

Regular Council Meeting  
March 9, 2020  
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:** Moyer, Roughton, Seidel, Brown  
Absent: Verano

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** NONE

**MINUTES:**

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

February 10, 2020 (Regular Council Meeting)

Second by: Roughton

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

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

February 20, 2020 (Special Council Meeting)

Second by: Roughton

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

**BILL LIST:**

MOTION BY: Moyer to approve the bill list for February 2020

Second by: Seidel

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Ayes: Moyer, Roughton, Seidel, Brown

Nays: None

Absent: Verano

**DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**ACCOUNTS & FINANCE:**

General Fund \$ 318,971.67

Motor License \$134,649.89

Library \$ 1,854.13

Debt Service \$ 133,062.31

Recreation \$ 289,170.66

Capital Projects \$ 5,948.50

Street Lights \$543.05

Total All Accounts \$ 883,930.21

Fund balances as of March 1, 2020 submitted by Brenda Scandle, City Treasurer & Dave Kinder, City Controller.

**PARKS & PUBLIC BUILDINGS:**

**STREET & PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Police Department reported 891 calls for the Month of February 2020.

Fire Report for the month of February, 2020 – No Report.

**SEDA-COG -** - See SEDA-COG report

**BIDS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve The City of Shamokin demolition policy as provided by SEDA-COG.

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve SEDA-COG/CDBG to advertise for demolition bid for 9-11 West Sunbury Street

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve SEDA-COG/ CDBG to advertise for demolition bid for 54 East Sunbury Street.

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to allow Denise Brown to coordinate the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Claude Kehler Park II on April 5 from 11-2, this event is co-sponsored by The Shamokin Moose and The Rescue Fire Company.

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Moyer to allow permission to Citizens for a Better Community to use Claude Kehler Park on Saturday April 4, from 11-2 for their annual Chicken BBQ.

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: Seidel to allow Oasis Recovery Club to use Claude Kehler Park on June 14 from 2-10pm for a speaker jam.

Second by: Roughton

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Moyer, Roughton, Seidel, Brown

Nays: None  
Absent: Verano

MOTION BY: Seidel to give permission to Faith Alliance for Revitalization (FAR) to hold a small event on the 500 N block of Market Street on June 1, 2020 from 4-8pm. FAR is requesting permission to block off a small section of Water Street, where it intersects Market Street. The group is also requesting permission to use a grill, set up tables/chairs, and have live entertainment.

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: Seidel to give permission to Cameron Murray to host a tree-planting event though-out the city on Saturday, May 9, 2020 for Mother's Day. The locations being considered are along the creek behind the pool and Claude Kehler Park.

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: Seidel to grant permission to Dave Spotts, for Music in the Park dates at submitted to council, the music in the park events will be held at Claude Kehler Park. .

Second by: Moyer

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

MOTION BY: Seidel to grant permission for alcohol to be served at Music in the Park event on May 24, 2020 at Claude Kehler Park. Permission would be granted contingent upon the selected alcohol vendor providing all required documentation, including a list of products to be sold, a copy of the vendor's special occasion liquor license, and the vendor's \$1 million dollar liability insurance certificate listing the City of Shamokin as the other insured party, to city hall no later than the close of business on May 1, 2020.

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to purchase parcel 012-02-004-158, E Willow Street, Shamokin for the cost of \$1 plus the cost for the deed transfer.

Second by: Seidel

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Ayes: Moyer, Roughton, Seidel, Brown

Nays: None  
Absent: Verano

MOTION BY: Seidel to give permission for Rosalind Kane to have her annual clean up on April 26, 2020.

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to give permission to the City Administrator to send a letter to Senator Gordner's Office asking him to meet with City Council to talk about amending third class city code, this letter is in accordance with the ACT47 three year exit plan.

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to give permission to the City Administrator to send a letter to PA State Rep Kurt Masser's Office asking him to meet with City Council to talk about amending third class city code, this letter is in accordance with the ACT47 three year exit

Second by: Moyer

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to give permission to the City Administrator to send a letter to Northumberland County Commissioners Office asking them to consider a county-wide reassessment, this letter is in accordance with the ACT47 three year exit plan.

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Seidel ratifying authorization to Mother Cabrini Church and Transfiguration Church to purchase and place 2 angels on the light poles located in front of the churches, contingent upon approval from PPL.

Second by: Moyer

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Ayes: Moyer, Roughton, Seidel, Brown

Nays: None  
Absent: Verano

MOTION BY: Moyer to give permission to advertise for the 2020 Street Sweeper Schedule.

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: Seidel authorizing the City Solicitor to draft an ordinance to change E. Commence Street to a one-way street going west on two blocks between N. Rock to N. Liberty.

