

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF SEWICKLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MARCH 8, 2022**

Call to Order

The council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Mullins.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Mullins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Julie Barnes, Bridgett Bates (via phone), Brian Bozzo, Todd Hamer, Donna Korczyk, Cindy Mullins, Tom Rostek and Anne Willoughby.

Absent: Todd Renner

Mayor George Shannon, Solicitor Nate Boring, Engineer Mike Galet and Manager Donna Kaib were on the dais.

Approval of Consent Agenda

On a motion by Barnes for the Approval of Consent Agenda as submitted, with a second by Hamer. All in favor.

Accepting Monthly Reports

On a motion by Barnes to accept Monthly Reports as submitted, with a second by Hamer. All in favor.

Public Comments

Roger Loughney, 226 Bank Street, thanked council for the speed sign that was installed on his street. He spoke about a neighbors' dog being hit by a car.

Jason Binnie 244 Bank Street, owner of the dog that got out, he has concerns about the speeding on bank because it could have been one of his three children.

Chris Lorang, 306 Bank Street also thanked council for the sign and stated that the placement may need changed since it is behind a tree. President Mullins suggested emailing the manager and she will be in contact with Chief Mazza. He appreciated the council for listening to their needs.

Amy White, 235 Melville Lane, wanted to start a conversation about Airbnb in the Borough. She is aware that there are no ordinances or regulations regarding short term rentals. She lives next to one and there is constant flow day and night. There is a dog door, so dogs are running in and out. Complaints have been made to the guests and the

host of the Airbnb and the Airbnb complaint department. She has not called the Sewickley police. She has now become aware of the process of making a police report for a nuisance dog. The person who owns the Airbnb owns three other properties on their street. The owner also lives on the street. She would like conversations to start about instituting ordinances protecting the integrity and safety of her neighborhood. President Mullins stating that council did start looking into this years ago. Now that it has been brought to council attention, council will revisit the topic. Vice President Barnes stated that the reason it was not looked at more recently was due to the fact that there were no complaints and people were happy with the service. This will now give reason to revisit and see what is right for borough neighborhoods. President Mullins suggests that any complaints about Airbnb be reported to the manager by email.

John Dunn, 608 Straight Street, also noted that there is an Airbnb on his street.

Jessica Whitacre, 980 Crescent Avenue would like to know if there was a limit to the number of dogs in the borough ordinances. Solicitor Boring said there is not usually a number, but it states health and safety. She had no issues with dogs, this was just an angle to help shape with the Airbnb situation. She lives on Crescent Avenue and would like to know the status and how she will be impacted when the demolition starts. The Engineer stated that they are still completing the assessment of the slopes before starting the demolition. Brian Bozzo stated that notice will be given to communicate with residents before work is started.

Resolutions to be Adopted

On a motion by Rostek to approve **Resolution 2022-003** authorizing the purchase of a 2021 Ford F-600 XL 4X4 DRW truck and equipment through the costars program with a second by Barnes. Motion passed. All in favor.

On a motion by Bozzo to approve **Resolution 2022-004** authorizing the Borough of Sewickley into a participatory agreement with Glenfield Borough and Haysville Borough in pursuit of a regional policing assistance program grant for the 2022 calendar year.

Ordinances to be introduced

None

Ordinances to be enacted

On a motion by Barnes to approve **Ordinance 1379**, approving the Certificate of Termination of the Sewickley Borough Parking Authority and directing its Board to execute all documents and instruments and do all things necessary and convenient to effectuate and complete the termination of the authority and divestiture of all assets,

land, and other holdings of the authority to and in favor of the Borough of Sewickley, with a second by Rostek. All in favor. Roll Call Vote: Yes – 8, No – 0. Motion passed.

Comments from Mayor/Council President/Council Members

Mayor Shannon, with the help of Susan Kaminski, is organizing **Snow Angels** for next fall. This is a volunteer group that will help those in the borough that cannot clean their own sidewalks. All volunteers welcome. Please reach out to the mayor.

President Mullins stated that pruning of oak trees on Ohio River Blvd. will be done in the next coming weeks. We are catching up on a backlog of safety pruning and removals. Out of the eighty trees on the boulevard, eight will be removed in the next few months.

Vice President Barnes reported that the recycling bin at Riverfront Park will be open on March 12, 2021. It will be available for use by all the members of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments including from Bellevue borough to Leet Township. It is for use of all glass. The QV COG will pay for the first three months for a pilot program. In June, the QV COG will reach out to all fifteen municipalities to see who will opt in or opt out. The QV COG will then subsidize the cost for those who opt out so that the rate that was quoted to the municipalities prior to this plan will not have an increase. Sewickley will pay \$60.00 a month.

