

Regular Council Meeting  
October 14 , 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:

Executive Session Held from 7:01-7:31

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

**Susan Zaner - Gold Street Shamokin,** Everyone wants our town to be a better place. On 9/21/19 AOAA had an event Taking it to the Street, Mr. Porzi had orange flags and so everyone would pass by safely at Patsy's bridge. I wanted to monitor my property, I have more right to be there than anyone else. Sometimes I moved out the way, sometimes they moved out of the way. They did go up on the bank and rocks were moved. I seen a young boy on his bike and he jumped out of the way he was scared because of the noise and how fast they were going. There were two couples with strollers, one would not walk the path she said it was too dangerous, the other said they were going to walk down the path. How many were not able to walk down the path. Why can't we convert the Terrance Ave path into a green zone like Market street with benches and trees so that everyone can use it. It's level enough we just need a little bit of work. Everyone else seems to be eliminating the carbon dioxide orders, Shamokin seems to be increasing there's. Then everyone can enjoy Terrance Ave. The ATVs cause problems with air and noise, they cause the ground to compact. There are already causing some ruts. Terrance Ave is used quite a bit with 5<sup>th</sup> warders. She spoke to residents on Gold, Marshall and Rock street, most did not like the ATVs coming in that way. She would like to say that most of the AOAA riders were polite and obeyed the rules of the road that Mr. Prozi had in place. She wishes they all would come back but not on their ATVs. The ATVs are not designed for the streets. If they are not safe for highways how are they safe for town. We might be getting another group in town to identify the Brown Fields. ATVs have the mountain, She thinks it is dangerous to bring them into the city.

**Vinny Clausi -** What about the Garbage cans, he donated for them. Mr. McGaw said we got them and they are in the warehouse. They will be put out very soon.

**Dennis Kaleta - Lost Mined Brewing Company -** Many months ago we got a bunch of business owners together and this ended up forming SABER, since then it has already made a positive impact to the city of Shamokin. He employs eight people at his establishment. He understands Susan's concerns for green areas, He wants both green areas and ATVs in town. It does help certain business and he agrees overtime it will grow. Mayor stated that we are starting slow. We just had a meeting with three Penn-Dot Reps on the phone and they stated we can not use 125, but we can cross 125. We do not need a permit to cross 125. We

just need to notify them when we will be crossing 125. Dennis welcomes them to his establishment. They are very respectable and he is happy to be a part of SABER.

Mary Strub - Shamokin Street - What is going on with 22-24 S. Shamokin Street, why is he not being cited during the blight tours. Glass is hanging from the second story, the chimney is falling. Is he above the law. Why aren't ordinance enforced? Parking on sidewalks, dumpsters for months, private parking. Is it any wonder why people are moving out this town. The property owner was just there last week to address some of this issue.

Jennifer Seidel - Dewart street - Would like to encourage the public to attend the workshops, this is where everything is put on the table there and sorted out for the council meeting. She does have a suggestion if we could move the workshops to the council room at mill square. She thinks we are outgrowing the workshop room. Two items were discussed at the workshop that she would like to address. It was stated at the workshop in order to cut down on the right to know paperwork that the council can answer the questions if they have them. With another person being hired she has some questions on the last person that was hired, this is nothing to do with the new code officer, she has met and spoke with him, he is doing a fantastic job. How many people applied for the Code Job, Mr. Slaby Started 14-17, How many were rejected on backgrounds, 5? Mr. Roughton said that some did not even fill out the background check paperwork. We don't know on the top of our hand how many were rejected. What was the criteria for the interview? We had a list of questions for the applicants, for example experience, work history, Sher appreciates us trying to answer her on this. At a workshop on May 1<sup>st</sup> a discussion took place about parking meters councilmen Roughton berated Councilman Verano and drug in Chief Tobias about parking meters next to the Madison that were temporary bagged. Mr. Roughton stated they there was \$450 in revenue for the bagged meters. Why has council not talked about the removing of the meters on Market Street, three meters were removed. What is the loss on those three meters, why was this not brought up to the public. This is a high traffic area and now the meters are gone. Mr. Slaby stated that the Parking committee had a meeting and decided that the meters could be removed. The Parking committee is made up by Mr. Richardson, Chief Tobias and Robert Slaby. This suggestion was no different then any other parking request. Was the city given any compensation from the parking meters on Market Street, how much revenue is being lost by removing these signs. Its been brought in to her attention that she only brings up negative issues. Jen stated a Robert Kennedy quote. Perhaps People don't list to the positive things she say, she thanks Bob and Doreen and the chief for their work with the interns. Jen Thanks the Street department and has submitted letters of recognition. She thanks SEDA-Cog for coming into town. Will the SEDA-COG picture, will everyone be invited and be able to get into a picture. Mrs Moyer spoke and stated that when she came on board there was no process for hiring, We have no Human resource officer, we need some guidance here, but the progress has been there and we are working on moving forward. Mr. Verano appreciates the comments on the street depart, don't call the news item that's being a coward, he is tired and will back his men.

