

Regular Council Meeting  
July 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, Roughton, Seidel, Verano, Brown  
Absent: None

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

**Joe Leschinskie** - I see on the new business side on the agenda. There is a motion to accept the resignation from the attorney Rovito From the police negotiating team for 2020 contract renewal. Over the last couple months, I've been following it through the live feeds and it was my understanding that Vince would be able to negotiate after he got vetted by Act 47, that he would kind of lead the charge on that. I do not believe that this seems to be Council's decision because there'd be no vote on it. So my belief is something happened somewhere. And the last time we use these guys, they cost us \$90,000 for a contract. So by may ask if someone would like to answer what, why, what happened?

Attorney Rovito - We had a fundamental difference in how we were going to proceed with the police negotiation. And the kind of long story short, they said, If I didn't resign, they were cutting funding, and they cut all our grants. And that was why I resigned immediately.

Joe – They have been here for five years and they haven't done a thing for this municipality. Economic Development hasn't been done, besides private business. And now if there goes on arbitration again, we're looking at another 90,000. if we could just let the people know what we're spending on that. Next time they come to make recommendations, the people, I think sometimes we just need to give it back if that's where there playing, let's get it done for nothing, but now it's going to cost people more money, and then they want to complain. We're in a hole. That's all I can say about it. Thank you.

**MINUTES:**

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

June 8, 2020 (Regular Council Meeting)

Second by: Verano

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

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

June 17, 2020 (Special Council Meeting)

Second by: Seidel

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

**BILL LIST:**

MOTION BY: Verano to approve the bill list for June 2020

Second by: Roughton

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

**DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**ACCOUNTS & FINANCE:**

General Fund \$ 669,165.95  
Motor License \$312,577.07  
Library \$ 1,966.54  
Debt Service \$ 231,280.60  
Recreation \$ 408,425.10  
Capital Projects \$ 5,949.49  
Street Lights \$3,299.01  
Total All Accounts \$ 1,632,663.76

Fund balances as of July 1, 2020 submitted by Brenda Scandle, City Treasurer.

## **PARKS & PUBLIC BUILDINGS:**

We're working on a legion issues, Oasis is also moving some things in. He had a pretty severe incident at pool yesterday, causing water to shoot out of the roof of the pump house into the street. But Larry, problem under control and the free lunch program continues as a school we encourage parents to bring their children down and send their children down. They have a wide variety of choices. We try to keep updated on Facebook, but don't get to that every day. Send the kids down and enjoy some lunch. And I just like to reiterate my thanks to everyone for everything on the Fourth of July. It was quite a huge undertaking. Thank you so much to the citizens who came out. Everybody followed what we asked to be followed and it was a safe, it was a great event. All the employees in the city that came together and worked so hard to put this together. Even with Friday being a holiday there wasn't one thing out of place. Everything was handled perfectly. So all the volunteers and gave their time, and checking temperatures. It was amazing. Mr. Knarr and his family and friends. The fireworks were not what we used to but they were spectacular. And we are so thankful to the Springfield banquet halls and provided to Dave Spotts who provided music. And there's so many people to say, and thank you, Mayor Brown and Denise, Councilman Verano, I was one of the hottest days they think on record and everybody was running around all day long moving things, doing everything they need to and finally to the firefighters. The chief and his officers and the fire police. They pulled it together and everyone was safe. And that was the big thing we were hoping to keep going is that we just kept everybody safe that we have. The time this could not have been done without all these people and without Council's support and just say, you know what, what a terrible way to start this summer but what a great event we kicked it off with that I've truly honored to do so. Thank you.

## **STREET & PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS:**

Thanks to the Shamokin PD and Fire Departments in how they handled the Fire on Shamokin Street.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Police Department reported 977 calls for the Month of June 2020.

Fire Report for the month of June 2020 – 92 calls.

Code Revenue for the Month of June \$10,048.40

Spoke about the Covered Bridge and the Food Trucks that were parked on Water Street. Council spoke out that this was the reason for the resolution 20-10 that is on the agenda for tonight.

MOTION BY: Roughton to send a Letter to the Covered Bridge with a copy of their approved time for food trucks.

Second by: Verano

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to pay affordable Construction and Demolition for 9-11 and 54 Sunbury Street.

Second by: Verano

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

**SEDA-COG** - There are a couple of Resolutions for CDBG to be voted on. Betsy Kramer spoke about the Downtown Plan, it is almost done.

**BIDS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MOTION BY: Seidel giving authorization to Music in the Park to use Claude Kehler Park on Saturday, August 1, 2020 for an evening concert.

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: Roughton giving authorization to the West End Fire Company to have their annual Block party on July 31 & August 1, 2020, Contingent upon the current COVID-19 color status of Northumberland County.

Second by: Verano

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

MOTION BY: Moyer giving permission to the VNA to hold their annual Butterfly release on Sunday August 16, 2020 at Claude Kehler Park.

Second by: Verano

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to advertise for bids for demolition on 13 s 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

Second by: Verano

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Verano to advertise for bids for demolition on 105 W. Sunbury Street.

Second by: Roughton

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Moyer to enter into an employment agreement with Michael Cation to provide Zoning Services including Zoning Office and any Code Issues associated with Zoning.

Second by: Verano

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Ayes: Moyer, Seidel, Verano,

Nays: Roughton, Brown

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Moyer to accept the resignation from Vincent V. Rovito Jr. Esq. from the Police negotiating team for the 2020 contract renewal.

Second by: Seidel

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Roughton to establish an negotiating committee for the Police Contract contingent upon written approval from the state. (Mrs. Moyer, Mrs. Seidel, Mr. Slaby)

Second by: Verano

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Verano to accept the retirement of Mark Sosnoskie from the Shamokin Street Dept effective July 24, 2020.

Second by: Seidel

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Verano to donate the Clock items from the former Eagle Silk Mill, which are located at the warehouse, to the Shamokin Museum, contingent upon an agreement with the museum that if they close they will return these items to the City of Shamokin.

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Verano to enter into an agreement with Oak Grove Technologies, subject to the execution of the appropriate contract.

Second by: Seidel

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

## **BOARD & COMMITTEES:**

## **SOLICITORS REPORT:**

MOTION BY: Verano to approve Resolution 20-10 (Events)

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve Resolution 20-11 (Adoption of Plan of Use and Condemnation on Blighted Prop)

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve Resolution 20-12 (Declaration of Public Nuisance Properties)

Second by: Verano

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

Nays: None  
Absent: None

MOTION BY: Verano to approve Resolution 20-13 (Declaration of Public Nuisance Properties)

Second by: Moyer

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

MOTION BY: Verano to approve Resolution 20-14 (CDBG- CV to apply)

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: Verano to approve Resolution 20-15 (Fair Housing 2020)

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Verano to approve Resolution 20-16 (Section 504, 2020)

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Seidel to approve the First reading of Ordinance 20-04(OHV)

Second by: Roughton

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

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

**Joe Leschinskie - Would like the City to make a motion to look into Stevens & Lee. They are not helping this municipality.**

[Jeff Hager](#)

If this can be answered tonight, is the Tax Office accepting in person payments yet? Thank you!

Yes they are open Monday – Friday 8-4, Closed Wednesday s for now.

[Andrea Lupotsky](#)

Anything going to be done about all of the fireworks being shot off at all hours of the day and night?

Please call the Police and they will respond.

**City Council read the letter from Penn-dot regarding Dunkin Donuts.**

**ADJOURN:**

Minutes taken by Doreen Annis, Administrative Accountant

Meeting ended at 8:06 PM