

**BOROUGH OF SCOTTDALÉ  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

The regular meeting of Scottdale Borough Council convened at 6:33 pm with Vice President Michael Siwula presiding.

**ROLL CALL** Mr. Chronowski, Mrs. Colebank, Mrs. Robson, Mr. Pinsky, Vice President Siwula, Mrs. Yeager, Mayor King, Engineer Eby, Solicitor Falatovich, Borough Manager Pallone, Secretary/Treasurer Washington and Junior Councilperson Faith Tarr were in attendance.

Mr. Hovis and President Stansak were absent.

**CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE MINUTES** – Moved by Mr. Chronowski, second by Mrs. Colebank to accept the January 8, 2024 minutes as written. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**Susan Klann** – Ms. Klann stated that Council's efforts are appreciated. She stated that some public comment is a waste of time and that the public need to adhere to the three (3) minute time limit.

**Dora Packowski** – Ms. Packowski stated that Council needs to work together better. Feels that it is one (1) side against the other. She asked why Mr. Hovis had been absent so long. The last meeting he attended was in June, 2023. She would like something to be done about this.

**Stephanie Schropp** – Mrs. Schropp questioned the Solicitor about the cell towers on the old publishing house located at 616 Walnut Avenue. She was under the impression that the tower company was going to move the cell towers. Solicitor Falatovich stated that he was not aware of this and nothing had been discussed with him.

Mrs. Schropp asked if Council can show the building or if anyone could do so. Solicitor Falatovich stated that no one could go into the building without the owner's permission.

The Solicitor reported that the property was scheduled to be up for sale at the County's free and clear sale, but AT&T paid the property taxes so the property has been taken off the sale list.

**APPROVAL OF PAYROLLS** – Moved by Mr. Pinsky, second by Mr. Chronowski to approve the payrolls. Motion passed.

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

**ACTION ITEMS**

**OLD BUSINESS** – Nothing to report.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

Approve Resolution No. 2024-4 2024 Fees Resolution – Mrs. Robson went over the price increases on the fee resolution.

Solicitor Falatovich stated that copy fees are mandated at \$.25/page.

Mrs. Colebank asked to hold off on approving Parks rates until the Parks Commission can review the rates.

Mr. Pinsky would like to see the meal expenses increased by \$5.00 for each meal.

Moved by Mr. Pinsky, second by Mr. Chronowski to table the resolution. Motion passed.

NIMS Training – Mrs. Robson reported that NIMS training is required for all Council members.

Microphones for Council Chambers – Mrs. Robson would like to purchase three (3) microphones for Council Chambers. Mrs. Colebank also suggested purchasing an emeet conference system so that Council members could be heard if they are calling in to the meeting. Mrs. Robson will do further research.

Ambu Bag – Mrs. Robson would like to purchase an ambu bag for emergency purposes. A nurse attending the meeting stated that a trained individual would need to be the one to use it. Mrs. Robson will do further research.

No Smoking Policy – Mrs. Robson reported that the Borough has a no smoking policy. Signs will be put up on the Borough Building property.

Borough Manager Retirement – Mrs. Robson reported that that the chairs should work on getting a job description together for the Borough Manager position. Mr. Pinsky stated that it is recommended by the PSAB to have a two (2) year contract for the manager. The Solicitor can get contracts for managers at other municipalities.

Moved by Mr. Pinsky, second by Mrs. Robson to form a search committee. Motion passed.

Borough Facebook Page – Mrs. Robson warned Council members to not post any personal comments on the Borough facebook page using the Borough logo.

Mrs. Colebank explained what happened recently on Facebook.

Jail Cell Toilet – Mrs. Robson reported that one (1) of the jail cell toilets needs to be replaced because it is leaking. Borough Manager Pallone received a quote in the amount of \$1,908.80 for the toilet alone.

Moved by Mr. Pinsky, second by Mr. Chronowski to get the jail cell toilet replaced. Motion passed.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES**

Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Chronowski to suspend the rules to move items a and d to the end of the meeting. Motion passed.

Truck Repairs – Mrs. Colebank reported that the 2011 F-550 has a bad computer and it won't pass inspection until it is repaired.

Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Chronowski to replace the computer in the 2011 F-550 at a cost of \$3,000.00. Motion passed.

Road Closed Signs – Mrs. Colebank would like to purchase three (3) road closed signs at a total cost of \$350.00.

Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mrs. Yeager to purchase three (3) road closed signs at a total cost of \$350.00. Motion passed.

## **PROTECTION**

Sign in Sheet for Non-Employee and Non-Appointed Officials – Moved by Mr. Chronowski, second by Mrs. Colebank to enforce a sign in sheet for visitors to the Borough office. Motion passed.

Recommendation for Meterperson – Mr. Chronowski reported that he received five (5) applications for the meterperson position.

Moved by Mr. Chronowski, second by Mrs. Colebank to hire Alberta Chronowski for the meterperson position at a rate of \$10.00/hour.

The public questioned how the decision was made. Mr. Chronowski stated that he interviewed three (3) applicants and his mother scored the best.