Judy Allen Milbrand - Who is the citys engineer? The city uses Mike Brinkash

Joey Leschinskie - Thanks Charlie, the Street Dept, Mr. Roughton and Mr. White for doing the property next to his. Mr. Leschinskie asked about the old tax office, Mr. Slaby stated that we got word from the bank we are able to deposit the checks. He agrees that the ride only supports certain businesses and he is not the only one that said this. He Filled a right to know and received the answer today, 149 E. Indep Street, he spoke to Mr. Curran a month ago and then Mr. Roughton went down to the business to look at why they only got a \$10 permit. Is this permit given out correct? If so they were under charged on 8/21 if is an active

permit for all the work. They did all that work for \$1500 for a total of \$90 in permits. The permit in the window has the signatures of Mr. Brown and Mr. Roughton. Other businesses have paid thousands in permit fees. We as taxpayers need to pay our fair share. He has lots of questions and council just sits here he never gets a clear answer. Where is the Transparency over the last two years, he has filled out five right to know in the last 30 days. There were a lot questions asked here tonight and either we don't know or we are don't care. I have been asking the same questions over and over again and there is never a clear answer. This is the worst I have ever seen, only I don't know or file a right to know. He had to wait 35 days for every other right to know answer, like why are certain people aloud to sit behind the desk. Mr. Brown stated that his wife volunteers her time since we do not have a secretary during his office hours, Mr. Leschinskie asked if him as a board member can sit behind the desk up at city hall. Can we eliminate the tax revenue on the meters, they do it in Mt. Carmel. The Parking board made the decision for the Market Street Parking Meters. All the same people are in SABER, same people on all the boards, People have the right to exercise their voice, I think they are going to and you will be very surprised.

Vinny Clausi – was in public office for 12 year and feels bad for us for serving for nothing. His wife sits behind his desk and we need to look into the permits so everyone pays their fair share.

Denise Brown - Wanted to update on the grant for the cigarette butts. We gave out 20 ash receptacles. She emptied them so we can recycle the butts. We will be getting Pocket ash holders and cup holder. If any other businesses what a ash receptacles please call Doreen at City Hall.

Bill Miller – Concerns on the AOAA meeting at Brewsers, and Penn Dot. Mr. Brown told Mr. Miller that we had a phone conference with PennDot and the meeting at Brewsers was a separate meeting. Lots of side talking, can not hear the comments.

## **MINUTES:**

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

September 9, 2019 (Regular Council Meeting)

Second by: Roughton

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

## **BILL LIST:**

MOTION BY: Moyer to approve the bill list for September 2019.

Second by: Verano

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

**DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**ACCOUNTS & FINANCE:**

General Fund \$ 985,607.02  
Motor License \$ 231,194.05  
Library \$ 6,521.10  
Debt Service \$ 258,473.76  
Recreation \$ 239,309.75  
Capital Projects \$ 5,942.26  
Street Lights \$ 2,386.24  
Total All Accounts \$ 1,729,434.18

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

**PARKS & PUBLIC BUILDINGS:**

Music in the parks wanted to thank the support of City Council  
Halloween candy is ordered and will be handed out on trick or treat night.  
Oasis group would like a lease the basement, we need to fix up the basement at the Legion.  
Dan Enjoyed his last four year and he would like to volunteer after the end of the year.

**STREET & PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS:** Nothing to report

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Police Department reported 1010 calls for the Month of Sept 2019.

Fire Report for the month of Sept 2019, 184 Total Calls.

Code office report for the month of Sept 2019-office revenue collected, was \$14,699.85

**SEDA-COG** - Serve 11 counties in the region, 85 employee ran by a board - See SEDA-COG report

**BIDS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MOTION BY: Moyer to grant authorization for Oasis Community Recovery Club to use Claude Kehler Park II for a club event on October 19, 2019 from 1pm - 5pm

Second by: Verano

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

MOTION BY: Verano to have Trick or Treat Night October 31, 2019 from 6-8pm

Second by: McGaw

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

MOTION BY: Verano for the proposed route for the October 26<sup>th</sup> AOAA Taking it to the Streets Ride

Second by: McGaw

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

MOTION BY: McGaw granting authorization for the City Administrator to advertise for a Part-Time clerks for City Government for \$8.50 for 28 hours per week.

Second by: Verano

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

MOTION BY: Verano to on the recommendation of the Civil Service Board to Hire James T. Filko as a full time City of Shamokin Police Officer.

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to grant permission to enter into an agreement with General Code for Code Codification and to move \$4000 from TRAN Interest Expense Line item, to Code Office Misc. expense line item for the purpose of the General Code Codification project.

Second by: Verano

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

MOTION BY: McGaw to cease all business relation with Berkheimer for Business Privilege Tax and Local Service Tax Collection effective 12/31/19.

Second by: Verano

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to enter into an agreement with Keystone Collections Group for collection of current and delinquent Local Service tax and Business Privilege tax Effect 1-1-2020.

Second by: McGaw

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

MOTION BY: Verano to grant authorization to Brookside ministries Church to use the East Lot on November 9 from 10-2pm to distribute blankets, hats, gloves, etc.

Second by: McGaw

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

MOTION BY: Verano to enter into an agreement with SEDA-COG to administer the HOMES Program Grant.

Second by: McGaw

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

MOTION BY: McGaw grant authorization to the City administrator to enter in to a 5 year lease agreement with PAREA Biosciences for the City's Property located at 51 E. Lincoln Street, Shamokin.

Second by: Moyer

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to grant permission for Mid-Penn Change Orders for the Shroyer Project.

Second by: McGaw

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

## **BOARD & COMMITTEES:**

None

## **SOLICITORS REPORT:**

Exective Sesseion were held for contracts prior to the workshop.

MOTION BY: Roughton to accept second reading of Ordinance 19-03 (Zoning Fee Schedule)

Second by: Verano

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to accept First reading of Ordinance 19-04 (Keystone)

Second by: McGaw

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

MOTION BY: McGaw to accept Resolution 19-13 (CDBG)

Second by: McGaw

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

MOTION BY: McGaw to accept Resolution 19-14 (CDBG Signatures)

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: McGaw to accept Resolution 19-15 (Pension Trust)

Second by: Verano

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

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

**ADJORN:**

Minutes taken by Doreen Annis, Administrative Accountant  
Meeting ended at 9:30 PM