

Regular Council Meeting
October 12, 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:

MINUTES:

A Motion by Seidel to Table previous Council Meeting Minutes until next meeting:

September 14, 2020 (Regular Council Meeting)

Second by: Verano

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

BILL LIST:

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

Second by: Seidel

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

DIRECTORS REPORT:

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE:

General Fund \$ 918,096.51
Motor License \$201,304.63
Library \$ 4,273.97
Debt Service \$276,173.73
Recreation \$ 420,146.18
Capital Projects \$ 5,950.24
Street Lights \$5,282.27
Total All Accounts \$,1831,227.53

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

PARKS & PUBLIC BUILDINGS:

The community gardens project is happening in the city. They really are doing great work, they can use more volunteers. This is from the members of their design team, Dear members of Shamokin city council as members of the design team and community gardens. We would like to thank Shamokin City Council for its assistance in our efforts to beautify and revitalize the city by improving on and creating various types of Gardens. Specifically, we want to note the support and help of Mayor Brown, Councilwoman Seidel, Councilman Charlie Verano and Kevin Richardson and his team in removing large piles of debris and rocks at the Sunbury street garden. The community garden steering committee has grand plans for this location as well as several other sites designated for this use in Shamokin. When we work with site people from the community staff to ask what's going on, we describe the Shamokin revitalization to them and create excitement. They look forward to continuing an excellent working relationship with City Council as we do good things in the community with Best regards, community gardens design team, If you see them working in the community, please stop they're great great group, they'll be more than happy to explain their projects to you and embrace you and take your volunteer hours I just want to touch again on the inspection report that we got from the free lunch program, Larry Strausser did a phenomenal job, passed with flying colors, they actually use our site as a way to model other sites during code restrictions. That's a high compliment in unprecedented times like the ones that we went through for our little town that serves lunches, to be a model for other communities in ways that we can continue to grow and keep our kids safe. So thank you to Larry, to all his volunteers and everybody who put their hard work into that all summer under the circumstances. We also have music in the park coming up on Saturday the 17th from 11am to 6pm, there will be food, music, crafts vendors and more Lost mined Brewing Company, and full throttle, concessions will be providing the food out of the park. So if you have a chance they'll be having three bands, After Hours based and Tim burns and Silverheels. Stop by the park and see the great things that are happening in the community. We also have a neighborhood pride event on the 17th starting at 11am It's at Shamokin street playground. They'll be sleeping up cigarettes, cutting weeds, cleaning graffiti and picking up trash, they ask you please dress appropriately including masks, bring any shovels, brooms, weed whackers or other tools that would help you in this event but be sure to mark them with your information so that you get them back at the end of the day, and that starts at 11am at the Shamokin Street playground. The Shamokin community gardens has another project going on, they're taking the hydrangeas from Claude Kehler Park, and instead of letting them die and then having to clean them up, they're going to cut them while they're still alive, dry them out, and then sell them at the event on Saturday to make money to reinvest back into our community gardens, these ladies like I said they're phenomenal they're always thinking ahead, and they're extending the lifespan of a beautiful flower in order to be able to plant more flowers.. And my final thing would be for trick or treat which is on the agenda to be voted on, please be safe.. Please be careful driving close to the hours so that you know that kids are out. It's supposed to be kind of

cloudy. Just watch out for the kids & have fun.

STREET & PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS:

Nothing

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Code Revenue for the Month of September \$14,388

Fire Report for the month of September 2020 – 95 calls.

Police Department reported 909 calls for the Month of September 2020.

Motion Roughton to accept Dave Wheary as Fire Chief was tabled until next meeting for clarification.

Second by: Verano

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Roughton to pursue purchasing a 2019 Pierce Fire Truck for \$446,480, contingent upon financing being established and approval of ACT47.

Second by: Verano

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Roughton to declare 15 properties a public health and safety nuisance.

