

**MINUTES OF SPRING GROVE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
August 5, 2019**

The Spring Grove Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, August 5, 2019. President James D. Graham led those in attendance in a word of prayer and Pledge to the Flag. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENT**

James D. Graham  
Peter A. Lombardi  
Larry McConnell  
Joshua D. Moore  
Kristyn Stouch

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Beverly Hilt, Mayor  
Andrew N. Shaffer, Borough Manager  
Melissa J. Helm, Adm. Assist/Recording Secty  
Matt Warfel, (ARRO Inc.)  
Peter Ruth, Solicitor

**BOROUGH COUNCIL ABSENT:**

David B. Kile  
Rebecca J. Stauffer

**ALSO ABSENT:**

None

**Public Comment / Visitors**

Mrs. Joy Strausbaugh, 503 Hamlet Drive West, was present to address concerns regarding some budget items she had requested through a Right to Know request. She pointed out how over the past 10 years the sewer rates, refuse rates, and the tax millage have gone up substantially, and now a new tax (the stormwater fee) has been added. She is concerned that with all of the increases in the services that the Borough provides, that the senior citizens in the Borough are going to be forced out because they can't afford to live here. She commented that maybe the Borough should have considered placing some of the street improvements on hold until the Borough had the funds to pay for them without having to borrow those funds or raising taxes. President Graham explained the areas of concern that Mrs. Strausbaugh mentioned.

Mr. Bill Kessler, 407 Monocacy Trail, was present to address some questions he had with Council regarding the traffic control devices placed on Hamlet Drive West, Spring Forge Drive, Monocacy Trail, and Glenview Drive. He asked how Council came to make the decision to place these devices and he was very concerned as to why was there not a traffic study completed. Solicitor Ruth explained to Mr. Kessler that a traffic study was not needed for "traffic calming" measures. There were digital speed devices put in place to record how fast vehicles were driving down Spring Forge Drive over a three to four-month period of time. That data was reviewed, and it was determined that there definitely was a need to slow traffic down.

Mr. Bill Gentzler, 424 Hamlet Drive West, was present to express concerns regarding recycling in the Borough. He feels that the recycling program needs to be encouraged more, possibly emphasizing it more in the Boro Bits. He said that he sees a lot of items during trash/recycling day that should be placed out for recycling instead of trash. He feels that it's an important program and residents should be recycling more.

Ms. Mary Charisse, 303 Forge Court, inquired as to how much the roundabouts cost, has Council considered placing signs to slow traffic, and did Council have the police sitting and issuing tickets to those speeding. Manager Shaffer explained that the budgeted cost of the roundabouts was \$10,000.00. The placement of "stop signs" would have come under the category of "control devices" and that would have required a traffic study to place those signs and the price was much more expensive. As to the "police control", yes they were in that area but one of the problems was the limited number of patrolmen that were available.

Robert Brunner, 522 Monocacy Trail, expressed his concerns about the placement of the speed calming devices. He is hoping that there can be some placed on his section of Monocacy Trail. He sees how fast some of the residents are driving and is concerned someone is going to be hit. He also expressed concern of the Burkentine home being built on Hauer Terrace.

Joseph Mills, 202 Hauer Terrace, also expressed his concerns about the speeding on Monocacy Trail. He additionally expressed his concerns with the quality of work of the Burkentine home described earlier in meeting.

Ms. Lynette Runyan-Baker, 205 Conestoga Lane, requested to see the Borough's financial statements for the last five years. Manager Shaffer told her he will see that she gets that information.

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **July 2019**

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held July 8, 2019 were presented to Council for their review. It was noted that on the Treasurer's Report, Pete Lombardi was not present at that meeting and the motion needed to be changed to David B. Kile. Joshua Moore made a motion, seconded by Larry McConnell, to approve the minutes for July with that correction. Motion Carried

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### July 2019

The Treasurer's Report for July 2019 with expenses totaling \$309,434.05 was presented for approval. Joshua Moore made a motion to approve the report as presented, seconded by Kristyn M. Stouch. Motion Carried.

### **President's Report**

President Graham took this opportunity to thank the Borough staff for a job well done with the Smoke in the Grove event.

#### Hardee's

President Graham asked if Manager Shaffer has had any contact from Hardee's regarding the ingress/egress at the Glenview Drive entrance of the restaurant. Manager Shaffer reported that yes, he has had a response. They were going to be at the facility last Friday but they missed each other due to Smoke in the Grove. Manager Shaffer will reach out to Hardee's again to schedule a meeting.

