

Regular Council Meeting  
February 10, 2014

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** All

**PRAYER:** Silent

**ROLL CALL:** Rhoades, Verano, Moyer, Kinder, Milbrand were all present.

**MOTION BY Kinder** to approve the minutes of the previous Council meetings of  
January 6, 2014 Special Meeting  
January 13, 2014 Regular Council Meeting  
January 21, 2014 Special Meeting  
February 6, 2014 Special Meeting  
Second by Verano

**ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Rhoades, Verano, Moyer, Kinder, Milbrand  
Nays: None

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Presentations of Citizen Service Citations were presented to:  
Michael Lorenz, Mason Dumond, Brennan Bruce, Chelsie Cossari, Alex Witcoskie for their efforts of chasing down a woman who committed an armed robbery in the City of Shamokin. The five young individuals witnessed a woman being robbed on the early morning of January 19, 2014, and came to her rescue, and made a citizen's arrest until the police arrived. Mayor and Council presented citations to the individuals.

**VISITORS:**

Gilbert Petraskie-20 N. Marshall Street had a question about snow plowing by Wendy's on Commerce Street he was approached by Jerry Splane and was told he couldn't plow the snow that he was on private property owned by Mr. Splane. I would like to know what he owns? Mayor Milbrand said to the best of his knowledge he just owns property along railroad with fellow partners. I'm not sure about the property line I'm not a surveyor not sure about the map lines. If we get any more snow and I can't dump on that location I will have to charge owner more because I will have to haul it away. I only have one more things to discuss with all this snow you need to get the sidewalks cleared people aren't clearing their sidewalks. You have all these snowplowers coming in and now we need the newspaper to get on the property owners about clearing their sidewalks.

Barry Getchey- I understand that the City of Shamokin is looking into approving an application for the Housing Authority and I just want to let you know the type of people that you're dealing with first you have Ron Miller and Jerry Splane, Frank Garrigan I paid him almost 3,000 dollars for a complaint that I

filed at Milton, I asked Frank Garrigan and his secretary 3 or 4 times for an amount so I could pay this off now they never gave me a number, I even went to see Frank Garrigan and he wouldn't answer my question he said he was their lawyer evidently Ron Miller sent a letter to Harrisburg to confiscate my car and the other day they came and took my car, my god the car is twenty years old, my son is on life support at the Geisinger and I had couldn't even get down to the Geisinger now these are the kind of people you're dealing with and now he wants help from the Mayor and City Council and he sitting over here with a smile on his face he thinks everything is funny will it ain't so funny. Thank you.

Robert Gilligbauer 320 N. Rock Street-I was here last month asking you to take into consideration the recycling program I hope you took that into consideration, there's another thing going on that I looked into last year solar panels, have you ever looked into solar panels? Solar panels where the police station is on top of building you could transfer electricity from that location up to two miles to the fire companies at the end of a year you get 5% rebate from the federal government for going green and anything else that you use from the solar panels you sell back to PP&L. I just would like you to give some thought to saving the citizens some money. I just wanted to bring things to your attention to think about the solar panels because that is a very good location. Thanks Bob and maybe we can consider that and look into that as soon as we get out of our financial situation.

Rose Bridgeford 109 W. Montgomery Street I'm here again about the property next to me about the property that was torn down and left the way it is, it's been since October, I don't understand why there was no insurance taken from these people to tear this home down and terrorize our neighborhood, its horrible up there. And when you go to talk to them, I called police and I talked to Mr. Bozza and now they decided to knock down the cement wall and the foundation of that house. When I went for my swimming pool I was told I had to support my foundation that's what Barry Stoud told me well MR Riddler had no money to put up a fence at the time now the fence does need repairs but they damaged the fence and I'm told that I'm responsible for this fence. I know the city is issuing citations but I think the city should have made sure they had insurance before they started to tear the property the hell down. I mean really it's horrible. I had a beautiful yard, flowers and now there's bricks laying all over and they think it's funny, go get Bozza they told me he won't do nothing and I did make several calls to Mr. Bozza and he never returned any of my calls you told me to get information on my property and I called you to find out when the hearing was and you never got back to me. Mr. Bozza the hearing was today but it was cancelled. Thanks for letting me know. Brenda is sick; well she isn't too sick when she's out their smoking cigarettes one after another. I'm sorry I'm just disgusted, so what can the city do? Am I responsible for this mess now? It's not a retaining wall it's part of the foundation and it's required by law that it's part of the demolition. So it can just lay in my yard what about the rest of the stuff the garage has not even been started to be taken down. When that garage comes down I guarantee that its will be in my swimming pool. Every time they do something we have to get out of our cars and clear the sidewalks so the kids can get to school, and this has been going on since October. I think the city has to step up there and do something. It's time. Mayor I'll tell you what Rose I will get together with Rick and our public safety director and will come up and take a look. Mr. Bozza the people have been getting daily citations there was a man interested in buying the property but never came up to discuss things with me, but isn't there something about having insurance before they start ripping building down. You see how there doing things and then you renewed their permit come on this is since October. Yea I know you're fining her but guess what you're not going to get any money from her nothing. I think there is something that needs to be done here. Mayor we will discuss this with the solicitor and public safety director and see where we can go from here. I can't promise you anything at this meeting tonight until we get a chance and discuss this.

