

Regular Council Meeting
November 11 , 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:

Susan Zaner – She has talked to citizens around Shamokin and most do not care of the ATV's in town. When asked what they are going to do, they say nothing City Hall does not care. When the creek wall project was done, they removed four feet of the creek. The former mayor told her they were going to put in a stone wall on the west side of the bank on gold street. The bank is eroding, when we first leveled the bank it was six feet and now it is twelve feet wide. The AOAA had had three events and the bank is now in the creek. There is now ten feet of Terrence Ave floating down to Harrisburg. It is gone and now you can never get it back, this was moved by two backhoes. There was never a stone wall planned for that section of the creek. Two city officials come down and said that this Terrance Ave is a paper street, not a street. What part of that dirt road is a street? It is a paper road or a street? You look it up and you can tell the difference between a paper street and a street. Are you going to put in pavement and pave the road, no then it is a paper street. You take the law and you bend it for your agenda. You are just washing it into the creek. The bank is eroding below gold street, you can see the trees and rocks. I was told at a meeting with the Mayor, the code officer, and Mr. Prozi. What happens about the eroding, the noise and the pollution, They said don't worry about it Sue we can fix it. After the second run with the ATV's I had to turn on a fan and draw out the air at my house from the ATV fumes. Each ride I saw more and laws being broken. Double parked at a yellow line, is that illegal? Chief Tobias stated that is illegal. There was a whole line of ATVs double parked at a yellow line at a major intersection. The City has accommodated to the AOAA more than any other one in town. When can you come back to measure Terrance Ave, Mayor? There are other ways to get into town. They can come into town using a beautiful green space. I have to move for them, they don't move for me. I never blocked an ATV and I never harassed them. They sent the police up to ask me to move my car. I moved my car after Officer Siko asked me very nicely.

Jamie Yerkes – Owns the Church on Market Street, across from the old Robs goodtime Grill. The Street is caving in on Spruce and Market Street. She said she spoke to someone at city hall. Mr. Verano said he will look into it for her.

Jennifer Seidel - Dewart Street – A question in the paper this week about transparency. I have my degree in business; I bought copies if anyone needs it. Question about the city clerk positions at city hall. How many applied for this? Mr. Slaby said Seven. Will we interview everyone except the ones that are excluded by the background check? Will there be an

interview committee; Mayor stated, Yes, there will be Mrs. Moyer, Mr. McGaw, Brenda, Doreen, Bob and Chief Tobias. Will the position be for a total of 28 hours total, Council stated that it would be 28 hours per position. The Mayor would like four positions, one for the police, one for Mrs. Scandle, and two for the front desk. The reason for letting a seventeen-year veteran with lots of experience, Lynn go was to save the cost of her benefits? The money that we were going to save would go back into the general fund. The Mayor stated that the reason was to get better CDBG service, the saving was her benefits. Mrs. Scandle stated that the Chiefs position has nothing to do with Lynn's saving. that hiring was just to replace the Police Clerk. The position for Brenda's office would be split 1/3 between the School and County. Mrs. Seidel - What was Lynn's Benefits? Average would be \$24,000, you sat at the meeting saying that you were saving money and you are just going to spend it on part time workers. Mayor stated that it is a revenue neutral, we contracted with SEDA-COG to get better service, we cannot sit with the staff we have, If someone is off we don't have anyone at the front desk. Mrs. Sediel - This was not what was stated at the meeting, I look forward to seeing the meeting minutes, they are not posted yet.

Andrea Rollman - Commence Street - the Property 812-814 Commerce Street across the street from Pool world. Since June, she made a formal complaint to the City. How can we stop the county from selling condemned properties? How can we change this and instruct more fines? I have cleaned the property up myself. I have removed tires. I have pictures of the person that is dumping on that property. I have had Chris (Code Officer) up and the owner was cited. The Owner does not have a license and has been seen driving. I bought the property's next to it and I want to make it rentals. A new couple just moved in there this week. The heating system does not work, there are mattresses looks like a fire hazard. The other people that were in there were arrested just the other week. I would like to know how can we change, to get stricter enforcement. If we have a binder of fines, how to we correct the issue. On my other neighbors house can I buy a tarp and cover up the blight. I have deal worked out with the dump that they knock off half price for me, since I walk the area and clean up. It is very expensive to get rid of TVs now a days. Maybe we can start a electronic clean up.

Cameron Murray - Organized the 5th ward clean up, they removed and dumped 2200 pounds of trash. The bottom line is that is a neighborhood, her neighborhood. There is a serious problem in the neighborhood. We need to make sure when we use our resources they are not wasted. From what I understand our local laws say when someone dumps or litters our law says that we cannot make them clean it up, that is a big problem, that is something we need to change. I looked up some pa state laws, Chapter 37 title 75 law and the pa crime code title 18 chapter 65. Those law state that if items are dumped out of a vehicle there are crimes with an option for community service. If it is not an actual person dumping from a vehicle there should be a mandatory go back and pick it up and should be a mandatory community service. These people from the vehicle from what I understand have been caught again dumping garbage It is not a serve enough punishment in my opinion for these actions. The Harshesht punishment is what we should require for their ignorant actions. Penndot spends upward of \$10 million dollars of roadside litter each year. It cost approx. 600 per ton to clean up illegal dumpsites and there are hundreds of illegal dump sites in Pennsylvania. Pa has laws in place that states they need to go back and clean up their litter. Someone needs to help responsible for this. I also ask we create a list for our landlords of a do not use list of people that offer clean out services, for these indivisibles that dump out in our woods. We need to start doing something to change it and hold people accountable.

Cathy Vetovich - Saber President - Letter in September asked for a Shamokin Christmas festival around the library. To block off the area from 10-5 for a Downtown Christmas.

