

**Regular Council Meeting
August 13, 2012**

The Regular monthly meeting of Shamokin City Council was held this evening with Acting Mayor William Strausser presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: Acting Mayor Strausser called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Led by Acting Mayor Strausser

PRAYER: Silent

ROLL CALL William D. Milbrand, Craig Rhoades, Mike Snyder, and William R. Strausser were all present. George R. Rozinskie, Jr. was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:01 PM to 7:15 PM on personnel & pending contracts.

VISITORS: Stephen P. Wegenovich – Eagle Scout was recognized for his work at the American Legion Building and painting the emergency stairwells.

Vinny Clausi, 860 West Chestnut Street, Coal Township - Identified himself as a Northumberland County Commission and spokesperson regarding City of Shamokin Plans going forward to adjust a tax for garbage collection. Councilman Strausser stated that this topic is currently, under discussion and no decisions have been made by Council.

Robert W. Milbrand, 1341 West Nelson Street, Coal Township – Questioned council on where monetary figures came from in the News Item. Mr. Strausser again explained that no decisions have been made on this item. The City Clerk noted that no decisions have been made and plans are to meet with the City of Pottsville, Borough of Port Carbon, and Borough of Ashland. Mr. Strausser again noted that this is under review and no decisions have been made regarding this item. Further, Mr. Strausser noted that City Council was handed petitions from Mostik's Disposal and Renn's Disposal objecting to a single hauler system.

Foster Renn, 1305 West Montgomery Street, Coal Township – Provided statistics from the 2010 United States Census. Mr. Renn provided a breakout on age demographics along with the number of homes in Shamokin. The City Clerk questioned Mr. Renn on the number of households that were seniors. Mr. Bartos asked for the names of the customers that the local haulers picked up garbage from in the City of Shamokin. The City Clerk asked Mr. Renn for a list of customers that are collected by the local haulers however, he stated these would absolutely not be given to the City. The City Clerk noted that the statistics that Mr. Renn was quoting were meaningless without those numbers. Mr. Renn became irate and began to raise his voice and went on a tirade. Mr. Renn continued in this manner for several minutes. The City Clerk asked Mr. Renn if he represented all haulers. He said he did. The dialogue escalated and turned into a shouting match with Mr. Renn. Mr. Renn then made personal remarks against Mr. Bartos. However, Mr. Strausser noted that Mr. Renn was out of order and asked him if he was here to slander people. Mr. Renn did not respond. Mr. Strausser invited others to come up and speak. Commissioner Clausi interjected with some comments. The City Clerk responded regarding problems such as trash not being picked, private trash being dumped within receptacles within the city, and other dumping. The City invited the haulers to participate in open discussion however, not continue to scream and shout.

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Charlie Verano, 1006 North Pearl Street, Shamokin – Asked Council to think about this issue and was not here to point fingers. Do you think by going to one hauler do you think you will get your money. Never! Before you make this decision you better think about this decision. I don't have a problem with my trash hauler and I don't want it dumped down my throat. He asked that it be placed on the ballot.

Tonya Renn, 180 Terrace View Mountain Road - I get the Pottsville paper and the Shamokin paper. I spoke with Pottsville, Ashland, and others. She noted that Pottsville implemented the single hauler program and it was costing extra funds to implement the program. Ashland has its own trucks and people pay \$2.50 a bag. She noted that individuals who do not pay their bills the haulers do stop trash collection especially when it is unlikely that the hauler will be unable to collect. She noted that Renns has been in business since 1918. Mr. Milbrand noted that the City has a Landlord/Tenant Ordinance. Mr. Bartos offered to have a meeting with the haulers and develop a working group to discuss the issues. The haulers agreed in unison that it would be a good idea. Mr. Bartos will be contacting the haulers to discuss. Mr. Verano offered his availability for such a meeting. Others recommended that there needs to be codes on the books to address these issues. Mr. Bartos explained that there are codes on the books including the Landlord/Tenant issues. A dialogue continued between the haulers and council.

Mike Shaminski 187 Sunbury, Shamokin – I am landlord in Shamokin and I have had problems with trash being left behind. He shared some of his problems with issues of tenants and trash removal.

Scott Binsack, 131 South Market Street, Shamokin – Noted he was there to talk about a another item. He noted he was a local landlord and he fully agreed that landlords should be responsible for their trash disposal. Further, he stated that HUD landlords were not being, and they don't live, and this place is being advertised, and the properties are not being taken care of by these landlords. We take care of our apartments, we bring everything up to code, and there should be something in place for out of state landlords to take care of something. Wanted to state on the record and provide some options. Landlords should be responsible for tenant's garbage.

Alex Zakhrabekov, 34 West Willow Street, Shamokin - Worked for James Hopta. I believe a single hauler system will not work and ruin the competition between the haulers, and everyone should have choice. Mr. Zakhrabekov continued to provide his thoughts on the subject.

Debra Nye - Had a question. Asked of the Pottsville trash hauler. Wanted to know if we would use our own gas money or being paid by City. Mr. Strausser stated we would use our own money. She indicated she would like to be part of any discussions. The City Clerk explained some of the background on this subject. Mr. Strausser stressed that nothing was done yet. There were further discussions.

