

# Sayre Borough Council

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Minutes – October 28, 2020

Call to Order – Mr. Daly called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and acknowledged the recent passing of South Waverly Borough Council President and retired South Waverly Borough Police Chief Leo Bentley on September 29, 2020. Mr. Daly stated that Chief Bentley served in the United States Air Force and later joined the South Waverly Police Department as a patrol officer in 1972. In 1984, he was appointed as the Chief of Police for that department and he served in that capacity until his retirement in 2010. Not one to let the grass grow under his feet, he was appointed to the South Waverly Planning Commission and was highly active in that arena. Two years later he was elected to the South Waverly Borough Council and in February of this year, he was appointed as Council President, a post he held until his passing. On behalf of this Council and our community, I offer our condolences to Leo's family, friends, and co-workers.

Mr. Gillette offered the meeting prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call – The following members of the Borough Council were present; Cori Belles, Jessie Dekar, Patrick Gillette, Jessica Meyer, Irene Slocum, Council Vice-President; and James Daly, Council President. Excused: Jason Serfas. Also present; Henry Farley, Mayor; Robert Repasky, Fire Chief; Daniel Reynolds, Police Chief; and David Jarrett, Borough Manager.

Citizens To Be Heard – Donna Hazleton, 212 North Thomas Avenue addressed the Borough Council regarding vehicles speeding on the street. Mr. Daly thanked Ms. Hazleton for her comments and stated that the Police Department will continue to conduct routine patrols in the neighborhood. A motion was made by Mr. Gillette and seconded by Mrs. Belles to look into the possibility of installing stop signs along North Thomas Avenue. Under the question: Mr. Gillette asked Chief Reynolds for his opinion on the issue, and Chief Reynolds stated that he is not a traffic control expert, but he believes that installing stop signs is the least effective way to control traffic. Mrs. Dekar stated that the Borough should utilize the services of a professional engineering firm to look at the different traffic issues in the Borough, and Mrs. Belles stated that the Borough Council discussed earlier this year the possibility of completing a comprehensive traffic study for the entire Borough and that recent concerns about the intersection of North Wilbur Avenue and Stevenson Street and Mrs. Hazleton's concerns on North Thomas Avenue should be addressed as part of that study. Mrs. Slocum stated that the study should not be started until the PA 199 project and the North Thomas Avenue bridge replacement project are completed which will be 2023 or 2024. Chief Reynolds stated that the Department's speed sign has been placed on North Thomas Avenue several times and that the data consistently shows that the less than 1% of the vehicles are traveling at less than 20mph above the posted speed limit and that he will provide the data to the Borough Council for their reference. Miss Meyer asked if the sign can be installed again to retrieve current data, and Chief Reynolds stated that it is currently in South Waverly collecting data on Loder Street and that he can have it on North Thomas by the middle of next week. Ayes 2 – Nays 4. Motion fails.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the Borough Council Regular Meeting held on September

23, 2020 and Borough Council Workshop Meetings held on October 12 and October 19, 2020 were placed on file.

Approval of Bills List – A motion was made by Miss Meyer and seconded by Mrs. Slocum to approve the October 2020 bills list as presented. Under the question: There were none. Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Gillette, Miss Meyer, Mrs. Slocum, and Mr. Daly; YES.

Correspondence Report – October 2020 – There were no questions or comments.

Finance Report – September 30, 2020 – There were no questions or comments.

Consent Agenda - Items of business and matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be enacted by one motion and one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired by a Council Member, that item is to be identified and removed from the Consent Agenda, and will be considered separately at the appropriate place on the Agenda.

- a. Approve the purchase of new hose for the Fire Department.
- b. Approve park use request submitted by the Sayre Junior/Senior High School Musical Department to use Howard Elmer Park for a holiday concert on December 11, 2020.
- c. Approve the purchase of up to \$4,000.00 worth of ammunition for the Police Department.

Vote to approve the Consent Agenda Items - A motion was made by Mrs. Belles and seconded by Mrs. Dekar to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. Under the question: There were none. Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Gillette, Miss Meyer, Mrs. Slocum, and Mr. Daly; YES.

Vote to adopt Ordinance 964 amending Chapter 141 – Streets & Sidewalks - A motion was made by Mr. Gillette and seconded by Mrs. Slocum to adopt Ordinance 964 amending Chapter 141 – Streets & Sidewalks. Under the question: There were none. Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Gillette, Miss Meyer, Mrs. Slocum, and Mr. Daly; YES.

Vote to advertise the 2021 Tax Ordinance – A motion was made by Miss Meyer and seconded by Mrs. Slocum to advertise the 2021 Tax Ordinance. Under the question: Mrs. Dekar asked about the timetable for the budget. Mr. Jarrett explained that the budget will now be placed out for public inspection and comment at the November workshop meeting, and the Borough Council will vote to adopt the budget at the November Borough Council meeting. Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Gillette, Miss Meyer, Mrs. Slocum, and Mr. Daly; YES.

Vote to approve the advertisement of the 2021 budget – A motion was made by Mrs. Dekar and seconded by Mrs. Belles to approve the advertisement of the 2021 budget. Under the question: There were none. Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Gillette, Miss Meyer, Mrs. Slocum, and Mr. Daly; YES.

Vote to approve the conference attendance request submitted by Chief Reynolds to send Sergeant Bruce Hoffman and Patrol Officer George Nichols to the Energetic Entry

Systems Handler and Breaching School in Ennis, Texas from November 29 – December 5, 2020. A motion was made by Mrs. Dekar and seconded by Mrs. Belles to approve the conference attendance request. Under the question: Mr. Gillette asked if the Borough would be responsible if the officers contracted COVID-19 while at the training, and Mr. Jarrett stated that the Borough would be responsible because the officers are being paid to attend the training. Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Gillette, Miss Meyer, Mrs. Slocum, and Mr. Daly; YES.

Vote to approve Street Closure Request for the 2020 Sayre Borough Christmas Parade – A motion was made by Miss Meyer and seconded by Mrs. Slocum to approve the Street Closure Request for the 2020 Sayre Borough Christmas Parade. Under the question: Mr. Jarrett explained that the route was extended five additional blocks to increase the viewing area for spectators. Mr. Jarrett stated that participants and spectators will be asked to wear masks and maintain social distancing. Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Gillette, Miss Meyer, Mrs. Slocum, and Mr. Daly; YES.

Vote to approve the engagement letter submitted by Eckert Seamans Attorneys at Law appointing the law firm as the Borough's Bond Counsel for the refinancing of existing debt and issuance of a new loan. A motion was made by Mrs. Dekar and seconded by Mrs. Slocum to approve the engagement letter with Eckert Seamans. Under the question: Mr. Jarrett explained that the engagement letter allows Eckert Seamans to prepare legal advertisements and documents for the Borough as we continue to proceed through the refinancing and borrowing process. Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Gillette, Miss Meyer, Mrs. Slocum, and Mr. Daly; YES.

Announcement - Mr. Daly announced that the 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligation has been calculated for the Police, Non-Uniform and Defined Contribution pension plans and reviewed by Girard Pension Services and placed in the 2021 budget. Mr. Jarrett explained that the MMO establishes the amount of money that the Borough must contribute to the pension plans to ensure that they are properly funded.

Recess – Mr. Daly recessed the meeting at 6:30pm prior to the Borough Council going into executive session.

Executive Session – The Borough Council went into executive session at 6:35pm. The session ended at 7:20pm. No Action was taken following the executive session.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Mr. Gillette and seconded by Mrs. Dekar to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm. There were no objections.

Respectfully Submitted



David M. Jarrett  
Borough Manager/Secretary