Manager Report

- Sewickley Public Library has been awarded the 2021 Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund grant for \$750,000. This grant will be used for a new roof, HVAC, and window replacement.
- Sewickley Borough has once again been awarded the Banner Community Award. As a result of outstanding commitment to professional development, prudent fiscal manager, transparency, accountability, and proactive communications to engage the community.
- Sewickley Boroughs applications was approved and was selected for the 2022 Municipal Intern Program through the Local Government Academy. The intern will work from May 23, 2022, until August 31, 2022. They will work side by side with the manager and department heads to learn all facets of local government.

Solicitors Report and Invoice

- 14 Dickson Street hearing is continued to the middle of June 2022
- 860 Nevin Street hearing will be April 19, 2022. Will be working with the code enforcement officer to work towards mediation plans. If they do not commit or show evidence of remediation we will continue with the hearing.

Engineers Report – Mike Galet

An email will be forwarded to council showing the scaled back cost of the scope of the work for the Act 537 review.

Old Business

On a motion by Korczyk to approve the **Employee Handbook** for Administrative Employees with a second by Barnes. All in favor. Motion passed.

New Business

On a motion by Barnes to appoint Michael Mullins as the new Borough of Sewickley Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), replacing Jed Von Hofen, with a second by Bozzo. All in favor. Motion passed.

On a motion by Willoughby to appoint Sherry Clarke as the Borough of Sewickley Treasurer with a second by Hamer. All in favor. Motion passed.

On a motion by Rostek to appoint Sherry Clarke as the Borough of Sewickley Right to Know Officer, with a second by Hamer. All in favor. Motion passed.

On a motion by Bozzo, to approve the request for the Quaker Valley Rotary and Sewickley Kiwanis Clubs to hold the 2022 Sewickley Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 10, 2022, with a second by Willoughby. All in favor. Motion passed.

On a motion by Korczyk to approve the request for the Sweetwater Center for The Arts to hold the Mavuno Festival at the Riverfront Park on Saturday, September 17, 2022, with a second by Hamer. All in favor. Motion passed.

On a motion by Rostek, to approve the animal contract for Hoffman's Boarding Kennels for the purpose of dog law enforcement, with a second by Bozzo. All in favor. Motion passed.

On a motion by Korczyk to approve public works department to monitor the recycling vessel located at Riverfront Park on a daily basis, Monday through Friday for the trial period of three (3) months, effective March 14, 2022, with a second by Barnes. All in favor. Motion passed.

On a motion by Bozzo, to approve the services of a government affairs grant writer for the remainder of the 2022 year, with a second by Korczyk. All in favor. Motion passed.

On a motion by Willoughby, to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 614

Academy Avenue for skylight replacement per the recommendation of the Historic Review Commission with a second by Barnes. All in favor. Motion passed.

On a motion by Willoughby, to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 604 Pine Road for residential addition per the recommendation of the Historic Review Commission, with a second by Korczyk. All in favor. Motion passed.

On a motion by Willoughby, to authorize the Historic Review Commission to apply for CLG funding for the 2022-2023 grant cycle with a 10% match from the borough, with a second by Barnes. All in favor. Motion passed.

Under Question: Teresa Duff from HRC was in attendance. Barnes asked what the amount of the match was? Ms. Duff stated it was a 10% match. Bozzo asked how the funds would be used? Ms. Duff stated the intent was to do an architectural survey of the borough so to rate every structure and document it. The survey will include every structure in the Borough of Sewickley. This will then give them an inventory that they can then update the ordinance. The last architectural survey was completed in 1982. They would also like to get community engagement and streamline the application process. President Mullins asked if it was still HRC objective to extend the historic districts and incorporate all residents? Ms. Duff said it was not necessarily their objective. It would be a potential recommendation that comes out of the survey. There will be other recommendations, including community engagement and strategies. President Mullins asked that when they move to change the ordinance is it still their objective to use outside council? Ms. Duff stated that there would be some consulting done because outside council has gone through this process just recently. President Mullins asked if it is being patterned after Sewickley Heights Ordinance? Ms. Duff stated no that they have a very different architectural inventory. We are more densely packed in Sewickley. President Mullins asked how you would bring the public into this process? Ms. Duff stated that this is the reason they want to contract the preservation planning firm. They are the experts at this and have conducted outreach and community involvement before. HRC goal is to streamline the application process and bring the public in to discuss rather than putting on restrictions. Bozzo asked the cost of the survey? Ms. Duff stated the survey and plan is being estimated at \$28,000-\$35,000. Mayor Shannon asked, once the survey is completed will the HRC be recommending or authoritative? Ms. Dunn stated that they will be doing what they are doing now. There are loopholes in the current ordinance that we are losing architecture currently. If they are not updated, then we will continue losing the integrity of their designation in the existing districts. President Mullins stated that more conversation can happen after grant is received.

Discussion Items

None

Correspondence

None

Executive Session

None

Action from Executive Session

None

Adjournment

On a motion by Korczyk, and a second by Willoughby, and a unanimous vote, council adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Kaib
Borough Manager

Cynthia Mullins
President of Council