### **Mayor's Report**

#### Parking Enforcement Officer's Report –July 2019

The Parking Enforcement Officer's Report for July 2019 was presented to Council for their review.

#### Southwestern Regional Police Activity Report –June 2019

The Police Activity Report for June 2019 was presented to Council for their review. Officer in Charge Jaimie Stalcup was present to answer any questions.

#### Southwestern Regional Police Financial Report – June 2019

The Financial Report for June 2019 was presented to Council for their review.

#### Southwestern Regional Police Board Minutes - June 2019

The Minutes of the Southwestern Regional Police Board for the month of June 2019 were presented to Council for their review.

### **Manager**

#### Report from Community Center Tenants

Manager Shaffer reported to Council he has contacted the tenants at the Community Center to see how long they might need to vacate the building should someone buy it. President Graham asked Manager Shaffer to send a letter to tenants stating that their new lease for 2020 will have a clause in it stating that should the building be sold, they would have six months to vacate the building.

### Smoke in the Grove

Manager Shaffer presented to Council a preliminary profit/loss report showing total revenues/total expenses for 2019. The total profit came to approximately \$10,500. It was pointed out that the money raised from Smoke in the Grove will go into a Community Development fund and that money will be used to look for properties to improve downtown. Including purchasing properties to provide parking or a draft façade improvement program to encourage homeowners and businesses to improve their properties.

### Performance Report - Benecon

Manager Shaffer presented a Claim Fund Performance Report from Benecon, which is the Borough's Health Insurance provider. He pointed out that 2017 was the first year the Borough had been enrolled in the Intergovernmental Insurance Cooperative. In 2017 the Borough's claim performance was over and did not receive a reimbursement. In 2018 the Borough received a surplus check of \$71,278.00. However, 2019 numbers have increased due to more claims.

### **ARRO Engineering**

#### Main Street Improvements

Engineer Warfel reported to Council that they continue to coordinate with PennDOT on the project. ARRO is waiting for an updated let date for the project to begin.

#### East Railroad Street Improvements

Engineer Warfel reported to Council that the Railroad Street Improvement project began on July 29. They anticipate final completion for the project by the last week in October.

#### Campus Avenue Stream Improvements

Engineer Warfel reported to Council that the project has been completed and the punch list items have been addressed and final payment has been issued. There are two small items that need to be addressed with the funding agency: 1. Develop an operations and maintenance plan. 2. To provide the opportunity for some additional public education on the project.

#### Stormwater/MS4

Engineer Warfel reported to Council that ARRO has completed a design for some of the stormwater improvements on Hamlet Drive. Solicitor Ruth drafted easement agreements for the owners. They were also asked to provide some exhibits that would provide some additional clarification as to the easements and those exhibits have been submitted to the Borough.

Also, ARRO will be preparing the Annual MS4 Compliance Report which is due September 30, 2019 for the compliance year which ended on June 30, 2019

### **Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Ruth had nothing new to report on tonight.

### **Zoning & Code Enforcement**

#### July 2019

The Zoning Officer's Report for July 2019 was presented to Council for their review.

### **Recreation**

#### Spring Grove Regional Parks & Recreation Center Meeting Minutes –June 2019

The minutes of the Spring Grove Regional Parks and Recreation Meeting for the month of June were presented to Council for their review.

#### Spring Grove Regional Parks and Recreation Center Financial Report – June 2019

The Financial Report for the Spring Grove Regional Parks and Recreation Center for the month of June was presented to Council for their review.

### **Committee Reports**

None

### **Unfinished Business**

None

### **New Business**

#### Handicap Parking Spaces

Manager Shaffer reported to Council that he has received two applications for handicap parking spaces. The one is in close proximity to another handicap parking space, so we need to do some measurements. He will get the measurements and scan them in to send to Council so they can review them before the next meeting.

### **Correspondence**

#### PSAB Pension Plan Statement – Month Ending June 2019.

The PSAB Pension Plan Statement for the month of June was presented to Council for their review.

#### Letter from Northern Regional Police Department

President Graham read a letter received from Northern Regional Police Department to those present stating that if any of the Southwestern Regional Police Commission members or Council members from any of the other municipalities wish to discuss their options further, please contact Chief Mark Bentzel.

### **Executive Session**

At this time Council convened into executive session at 8:23 PM to discuss the police issue and the Community Center. Council reconvened at 9:50 PM.

Roundabouts

Kristyn M. Stouch made a motion, seconded by Joshua Moore, to return the roundabouts that were purchased for Glenview Road and purchase and install speed bumps as needed. Motion Carried.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned until the next Council Meeting to be held Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment was at 10:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa J. Helm  
Recording Secretary