A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Chronowski, Mrs. Colebank and Mr. Siwula voted yes. Mr. Pinskey, Mrs. Robson and Mrs. Yeager voted no. Mayor King voted no to break the tie vote. Motion failed.

Assistant Police Chief – Mr. Chronowski reported that the Civil Service Commission gave their recommendation for Assistant Police Chief. All applicants took a written test and interviewed with outside individuals.

The ranking is as follows:

- 1 - Michael Whipkey
- 2 - Matthew Zelenak
- 3 - Franklin Doner

Moved by Mr. Chronowski, second by Mrs. Colebank to appoint Michael Whipkey as Assistant Police Chief. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Chronowski, Mrs. Colebank, Mrs. Yeager and Mr. Siwula voted yes. Mr. Pinskey and Mrs. Robson voted no. Motion passed.

Discuss Problems with Social Media – Mr. Chronowski read a statement regarding social media. Mrs. Yeager stated that PSAB recommends to not respond to social media.

Blight Update – Solicitor Falatovich reported the following:

- 104 Newman Street – Hearing scheduled for April 15th.
- 102 Mount Pleasant Road – Hearing scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 616 Walnut Avenue – A list of violations have been given to the Solicitor.
- Sheetz – Mr. Pinsky stated that Sheetz continues to lease the building. Someone is in there cleaning out the building.
- Feedmill – Mr. Pinsky is still talking to Mr. Mongell. The cost to demolish the feedmill is very high. Solicitor Falatovich explained the possibilities. Mr. Pinsky will speak to Mr. Mongell again.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Summer Concert Series – Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Pinsky to hold the summer concerts at the gazebo June 1 – August 17 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Motion passed.

DCNR Grant – Mrs. Colebank reported that she will be applying for the DCNR grant for the tennis courts at Loucks Park.

GAP Connection to the Coal and Coke Trail – Moved by Mr. Pinsky, second by Mr. Chronowski to authorize a letter of support from the Parks Commission. Motion passed.

Permanent Story Walk at the Gazebo – Item tabled.

## **JACOBS CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

Partnership and Grant Opportunity – Alex Busato from the Watershed spoke about the poison hemlock that is growing along the bike trail. He would like to apply for a grant to get rid of the poison hemlock. He explained the project and the need to have matching funds. He will get more information for the Parks Commission.

**JACOBS CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT** - Nothing to report.

**WESTMORELAND-FAYETTE MUNICIPAL SEWAGE AUTHORITY** – Nothing to report.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

GAP Connection to the Coal & Coke Trail – Mr. Pinsky reported that there was a meeting at the Fountain Mills Event Center on January 23<sup>rd</sup> for an urban loop to connect the Great Allegheny Passage in Connellsville to the Coal and Coke trail. Fayette County is going to apply for a grant to connect the trails.

Moved by Mr. Chronowski, second by Mrs. Colebank to send a letter of support from the Borough Council. Motion passed.

Approve Fire Station Roof Bids – Moved by Mr. Pinsky, second by Mrs. Colebank to reject all bids. Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Pinsky, second by Mrs. Robson to readvertise the fire station roof request for bids. Motion passed.

Approve Resolution No. 2024-05 2020 and 2021 CDBG Modifications – Moved by Mr. Pinsky, second by Mrs. Robson to approve Resolution No. 2024-05 2020 and 2021 CDBG Modifications. Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-05**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF  
THE BOROUGH OF SCOTSDALE, PENNSYLVANIA  
APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF  
MODIFICATIONS TO THE FY 2020 & FY 2021 CDBG PROGRAMS**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Scottdale is a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the State Act 179; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) has provided a grant to the Borough of Scottdale under the FY 2020 and FY 2021 CDBG Programs to address the housing, community and economic development needs in the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Scottdale has been administering its FY 2020 and FY 2021 CDBG Program Year Grants in accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania CDBG Program Guidelines issued by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED); and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has recently transferred ownership of its Sanitary Sewer system to the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC). As part of the transfer agreement, the Borough needs to improve its storm sewer separation system throughout the Borough.

**WHEREAS**, a notice of a public hearing was properly advertised and held, to give residents the opportunity to comment on the proposed modifications; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough's staff and Consultant have prepared a FY 2020 CDBG and FY 2021 CDBG Program Modification which consists of the following:

**FY 2020 CDBG Program Year**

1. Delete the Borough-Wide Sanitary Sewer System Improvement Project activity in the amount of \$45,231.00.
2. Add a new activity to fund improvements to a Storm Sewer Improvements Project in the amount of \$45,231.00.

### FY 2021 CDBG Program Year

1. Delete the Borough-Wide Sanitary Sewer System Improvement Project activity in the amount of \$41,667.00.
2. Reduce the amount for the completed Park Avenue Street Improvements Project from \$38,250.00 to a revised budget amount of \$34,909.39.
3. Add a new activity to fund improvements to a Storm Sewer Improvements Project in the amount of \$45,007.61.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Scottdale, Pennsylvania hereby approves the proposed program modifications to the FY 2020 and FY 2021 CDBG Program Years and authorizes the filing of said modifications with the PA Department of Community and Economic Development; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President of Borough Council is designated as the Chief Executive Officer authorized to execute all necessary documents on behalf of the Borough of Scottdale in regard to the Pennsylvania Community Development Block Grant Program; and furthermore, is authorized and made responsible for performing the overall coordination and administration of the Borough's Community Development Block Grant Program.

