mrs. Charity Colebank to accept the fees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

**Public Services:** Mrs. Charity Colebank just wanted to bring to the Council's attention

Crestview Road in West Park is falling apart. There are a lot of potholes that have recently been appearing throughout the town due to the weather change. The Street Crew is cold patching the potholes currently, hot patching cannot be done until March.

**Protection: Civil Service Letter** Mr. Matt Chronowski stated they received a letter from the Civil Service Committee. He asked Mrs. Stacey Coffman to read the letter. The letter read that the Commission is required to submit an annual report to the Borough Council and the letter serves as that annual report. The report included the amounts spent on advertising, the interviews, the testing completed on Police candidates and any other work the Commission has completed. Mayor Chuck King wanted Solicitor Gary Falatovich to read the letter he was given by Officer Matt Zelenak. Mr. Gary Falatovich stated this will be addressed in the Executive session as this is a personal matter.

**Blight: MPH** There is a walk through for the MPH with the DEP and Diamond

Communications, scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Mr. Andy Pinskey asked that the building be referred to as the Publishing House. He has had several residents reach out and ask that the "Mennonite" name be unassociated with this property as they have not owned the building for several years. Mr. Gary Falatovich said legally it should be referred to as the Wellspring Church Building.

**102 Mt. Pleasant Rd.** There is a contempt hearing scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Feed Mill** Mr. Gary Falatovich is still trying to get in touch with Attorney Zebley regarding this property.

**Sheetz Mr.** Andy Pinskey has people that are interested in this building and has passed on the contact information for Mr. Gary Falatovich to forward to the attorney handling this building.

**Fink Building** Mr. Gary Falatovich is still trying to get in touch with Attorney Zebley regarding this property.

**Parks and Recreation: Pavilion Rental Agreement** Discussed earlier

**Event Rental Agreement:** Discussed earlier

**Summer Concert Series 2025** Mrs. Charity Colebank made a motion to hold the Summer Concert Series be held on Saturday evenings from 6:30-8:30 pm June through August 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

**Car Show 2025** A motion was made by Mrs. Charity Colebank to hold the Car Show on Saturday June 14, 2025 5-9 pm with a rain date of Saturday July 12, 2025. This will require the closing of Pittsburgh St, Spring St, and Stoner St. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all I favor, none opposed, motion carries.

**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:** Nothing to report

**New Business:** Junior Councilman Isaac House reported that the Highschool Musical tickets are now being sold. He also reported that the tickets have gone on sale for the prom and there have been several students complaining about the cost for these tickets.

**Correspondence: Fall Festival** A letter was received from the Fall Festival showing the breakdown of the Fall festival dates and activities. They are requesting the use of the Borough garbage cans and picnic tables for the festival and to provide barricades to close off Pittsburgh Street, Stoner Street and Spring Street. The festival is asking that Stoner Street remain closed



until Monday morning. Nothing else has changed since last year. Mrs. Charity Colebank made a motion to accept the proposal, minus the last 2 bullet points, the Police and Street Crew need a copy of their request and that the Borough post this on their Facebook page, which is new. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Pinskey, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

**Westmoreland County Transit Authority Resolution:** This is something done every year for the residents of Scottdale. The cost will be \$1, 275.75 for the 2025 year. A motion was made by Mrs. Charity Colebank to accept this resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mickey Siwula, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

**Westmoreland County Boroughs Association** This is to advertise in the book and the Borough normally buys a quarter- page of advertisement for \$55.00. A motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to pay for a quarter-page advertisement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caden Coppetti, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

**Seminars** Nothing to report

**Engineer's Report** There are two hearings that are pending for 102 Mr. Pleasant Rd, for weeds/plant growth in excess and for proper sanitation.

**Solicitor's Report** Mr. Falatovich will address this in the Executive session

**Mayor's Report** There was a main water break in Scottdale recently. Mayor Chuck King stated that he, Mrs. Mary Robson, Mrs. Stephanie Schropp and Mrs. Joy Stewart passed out over 50 gallons of water to residents in need.

**Public Comment No. Two** Mr. Leonard Santimeyer is questioning the Ordinance on Property maintenance. He stated that the word blight is used but not clearly defined under this Ordinance. He is suggesting to Council that they amend this Ordinance and include the definition of blight according to ACT 135.

Mr. Angelo Pallone asked that the tax collector salary be opened back up and voted on by Council tonight as the salary has already been voted on at the December meeting.

Mrs. Stephanie Schropp spoke about the Wellsprings Church building and the brick falling. She is looking for status on fencing off the building. Mr. Matt Chronowski said he would meet with her and discuss her concerns and a possible solution.

Mr. Bob Close a was asking about the rehab of Well Springs Church

Mr. Dee Petonic asking for answers on the fence for WellSprings Church by the next meeting

Mr. Dave Petonic does not want Council to spend anymore money until this is resolved.

Christine Williams asked that council to please do something about the fink building. There are bricks falling in on her building.

**Executive Session** The Executive Session was entered into at 9:10 and ended at 9:50. A motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:52.