Nelson Echevarria 516 East Dewart Street - I am against this single hauler suggestion because he called up the Shamokin Police station on whether or not if there was any objections to me carrying a firearm. I am not for a single hauler and I will not be held responsible for other people's irresponsibilities. Mr. Echevarria continued on about his constitutional right to carry a firearm.

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Steve Crone, 75 Pinafore Place, Indian River, Florida – Asked to get everybody's information. He felt it was terrible on what was going on in Shamokin. He proposed that all the haulers get together with him and with the help of the town he would take the list of landlords to develop a city ordinance. Stated it was an easy fix. I am outside person that came from a blue collar hardworking family. He continued to provide several suggestions that he thought would solve the trash hauling problem and other city woes.

Mr. Renn continued to shout about the unfairness of the issue until Councilman Strausser called an end to this line of discussion at 1 hour 10 minutes into the council meeting.

Scott Binsack – Mr. Binsack stated that he provided to council a 90 page prospectus entitled "Revitalize Shamokin and Coal Township, PA" He has slowly been buying up property. He also stated that he provided a written letter on parcels that are available on the market and to purchase these parcels. He continued that he had offered to take the properties to the city. He further stated, "That there is a lot going on...." And he "Just cut a contract to bring Sun Orthopedics in here and he knows for fact what that would mean." Mr. Binsack continued to discuss the current state-of-affairs in the City of Shamokin regarding housing, things to do, and current business in the City. We have the capability with our investors to bring things into the city. Mr. Binsack stated, "The prospectus was given to council to get sort of a blessing." Mr. Crone then asked for the Council's blessing and the towns blessing.

MOTION BY Milbrand to approve the minutes of the previous Council meetings of:

- August 13, 2012

Snyder,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser

Nays: None

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE:

Report read by Treasurer. Fund balances as of August 1, 2012 as reported by the City Treasurer as follows:

- General Fund..... \$,73,451.94
- Motor License.....\$10,382.21
- Library.....\$4,542.97
- Contingent Fund.....\$747.29
- Sinking Fund.....\$229,553.17
- Recreation.....\$33,015.84
- All Accounts.....\$351,693.42

PARKS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS: Councilman Milbrand progress

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STREETS AND PUBLIC IMPROVMENTS: Councilman Snyder progress.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Rhoades noted progress and then read the Fire Bureau report and submitted to Council. Report was read from the Code Officer and submitted to Council.

PETITIONS

- Nothing to report

COMMUNICATIONS

MOTION BY Milbrand to approve the closing of the alley next to the property for Auction at 221 W. Pine Street August 25, 2012.

Snyder,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser
Nays: None

MOTION BY Rhoades to approve the use of downtown Shamokin by the Arts Council for the Fall Festival October 13, 2012 and Downtown Christmas December 1, 2012 Estate.

Milbrand,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser
Nays: None

MOTION BY Milbrand to approve the request by Gale Zalar, CSO to post the front of the building for no parking during the regional Community Actions meeting for September 5th, 2012. And posting of the front of the building no parking to accommodate guests that day.

Strausser,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser
Nays: None

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BIDS & CONTRACTS

MOTION BY Snyder to renew the Winter Maintenance Agreement Penn DOT.

Rhoades,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser

Nays: None

MOTION BY Milbrand to contract with Kreco Electric to complete the electrical work in the Legion Building basement not to exceed \$18,200.00.

Rhoades,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser

Nays: None

MOTION BY Milbrand we terminate Pachoa contracting for cleaning services for City Hall, Treasure's Office, and the Police Station and hire Best Cleaners at rate of \$7000.00 annually.

Strausser,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser

Nays: None

UNFINISHED BUISNESS

Nothing to report

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

MOTION BY Strausser to advertise in the News Item for members for the City of Shamokin's Planning Commission and Zoning Board.

Milbrand,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser

Nays: None

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NEW BUISNESS

MOTION BY Milbrand to disapprove Kelly Haines use and advance on her vacation time.

Strausser,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser

Nays: None

MOTION BY Rhoades to approve Kelly Haines vacation without pay.

Strausser,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser

Nays: None

MOTION BY Milbrand that we allow the Treasurer to enter into a one year contract with Express Pay for collection of taxes through the internet.

Snyder,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser

Nays: None

MOTION BY Rhoades we allow the Treasurer to refund Thomas A. Reed in the amount of 80.68.

Snyder,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser

Nays: None

MOTION BY Milbrand to approve the City Clerk obtain a Notary at a cost not to exceed \$600.00

Snyder,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser

Nays: None

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT

MOTION BY Rhoades to pass Ordinance 12-08 as read by the solicitor (first reading).

Milbrand,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser

Nays: None

BILL LIST

MOTION BY Milbrand to pay itemized list of bills for July for the City, Redevelopment, and Community Development Programs.

Strausser,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser

Nays: None

MOTION BY Strausser to adjourn

Milbrand,

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Milbrand, Rhoades, Snyder, Strausser, Rozinskie

Nays: None

The City Clerk recorded the meeting as ended at 9:00 PM

Attest:

Stephen D. Bartos
City Clerk