**Adopted by** the Borough Council of the Borough of Scottdale at their regular meeting on February 12, 2024.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Council of the Borough of Scottdale, Pennsylvania at their regular meeting held the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

  
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Angelo M. Pallone, Borough Secretary

**NEW BUSINESS** – Nothing to report.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Scottdale Fall Festival – A letter requesting approval for the annual Fall Festival to be held on September 20 -22, 2024.

Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mrs. Yeager to approve the annual Fall Festival to be held September 20 -22, 2024 with the letter approval including the statement that the Borough has no control over the last two (2) items on page 3 of the Festival's request. Motion passed.

Scottdale Area Chamber of Commerce – The annual membership renewal invoice.

Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Chronowski to approve the membership renewal in the amount of \$30.00. Motion passed.

Westmoreland County Boroughs Association – A request for an advertisement in the banquet program.

Mr. Pinskey stated that he would like to have a full page ad since it is the Borough's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Moved by Mr. Pinskey, second by Mrs. Yeager to approve a full page ad in the Boroughs Association program at a cost of \$160.00. Motion passed.

Diana Cramer – Correspondence to be addressed in Executive Session.

SCCIA – A letter regarding the placement of the Borough sign that SCCIA is donating.

Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Chronowski to table the issue. Motion passed.

**SEMINARS**

Municipal Roundtable Meeting – Training on February 23, 2024 at a cost of \$15.00/person.

Moved by Mr. Pinskey, second by Mrs. Colebank to authorize the Borough Manager and anyone else that wants to go. Motion passed.

Environmental Sensitivity Maintenance Training – Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mrs. Robson to send Zachary Patton and one (1) additional Street Department employee. Motion passed.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT** – Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Chronowski to advertise for the stormwater project at Loucks Avenue and North Grant Street. Motion passed.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT** – To be discussed in Executive Session.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – Nothing to report.

**JUNIOR COUNCIL PERSON'S REPORT** – Faith Tarr reported the following:

- Rehearsals are underway for the 2024 production of Mama Mia! The musical will run from March 14 – 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The 2024 Snow Court brought in over \$6,000.00 in donations for St. Jude's, the most raised by any Snow Court in Southmoreland history. Congratulations to King Nolan Blaze and Queen Madison Brown, who raised the most money out of all the girls/guys on the court.
- The Music Department has seen lots of success recently! Students have participated in a variety of honors festivals, including FayWest Honors band, WEMEA County Chorus and Band, PMEA District 1 Band, Orchestra and Honors Band, and the upcoming PMEA Regional Band and Chorus festivals.
- The winter sports seasons have just wrapped up, with the boys wrestling team qualifying for WPIAL playoffs, our newly created girls wrestling team seeing lots of success on the mat, our girls basketball team fighting hard throughout the year and our boys basketball team also moving on the WPIAL playoffs.
- This spring, Southmoreland will be starting a trapshooting team. Students in grades 6-12 will have the chance to compete in this new and exciting opportunity.
- The Interact Club, a new club this year at the high school to serve as a mini Rotary Club, has done a lot for our school and community recently. They are currently working with the Habitat for Humanity to build a house in Greensburg. They also volunteered at the Scottdale 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday party.

**DISCUSSION PERIOD** – Mr. Pinskey stated that the Discussion Period should be renamed Public Comment Period #2.

Mrs. Robson asked if someone from outside the Borough can speak. Solicitor Falatovich explained that the past practice has been only property owners or business owners of the Borough can speak.

Michelle Williams asked Solicitor Falatovich to explain what the free and clear sale is regarding the publishing house.

Mrs. Williams also mentioned panhandling and trespassing. A man walked into her home and nothing was done. Said that the Borough is more concerned about getting connected to the Great Allegheny Passage instead of taking care of issues like what happened to her. Social media is being used because nothing is being done. Council is ignoring the problems in town.

Rhonda Hamrock spoke about the Sheetz property, publishing house, MAWC bills and the dissention of Council.

Joe Levendosky asked Solicitor Falatovich a question about the Police detaining a person walking into another person's home.



Council took a break at 9:37 pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Council went into Executive Session at 9:45 pm.

Council reconvened the regular meeting at 10:14 pm.

Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Pinskey to install nine (9) handicap curb ramps and pave the 200 block of Third Avenue from Baxter Street to the dead end for the 2024 paving project. Motion passed.

Moved by Mrs. Colebank, second by Mr. Chronowski to have the Borough Code Enforcement Officer send a response to Diana Cramer about her concerns. Motion passed.

**ADJOURN** – Moved by Mr. Pinskey, second by Mr. Chronowski to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 pm. Motion passed.

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Borough Secretary