

City of Shamokin Home Rule Meeting
November 4th, 2024
6:00 PM

The Regular Meeting of Shamokin Home Rule Study Council was held this evening with David Kinder presiding.

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE TO FLAG:

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

ROLL CALL: Absent: Mayor Richard Ulrich, Vanessa Kehler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION BY: Dakota Schuck to approve the November Minutes second by Chuck Sosnoskie

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Scandle, Kinder, Schuck, Sosnoskie, Dietz
Nays: None

COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION: (contingent upon business listed on the agenda):

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION BY: Kinder second by Sosnoskie to approve the payment of the bills.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Schuck, Scandle, Kinder, Sosnoskie, Dietz
Nays: None

MOTION BY: Charles Sosnoskie to write a Home Rule Charter for The City of Shamokin.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Schuck, Scandle, Kinder, Sosnoskie, Dietz
Nays: None

The Following is the Government Structure that the Home Rule Committee voted to pass. If the Charter passes and is adopted by the public, no new council can change the form of Government for five years, and then it must be placed on the ballot for the public to decide.

City Council : 4 Members, election at large, term 4 years, term limits no, staggered yes.

Mayor: yes, election at large, term 4 years, term limits no, staggered yes.

City Manager/Administrator: Hired and appointed by Mayor and Council

Treasurer: Hired and appointed by Mayor and Council

Tax Collector: Hired and appointed by Mayor and Council

Controller: abolish position, not needed

Auditor: hired by Mayor and Council

MOTION BY: David Kinder second by Dakota Schuck to choose the form of Government (above)

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Schuck, Scandle, Kinder, Sosnoskie, Dietz
Nays: None

MOTION BY: David Kinder second by Dakota Schuck to have PEL prepare articles of change on the Committee's recommendation tonight.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Schuck, Scandle, Kinder, Sosnoskie, Dietz
Nays: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Reports on the results of the list of questions for the elected officials.

SOLICITORS REPORT: Ed Greco, answered a question of Dakota's, he suggested we write letters of intent on what we would like in the Charter. But Ed stated that if a committee person is absent and the others have a question, that would not work. Ed also stated that we should go over the information on how municipality's are structured and start deciding how we would like it to be.

PRESENTATIONS: Patricia Moorhead gave a presentation on Comparable Home Rule Municipality's General Structure; and handed out a listing to review, as at our previous meeting. The committee decided on the government structure.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Joe Leschinskie of 518 E. Pine St Shamokin had questions on the budget. His questions were answered.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

Michael Dietz Michael had questions on the budget and also the time frame that the City was in Act 47. He stated that in ten years he felt that PEL and the State did not give the City any satisfaction; he wanted to know why the budget amount was so high for their services.

Answers: Gerald Cross stated that the City has had balanced budgets and guidance on how to get out of Act 47; and we are now out of Act 47. PEL will also be guiding the Committee thru the process of Home Rule. Charles Sosnoskie stated that the statement was only Mike Deitz opinion, not all of the committee has the same

view. David Kinder stated that if anyone on the Committee knows how to write a Home Rule Charter to go ahead. If we knew we would not need the guidance of PEL, who is hired by the State. Dakota Schuck stated that the money is coming from a State grant. Patricia Moorhead of PEL stated there is a lot more work to do to write a Charter. **Lisa** stated we need to have public meetings, public input. She also stated that PEL members are being paid by the hour, the budget is not what they are saying will be spent, it is a figure up to that threshold. Gerald Cross stated that the final report will give the citizens reasons for the charter and what the City spent on it.

Vanessa Kehler

David Kinder: David stated that realistically, in preparing a charter , we may not have the Charter on the ballot until November of 2025. There may be a transition phase that could go until August. Gerald Cross stated the total time allotted is 18 months, but that to be on the ballot for May primary, the Charter would need to be done by February 15th.

Brenda Scandle:

Dakota Schuck : Dakota's question was answered above by the solicitor.

Charles Sosnoskie: Charles made a motion to vote on writing a Home Rule Charter. Charles also asked if there can be committee's on the committee to evaluate different parts of the Charter. Gerald stated the structure of the government should be done together. Some decisions could have a committee or we can decide to all be a part of every decision.

Richard Ulrich

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION BY: Kinder second by Sosnoskie to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Meeting ended at 7:00PM

Minutes taken by Brenda Scandle, Secretary