Second by: Moyer

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

The Motion to accept the Pension Benefit Calculation for James Zurick was tabled for further discussion.

MOTION BY: Roughton to grant authorization to the City Solicitor to meet and discuss upcoming contact negotiations with the representatives of the police department.

Second by: Seidel

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

## **BOARD & COMMITTEES:**

**None**

## **SOLICITORS REPORT:**

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve Resolution 20-06 (Emergency Management Plan)

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve the first reading of Ordinance 20-21(Boarding House)

Second by: Seidel

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

An executive session was held on Wednesday after the workshop for approx. an half hour for personnel.

Executive Session was held during the Council Meeting from 7:34-7:51

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

**Bill Miller** – In July 2019, I was told that I could write a revision or a correction on the minutes, and they would be voted on to be admitted as corrected. I am requesting that you request a motion to install a committee or a commission to investigate the illegal activity in the delinquent property tax that is happening right now. Mayor asked if Mr. Miller could explain what he mean. Mr. Miller stated that he is requesting the Mayor to make a motion that a committee or a commission be assigned to investigate the wrongdoing in the delinquent property tax in the county against the state laws. Attorney Rovito stated that Mr. Miller would have to go to the commissioners and ask them to do that, the City of Shamokin would not have standing to do that. Mr. Miller stated that in January it was said at the meeting that there are thing going on the delinquent tax portion that are illegal. I never stated that they did anything illegal, I said that things are happening that are illegal and breaking state law. Purchasing property while your delinquent is illegal especially property that was delinquent itself. I would request that you appoint a commission to investigate the illegal activity. Mr. Rovito suggests that maybe it would be better served if Mr. Miller would ask the Mayor if he would send a letter to the county commissioners to form a commission to investigate on the county level. Mayor stated he will discuss at the next workshop.

**Jesse Storm – Brokers Realty** - Requested five minutes, Request denied by solicitor. He filed a right-to-know on October 7, was told it was granted and he would receive it as pieces. At the work session on March 5, he was notified that it was declined based on page 21 paragraph 26 (D) "Confidentiality. All registration and contact information shall be maintained in a confidential manner by the Code Enforcement Officer and shall only be utilized for the purpose of enforcement of this Ordinance by the Code Enforcement Officer and City Manager." If that is the case then everything is held in confidence in our community, everything is protected when it is in those drawers. You turn over the same forms to the tax collector, to the police department with the people's information on it; therefore you are violating your own section that you are standing on for being confidential. I find it laughable that it takes months to deny something that you already approved. I have requested numerous times that Shamokin look at things other then benefiting the businesses. We need to look at developing a grant program for home ownership. The only way we as a community can change the blight and the issues with Shamokin is to introduce homeowner and the ability to own their own home and take pride in their homeownership. Brokers Realty would like to donate \$2000 toward that fund at the point and time that Shamokin sets up a program to provide funds to help with closing costs, similar to

other communities around Pennsylvania. To produce homeowners, viable homeowners for the community. Brokers Realty would request to be a part of the discussions on setting up the fund, so that way it is similar to other programs such as Lancaster County, York County and Dauphin County and other parts of the county. We believe the only way to make changes in our community is in regards to homeownership. The last thing on my list I will not get to which is why I had requested the five minutes.

**Kathy Vetovich – SABER** - SABER and its associate group GO SHAMOKIN are requesting your support in organizing several events throughout the balance of 2020. The team would like to request to have a festival in the downtown district on July 4 from 12-9pm. This festival is being labeled Independence day on Independence Street, there will be vendors, FLAGS Students and many other events. We will be coordinating with the events at Claude Kehler Park. Requesting closure of Independence Street from Market to Rock Street. SABER plans to schedule the second annual Christmas festival on small business Saturday November 28, 2020. Window decorating and tree decorating contests will coincide with this festival. We look forward to hearing your response to these events.

**Andy Twigg - SABER** and Property Owner - Here to express his appreciation with the AOAA rides. Would like to encourage us to support a wider zone for crossing over Market Street and extending to the coal township line. Coal Township has expressed their approval for the Zone map, not the parade route, but the zone map. The zone map would include a lot more businesses the give them exposures to the rides.

**Solicitor Comment:** There has been some discussion regarding property management in the city of Shamokin and in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and there has been a statement that has been made that I feel the need to clarify. I looked up title 68, Property Manager in Pennsylvania does not need a broker's license, as long as he is an employee of the owner of the property, does not negative lease terms, does not hold money belonging to a tenant unless its rent money belonging to the landlord, is not authorized to sign leases on behalf of the owner. The employees are able to show apartments, provide information on the rental amounts discuss rules and regulations and give determinations on leases.

## **ADJOURN:**

Minutes taken by Doreen Annis, Administrative Accountant  
Meeting ended at 8:05 PM