Alfonse Keefer- Bear Valley Ave. I own a towing company and I got a call to pick up a vehicle, and when I got there an officer was there and said my vehicle wasn't registered and I have copies that I do have the proper papers, also I want to let you know that the business will be transferred over to my son Kevin. Would you like to see papers? Thank you Al I will discuss this with the Chief of Police.

Mr. Jim Pastuzak and Mr. Robert Wesoloskie- Pearl St. First of all I would like to thank council for putting the two officers back on duty, we need 10 more. Last year I filed a complaint out about a garage behind my house it doesn't have any doors, it's been like that for over a year, I don't know if you got the complaint they said they were working on it we'll it will be a year this spring and there still hasn't been any work on it. We have another crack family that moved in next to me 11:30 at night they take a load of garbage out and then there back in 10 minutes where are they taking it the dump isn't open at that time of night., that went on for an hour there either taking it out to the mountain or dumping it in dumpsters. Mayor where is that at 328 South Pearl. They also have 3 pit-bull dogs, no furniture and people going in and out of that house I don't know if anything is going on there but I would like Primerano to check this out. Also I have a guy who lives across from me pissing out his window onto his roof, (laugh) hey I'm saying it how it is. John Campbell a druggie he's at 400 S. Pearl. I would like to know when this crime watch is going to start. I'll be the first to sign up. Officer Griffiths said beginning of March when the weather breaks, just stop down the station and I can give you information. We need to get rid of this dope shit it's getting really bad.

Resident-I agree with my neighbor that the drugs are terrible; I was looking out my window and saw a car pull up to this house and someone came out handed something to the person in the car and I saw a person with a needle shooting up in the day in his car. I think we need to get more active in the crime watch and need to crack down on the absentee landlords and hit them where it hurts with fines. We should have a commit and go over some of the zoning laws. They don't take responsibility fine those 300 dollars per incident and they'll stop. We need to work together to stop this it's getting out of hand and ruining our town. Mayor, you mentioned these inspections our code officer is working on that now, but we had to get some things worked out on the policy and what criteria we will be inspecting on and with the HUD properties the housing authority does there inspections and our code officer will be doing the landlord inspections were moving slowly but surely we're hoping we can vote on this at our next council meeting.

Mayor Milbrand took a moment and thanked everyone who stood up at the podium tonight and took the time to come out and speak at our meeting, this is what we need the public to step up and let us know what is going on. What I would like to do here in Shamokin is have some kind of town hall meeting at the career link so everyone can come and have a chance to let us know there concerns, I think it's very important for everyone to get to speak and let council know their opinions if we don't know what is going on we can't help. We all get frustrated at times but we only have one code officer and at times our hands are tied as to what we can and cannot do. I am happy to see that you do come and voice your opinion at least that shows that you do care about the city. The more people who stand behind what we are trying to do the better we will be.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**ACCOUNTS & FINANCE:**

General Fund \$ 269,919.37  
Motor License \$ 512.95  
Library \$ 1,852.62  
Sinking Fund \$ 5,156.16  
Recreation \$ 16,867.83  
FEMA \$ 74,445.38  
All Accts \$ 344,419.12

Fund balances as of February 1, 2014 Submitted by Brenda Scandle, City Treasurer.

Mr. Kinder also had a few item that he would like to discuss but that would take an executive session a few bill item issues, also I believe our councilman in charge of streets has a few items he would like to discuss.

**PARKS & PUBLIC BUILDINGS:**

Councilwoman Moyer had reported that she took a tour of the legion building with Larry Strausser and found a few items that are in need of repair: The opposite side of the legion roof is in need of repair, the third floor where the basketball league is held we would like to install spring loaded facets to prevent any flooding like we had in the past, a few leaky pipes, also we are recommending that there be non-duplicate keys made to the legion, with the City and Larry Strausser having a set. I spoke with Mike Duginitz who is in charge of the SYBL and he agreed to pay for the keys. Also there is a landline phone which is not in use and would recommend phone be disconnected. The second floor which houses the model train display and the woman's axillary needs a new electrical box and padlock. Also steam pipes behind the bookcase in the train display need to be fixed. Councilwoman Moyer spoke with Councilman Rhoades and he will be willing to get pipes fixed when weather breaks and gets a little warmer. No problem with the library at this time. Club Echo has a few minor pipe leakages nothing serious. I also approved a purchase from Larry Strausser to buy conditioner for the boiler.

**STREET & PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS:**

Councilman Verano thanked the public for their support with the storms and the News Item for getting the word out. Contractors have been coming forward which has been a great help. I would also like to thank for those of you who do not know Brookside Landscaping Service gave the City a donation of 24 tons of salt, owner John Hovenstine. Also the snow piles are being picked up in the business district. It will take some time we had some plows down and they are being repaired. Also, tomorrow there will be a check issued to Coal Township hand delivered for the salt. Also, late this afternoon we received a donation for Robert Olvany for \$500.00 for snow removal.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Councilman Rhoades read the code office report for the month of January for a total collection of \$36, 013.00 in permits and receipts. Also, I have the Fire Bureau report for the month of December 2013; with a total number of 330 calls, if anyone wishes to inspect the report it's available. I have not received January's report yet. All apparatus is in working condition.