Would like to amend the request to have extra time and have extra garbage cans in that area. The festival is December 14 from 10-4. As the president of SABER I see a change in this area, we can only do this if we work together. I watched a video called Dirt Tracks, about the Hatfield McCoy area. The ones that opposed this in that area are now the ones that are in favor of it. Thank you for everything you do. You lady rocks, it is that kind of community spirit we need to turn this town around.

Joseph Leschinskie - Thanks to Dan McGaw for the last four years, if we could do an appreciation for him next month, I will buy the cake. It is well deserved. Follow up from last month, I bought up permits. Did we get anywhere with that issue. Mr. Roughton stated that yes we are working through it, we do have an issue none of our council or code officers are UCC certified, only our 3rd party inspector. Our permit with the yellow card are no longer used. There is no such thing as assessment permits; we will be doing a press release with the news item in the new year on which permits are to be issued by whom. Mr. Konopka the appointment of Mr. Roughton and Mr. Brown are they still appointed, Mr. Konopka stated that was an interim appointment, and now we have a code officer. Did you approve the appointments; Mr. Konopka stated no he did not. Mr. Roughton stated they still had to go through an inspection with the 3rd party for an occupancy permit. Normal Mr. Roughton did receive a cease and disseat letter. Mr. Leschinskie asked if that is available to the public. Mr. Roughton said it was addressed to him, Mr. Leschinskie can see it, it is available to the public. Are we still issuing permits? Mr. Roughton said that we are not issuing permits at city hall. Mr. White has not issued any permits. Mr. Leschinskie will fill out a right to know to see these documents. Does anyone know anything about the Marijuana Company about renting out the old tax office. We have received a check for rent. Mr. Leschinskie advice is to cash the check before they change their name again. Where will you deposit the check? Mr. Slaby stated we would deposit the check into M&T Bank. We have received written confirmation from M&T Bank that we can deposit that money into the bank. We are the only company in Pennsylvania that can deposit that money. Mr. Leschinkine summited a letter of request to be considered for the Housing Authority Board vacancy of Mr. Kinder.

Dennis Kaleta - Owner of Lost Mined Brewing Company, Thanks the city for working with the AOAA. We had 18 people that ended up walking over. Hoping we can address the issues and work with the city. If we all work together we can make this work. Thanks everyone that is making this work.

Andrea Rollman - What are the qualifications of the code officer, and do we only have 1 or 2 officers.

Joseph Leschinskie - The extra help in Brendas office, how did this change? Ryan Hottenstein was opposed to this. How were we able to get help in her office? Did Ryan ok this? Mr. Slaby stated that Ryan Ok'd this because of the savings of Lynn Dixson benefits. What is the plan for the Act 47 exit. Ryan is working on an exit plan, what is Plan B. We do not have a plan B. Mr. Slaby stated that Plan B is being worked on by Ryan and ACT 47 and will be presented to City Hall. Mr. Leschinskie stated we removed meters and we still have two meter clerks. Mr. McGaw stated that the extra help in Brenda's office can create \$60,000 in extra revenue. Mrs. Scandle presented a plan that with the \$3600 in office help she can generate extra revenue.

Kathy Vetovich - We took out 2 meters on Market Street, we took a property that was not on the tax rolls and is not back on the rolls. We now have three new businesses that we are getting tax revenue from. The more we can get the downtown people to be involved that is where we will get the downtown revenue. We need shops downtown where we can open little shops.

MINUTES:

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

October 14, 2019 (Regular Council Meeting)

Second by: McGaw

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Verano, Moyer, Roughton, Brown, McGaw

Nays: None

Absent: None

BILL LIST:

MOTION BY: Verano to approve the bill list for October, 2019.

Second by: Roughton

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Verano, Moyer, McGaw, Roughton, Brown

Nays: None

Absent: None

DIRECTORS REPORT:**ACCOUNTS & FINANCE:**

General Fund \$ 350,247.41

Motor License \$205,687.28

Library \$ 7,847.80

Debt Service \$ 274,531.44

Recreation \$ 298,032.22

Capital Projects \$ 5,937.51

Street Lights \$ 3,432.89

Total All Accounts \$ 1,145,716.55

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

PARKS & PUBLIC BUILDINGS:

We will be doing the lights on Market Street, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. If anyone would like to help. The Christmas Trees in the planters will be going in this year again, the same Sunday after. It is a \$25 donation to sponsor a tree. Go to city Hall if you want to sponsor a tree. Santa Claus is coming to town, and I am working on a petting zoo for the December 14th downtown Christmas. Oasis getting into the bottom of the Legion, I would like to have that lease by December Meeting.

STREET & PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS:

The Christmas tree will be put up, Did we get any response on the Shroyer Building, I would like the hole in the street to be patched up. I will have the street dept to do it but he is getting a bill.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

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

Fire Report for the month of Oct 2019, 176 Total Calls.

Code office report for the month of Oct 2019-office revenue collected, was \$20,982.34

SEDA-COG - - See SEDA-COG report

BIDS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION BY: Verano accept the letter of resignation from Nytasha Shinskie from the Shamokin Police Department Administrative Assistance, effective November 8, 2019.

Second by: McGaw

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

MOTION BY: Verano accept the letter of resignation from David Kinder from the Housing Authority Board, effective October 17, 2019

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: Verano to suspend meter enforcement from November 30, 2019 – January 2, 2020.

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: Moyer to accept the first reading of the 2020 City of Shamokin Budget.

Second by: Verano

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

BOARD & COMMITTEES:

None

SOLICITORS REPORT:

Executive Session were held for contracts prior to the workshop, and After the workshop for Personnel.

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

Second by: McGaw

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

MOTION BY: Verano to accept Resolution 19-16 (Section 504 Compliance Officer CDBG)

Second by: McGaw

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

- **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