

Regular Council Meeting
April 13, 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, Verano, Roughton, Seidel, Brown
Absent: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter read from Stevens & Lee

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Joseph Leschinskie - Ryan Hottenstein just wants you to use his labor attorneys. Like he did with Reading when he was the city administrator. Last time we used Hottenstein's attorney. It cost taxpayers \$92,000. DON'T DO IT! VINCE IS MORE THAN QUALIFIED! Reneg your votes to the exit strategy if that's how they want to play. They want involved with Rovito so they can still get their cut of the \$\$\$.

Jamie Yerkes - How much does Stevens and lee cost the city? The City does not pay for the them, they are paid by the state. Jamie, if you can resubmit your question so we can better address it. Jamie stated \$92,000 and from the Labor Attorney we use. Mr. Slaby stated that he can not give an answer to her at this time.

MINUTES:

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

March 9, 2020 (Regular Council Meeting)

Second by: Verano

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

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

March 23, 2020 (Special Council Meeting)

Second by: Verano

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

BILL LIST:

MOTION BY: Seidel to approve the bill list for March 2020

Second by: Verano

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

DIRECTORS REPORT:

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE:

General Fund \$ 474,950.98
Motor License \$340,085.89
Library \$ 4,403.96
Debt Service \$ 182,146.52
Recreation \$ 322,323.86
Capital Projects \$ 5,948.75
Street Lights \$7,119.08
Total All Accounts \$ 1,336,979.04

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

PARKS & PUBLIC BUILDINGS: Read Letter from Bill Miller- Solicitor stated that this was asked and answered. The community cupboard is up and running on Michelle's front porch for now until something can be made and placed on city land.

STREET & PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS: Street Sweeper is running, there was damage to flagpoles, Kevin will be fixing tomorrow.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Thank you to Walmart for the donation of masks and Walmart distribution for the donation of toilet paper, thank you Bob and Ronnie for running up to pick it up.

Police Department reported 773 calls for the Month of March 2020.

Fire Report for the month of March 2020 82 calls.

SEDA-COG -

BIDS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION BY: Verano to accept the pension benefit calculation for James Zurick as provided by Girard Pension.

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: Seidel to ratify and extend the upcoming Keystone Collections Group business privilege/mercantile tax annual filing deadline to July 15, 2020. This is due to the fact that the vast majority of these filings are supported by federal tax documentation and the business community now has until July 15, 2020 to complete and file said documentation.

Second by: Verano

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

BOARD & COMMITTEES:

None

SOLICITORS REPORT:

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

Second by: Roughton

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

An executive sessions were held on March 23 for personnel and contractual matters for approx. thirty minutes and Wednesday 4/1 after the workshop for approx. forty minutes for personnel.

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

Rich Fowler - Can you please discuss the street sweeper running while parking is severely limited due to the stay at home order? This item was discussed during the meeting.

Mike Duganitz -Suspend sweeper tickets until people get back to work.

Brandon Beery - When is the red light getting fixed on Sunbury street and the giant tree picked up from the end of commerce street? Council stated that this will be getting delivered to the repair company and fixed in the next couple weeks.

Margaret Rondon - Hi I'm a new home owner. I will like to know why the increase in property taxes Its going to change yearly? I appreciate your answer thanks. Mrs Scandle stated that the citys taxes have not raised the taxes in years. The reason it went up was the county raised their taxes.

Mary Wilson-Duganitz - With the stay at home order, is there any way that Brenda Scandle can accept all city and personal taxes even those that are considered late? Mrs Scandle stated that taxes can be mailed or dropped off at city hall, or paid online at the city's website or paid with debit or credit card by phone.

The Shamokin Cemetery matter has been turned over to the police.

Joe Leschinskie - Good Evening, Mayor and Council. Hope you are all staying safe through these troubling times. I would like to address the Mayor and Council as it pertains to a final decision from the PA Office of Open Records that was received by the City of Shamokin, and myself, dated March 31, 2020. The Office of open records received a complaint from myself because the City's Right to Know Officer failed to respond to 4 Right to Know Requests of mine in late 2019. During that time, the state's OOR Appeals officer had requested participation from the City in the matter, and the OOR received ZERO correspondence from the City's RTK Officer throughout the whole process. The state's OOR Appeals officer had sent several emails in that time requesting response, none was given. This is particularly disturbing, because this was information that was not ground breaking, or earth shattering, that would have taken months to compile the data. I even withdrew 3 of the 4 RTK's with the OOR to lighten the load. On Thursday, 4/9/20, I finally received a response from the City's RTK Officer. I would like to thank those who prepared the documentation of the emails recovered from the topics of marijuana. My question to the council and all City officials is this... Have all of you been contacted by the City RTK Officer to have an email key word search done on your email boxes as it pertains to this Right to Know Request? If yes, did you participate and were those records included in the right to know response provided to me? If no, please contact the City RTK officer to schedule an appointment to have your email

boxes scanned for those specific keywords requested. I would ask that this please be discussed in an open forum, and not executive session, because this is a public process, and it should take place in a public forum. I am certain that I will have The Mayor, Council, and City Officials full cooperation in the matter, However given the RTK's officer's unwillingness to communicate something as simple as correspondence from the OOR, I am proposing once again, like I have throughout this entire process, to give the City the benefit of the doubt and ask that you please provide this information to the City's RTK officer, unless he has already asked you for it. This includes the prior City Solicitor as well. However, I am curious to know, why at the most recent council work session last Wednesday, when asked by the Mayor if there was any correspondence, Mr. Slaby responded No, but had already received the correspondence on 3/31/20, which he had possession of prior to the work session. Mr. Slaby said that he would like for to speak to Mr. Leschinskie on this matter. Was compliance done on this matter? This is one reason why Mayor Brown wanted to have everyone stop using their personal emails, he has emails on both is private and public emails.

ADJORN:

Minutes taken by Doreen Annis, Administrative Accountant
Meeting ended at 8:30 PM