**PETITIONS:** Nothing to report

**CONTRACTS:** Nothing to report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Nothing to Report

**BOARDS & COMMITTEES:**

MOTION BY Milbrand to appoint Donald VanShura to the Shamokin Housing Authority to fill the un-expired term of Robert Wolfe.

Second by Rhoades

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Rhoades, Verano, Moyer, Milbrand

Abstain: Kinder (wife employed by Housing Authority)

Nays: None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Request from the Shamokin Housing Authority for the City of Shamokin to support an application to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

Ron Miller, Executive Director of the Housing Authority was in attendance to explain the application; Mr. Miller gave Mayor and Council a handout with an overview of the work they would like to improve on at the Madison Court Apartments (formerly the Center City Apartments) we are only asking the city for a letter of support to include with the application. Councilman Verano had a question for Mr. Miller asking if this is going to be run by the Housing Authority or a separate board? Mr. Miller said it will be run by a multi managing team, may I ask who is on that team. Councilwoman Moyer asked who are eligible to live there. Miller replied anyone who is 60% of medium income or people with income of \$ 31,000.00 or less.. Mayor Ron who are the Shamokin Development Housing Corp? Who are the officers and members? The greater Shamokin Housing Corp was developed in 1990 and that was done to help the housing authority secure funding. We have five members of the board Rhoades, Farrow, Picarelli, Zalar and who is the last person I can't think of who that is Craig who is the last member? Sylvia, Sylvia Shapell is it Sylvia? Councilman Verano you don't know who your members are? It's a nonprofit I'm not part of that, I understand Mr. Miller I'm a councilman and I'm asking you a question. I need some information on this before I make a decision. Councilwoman Moyer, I'm sure a have some questions but I can't think of any now this is a lot if information to take in. The Housing Authority is open from 8 till 4 if you have any questions just stop in and I will be glad to answer any of your questions. All I'm asking is that you support the Housing Authority's application or not. It's not a lot to ask it's just taking a project and trying to improve and make it better. It won't cost the city anything, so either you support us or not we will be submitting the application regardless. Mr, Konopka as the city's attorneys do you have any questions? No I do not Mr. Miller. Mr. Kinder, do you have any questions? No I do not; once again I would rather not comment on anything since my wife is an employee of the Housing Authority. I don't want to seem like I'm leaning on way or the other, although I do support anything that will help the city.

I think at this time Mr. mill due to the uncertainty of the board until they have a chance to review this, I will ask the council to table this until they have a chance to review this. I hope this isn't a time sensitive factor issue. It is time sensitive. The application has to be in Harrisburg by the end of the first week of March. Mayor Milbrand we will be having a special meeting between now and then and we can vote on that at that meeting, we will be having a special meeting we need to vote on a resolution with DCED and Stevens and Lee so we will discuss this in executive session.

Next under new business is an offer by AFSCME Local 2433 and the street department of the City of Shamokin that compensatory time at a maximum of 10 days in lieu of overtime. To make a long story short the street workers have agreed to take pensatory time of in lieu of time and a half during the winter months and whenever they may be called off to help with the City's financial crisis, and to try to save some cash flow in the general fund.

MOTION BY Verano to accept the agreement between the City of Shamokin and AFSCME Local 2433.  
Second by Moyer

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Rhoades, Verano, Moyer, Kinder, Milbrand  
Nays: None

#### **SOLICITORS REPORT:**

MOTION BY: Kinder to adopt Resolution 02-14 Penn-dot Railroad Crossing Upgrade  
Second by Verano

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Rhoades, Verano, Moyer, Kinder, Milbrand  
Nays: None

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor and Council held executive for bill list items 8:05-8:20 PM

Before I make a motion to approve the bill list there are two issues that I would like to bring up, I am pleased and thankful to the Treasures and the Controller and all departments heads who have been coming in faithfully and reviewing bills for their departments and making sure they are initialized and approved prior to checks being cut. I am thankful for that because that has always been an issue that bothered me as a previous city employee city clerk, also in the bill report we will be getting a copy of the bills that will have to be paid by the end of February. So there will be no surprises and we will know exactly what we will be paying, also on the bill list there will be a list of all the transfers that will be taking place in February.

MOTION BY: Kinder to pay itemized bill list for City, Redevelopment, and Community Development, Recreation, FEMA, Liquid Fuels and Contingency funds for the month of January 2014.  
Second by Verano

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Rhoades, Verano, Moyer, Kinder, Milbrand  
Nays: None

Citizens Comments contingent upon new business items being added to agenda

**MOTION TO ADJORN:** Milbrand  
Second Verano

Minutes taken by Lynn Dixon, CDBG Director  
Meeting ended at 8:30 PM (tape # 19-20)

Attest:

Lynn Dixon  
Community Development Director