

Regular Council Meeting  
July 8, 2019  
7:00 PM

The Regular monthly meeting of Shamokin City Council was held this evening with Mayor John J. Brown presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** All

**PRAYER:** Silent

**ROLL CALL:** Verano, Moyer Roughton, McGaw, Brown  
Absent:

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

**Gerry Bogetti** – Last month he complained about a property near his house, He was told a dumpster was delivered, he checked after the meeting and there was not dumpster, the Next day the Code Officer, and two council members arrived at this property and the dumpster arrived mid-morning. They also went to another site that had trash piled up for week, the neighbor across the street complained that t she cannot open her window and sit on her porch due to smell. The Code is specific and has certain requirements on the placement of garbage. The Problems with trash are out of control, There are Raccoons, rats, etc. that can carry the rabies virus. He asked by garbage is aloud to be laid on the sidewalks; the city is issuing citation that are not enforceable. He has pictures of trash on porches, there are big red X Properties. The Code officer said he responses to complaints. He has some pictures to share of some wards that need to be addressed. This did not happen overnight, we need an immediately ordinance on tax claim property's.

**John Bucknelle-** With KPI – They are the CDBG, They were not really the engineer for this project, they used a firm out of Pottsville. He is here if anyone has question on the wading pool, He has some pictures of the wading pool. They still need to get topsoil to finish the pool. There is orange fence held up with rebar at the pool that needs to be fixed. The grant was running out and needed to get finished, there was no time to do a change order.

**Bob Gillibaugh**er –Has a couple of issues, He owns property in the city where he is catching people breaking in and no one is getting arrested. Will speak to the chief after the meeting.

**Bill Miller** - If has come to this attention that the council think about twice about bringing the AOAA into the city, did anyone think about the little girl that just got killed. Were breaking the law by allowing them on the streets. The Dirt bikes did not drive up to the mountain they were towed, they have a vehicle that they can come back into town .

**Joe Leschinsk**ie – Follow up on the Old Tax Office for the Marijuana company to move in? It has been 4 months, now the city has empty building, just like we have a problem all over the city. 520-522 E. Pine Street He sent a message over on May 11, sent a message to the code office. There is about 3 feet of trash on the side 520 has water notices on the door, all kinds of trash out back on the roof. There is a trash bag on the roof. He messaged Mr. Bozza on

**May 11. Mr. Bogetti is right, we are not doing what we can to improve it, the same issues are brought up every month. We need to follow up on our ordinance, every block in the city has blighted home, if you think we are moving in the right direction he don't see it. Downtown is dead, where is the AOAA on the weekends when they are not driving downtown.**

**MINUTES:**

A Motion by Moyer to approve previous Council Meeting Minutes of:

June 10, 2019 (Regular Council Meeting)

Second by: McGaw

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Verano, Moyer, Roughton, Brown, McGaw  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**BILL LIST:**

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve the bill list for June 2019.

Second by: McGaw

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Verano, Moyer, McGaw, Roughton, Brown  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**ACCOUNTS & FINANCE:**

General Fund \$ 959,816.69  
Motor License \$ 264,164.59  
Library \$ 5,432.16  
Debt Service \$ 228,182.46  
Recreation \$ 419,207.89  
Capital Projects \$ 5,887.51  
Street Lights \$ 4021.43  
Total All Accounts \$ 1,886,702.73

Fund balances as of July 1, 2019 submitted by Brenda Scandle, City Treasurer.

**PARKS & PUBLIC BUILDINGS:**

The Lions Club will have there event on Friday and Saturday.

**STREET & PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS:****PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Police Department reported 972 calls for the Month June of 2019.

Fire Report for the month of June 2019, 189 Total Calls.

**BIDS:**

MOTION BY: Verano to accept the bid for Street Paving form New Enterprise Stone and Lime for \$128,364.40

Second by: McGaw

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Verano, Moyer, McGaw, Roughton, Brown  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MOTION BY: Roughton to grant authorization for VNA Health System to hold their annual butterfly release at Claude Kehler Park on August 18 at 1pm.

Second by: McGaw

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Verano, Moyer, McGaw, Roughton, Brown  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

MOTION BY: Verano to grant authorization for Northumberland County Council for the Arts & Humanities to hold a Duck Drop on July 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm starting at the Liberty Street Bridge.

Second by: Roughton

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Verano, Moyer, McGaw, Roughton, Brown  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

MOTION BY: Roughton to grant authorization for The Christian & Missionary Alliance Church to hold a Kids Festival on August 10<sup>th</sup> at Claude Kehler Park.

Second by: McGaw

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Verano, Moyer, McGaw, Roughton, Brown  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

MOTION BY: Roughton to accept the letter of resignation of Richard Bozza, Code Officer of the City of Shamokin, effective July 19, 2019

Second by: Verano

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Verano, Moyer, McGaw, Roughton, Brown  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

MOTION BY: Roughton to advertise for Police Applicants for testing with times & requirements to be set forth by the civil service board. ACT120 required.

Second by: McGaw

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Verano, Moyer, McGaw, Roughton, Brown  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

MOTION BY: McGaw to grant authorization for National Night out to be held August 6 at Claude Kehler Park.

Second by: Roughton

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Verano, Moyer, McGaw, Roughton, Brown  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

MOTION BY: McGaw to grant authorization to the AOAA to use of preapproved designated streets in the City of Shamokin on August 10

Second by: Verano

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Verano, Moyer, McGaw, Roughton, Brown  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

#### **BOARD & COMMITTEES:**

None

#### **SOLICITORS REPORT:**

None

- Citizens Comments contingent upon new business being added to the agenda at this part of the meeting.

**Jerry Bogetti - Right now our Millage is at an all time high of 58.10, that mileage is kind of high and deters growth, look back 25 years at the millage and the income that they city received. When the millage was increased, the city did not see any extra income, when the millage is too high the little old lady can't afford to pay it. Look at what the millage rate was and what is collected. You are losing tax payers by increasing your millage. The EIT is a fair tax. Look at the millage and see the end result**

**Bob Gillibaugh - Agrees with Mr. Bogetti with what he pays in property taxes its hard to keep a property up.**

**Jerry Splane - The 5 extra mills that in 1981 city council went to court and the judge approved, we never went back to court for 20 years. He tried to get something down about, he went to the News Item and get it reported. It was illegal for 20 some years.**

**Joe Leschinskie- Home rule has nothing to do with property taxes.**

**Bill Miller - He has a little thing about the taxes, last year they had a thing in the paper of all 10 wards of the cit of Shamokin was owed more the \$400,000 in taxes, what happed to the owes. 6% of the people of Shamokin owe he would say 40% Of the taxes,(Brown) Where are getting those numbers from? IN his head. There is a man recently that owes \$37.000 some odd dollars in property taxes in his building in the 10 wards, and he just got 11 more properties. What is he going to do with them? He just got 11 more for \$1. It does say in the paper that he got 11 properties for \$1. What is he going to do with them, he can't afford the ones he has now. (Slaby) This purchase was made though the Northumberland county tax claims and the city can not stop this. He had a home in Shamokin owed \$1000 in back taxes and they took his home. (Brown) you are at the wrong meeting, you need to go to the Northumberland county meeting.**

**ADJORN:**

Minutes taken by Doreen Annis, Administrative Accountant  
Meeting ended at 7:57 PM