134 E. Lincoln Street, 138 E. Lincolns Street, 610 W State Street, 612 W. State Street, 614 W. State Street, 616 W. State Street, 6 S 8th Street, 8 S 8th Street, 33 S. Shamokin Street, 1014 N. Washington Street, 310 S. Coal Street, 129 Birch Street, 131 Birch Street, 33 S Rock Street, 14 W. Church Street

Second by: Moyer

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The City Opened the Gates for the Weekend OHV Riders on October 3, 2020.
On Saturday October 3, 2020. There were 550 Riders at the AOAA, 75 Machines came into Shamokin.
Sunday October 4, 2020 - 300 Riders at the AOAA, 25 Machines came into town
Saturday 10/10 - 500 Riders at the AOAA, 50 Machines came into town.
Sunday 10/11- 300 Riders at the AOAA, 54 Machines came into town.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

BIDS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION BY: Roughton to award the bid for demolition for 6661 & 663 to Affordable Construction for \$34,330.00

Second by: Verano

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

MOTION BY: Seidel to accept and adopt the Shamokin Area Implementation Plan for Economic Revitalization.

Second by: Verano

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to accept the letter of resignation from Craig Schoch from the Zoning Hearing Board, effective immediately.

Second by: Verano

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to accept the letter of resignation from Michael McLaughlin from the Zoning Hearing Board, effective immediately.

Second by: Moyer

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

MOTION BY: Seidel to approve SABER Home for the Holidays event on November 28, 2020 from 1-7pm, temporarily closing Market and Arch Streets.

Second by: Moyer

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

MOTION BY: Seidel to set Trick or Treat night on October 31, 2020 from 6-8pm.

Second by: Verano

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

MOTION BY: Verano to contract with Attorney Vincent Rovito to perform the Legal and Editorial Analysis on the General Code Book, at a rate of \$150 per hour.

Second by: Roughton

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to cancel the following workshops scheduled for October 14 & October 21. (These workshops were set up to work on the General Code Legal and Editorial Analysis)

Second by: Verano

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

MOTION BY: Verano to remove the dead trees on Independence Street. These trees were marked as dead or decaying in health by Vincent Cotrone, Urban Forester with Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Second by: Moyer

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

MOTION BY: Verano to remove the trip hazard trees at the same time as the dead and decaying trees.

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Verano to allow Covered Bridge Brewhaus to close 8th at Water to Independence Street , during the Food Truck Frenzy, until 10pm

Second by: Roughton

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

BOARD & COMMITTEES:

MOTION BY: Verano for Besty Kramer to step down from the the Shamokin Are Industrial Development Board

Second by: Moyer

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to appoint Pat Mack to the Shamokin Are Industrial Development Board

Second by: Seidel

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to appoint Steve Jeffery to the Zoning Board

Second by: Verano

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

SOLICITORS REPORT:

MOTION BY: Verano to approve the second reading of Ordinance 20-07(Vacant Property Registration Ordinance)

Second by: Roughton

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

We need to work on an ordinance for a Gentlemen's club; there are a number of issues that we need to work out at our next workshop.

Executive Session was held after our workshop 9/2 for personnel reasons for approx. 35 minutes

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

Sandy Persing

Can we get the RTK nonsense out in the open? Who needs to file and why it is an issue every meeting? Why is there some people that need to file and others don't? This divides the city more than anything else. We will never get everyone working together for what's best for the city. Some people always want the camera shut off—they need to remember who pays their salary—it's city information that taxpayers need to know.

Council Stated that we should have a Right to Know workshop for the City and Citizens.

Sandy Persing

Awesome document Betsy thank you to all who spent time putting it together.

John Leschinskie

Citizen comment: Mayor Brown, how Did Jennifer Seidel obtain the document inside city hall addressed to Scott Roughton that was sent around by her a day before the news item received it through a right to know request?

Councilwomen Seidel stated that she took a picture of the document at city hall.

Judy Surak

Why hasn't any repair work been started on the Public Library or American Legion Building when grants have been received months ago, thanks to the efforts and expertise of Kathy Jeremiah and Mr. Skavery.

There was work done in the basement, but was work with getting Oasis in the basement, the other work was scheduled to be done in March, however due to Covid things were on hold. Bids are being redone.

LD Porzi

You need to appoint a RTK officer.

Mr. Slaby is the RTK Officer.

Lori Yacko – 403 S Shamokin Street – Major issue with garbage, Roaches and Mice at 401 S. Shamokin Street. Chief stated it is in the process of being addressed.

Kathy James – 405 S. Shamokin Street – Here also about the Major issues at 401 S. Shamokin Street. Asking if the certified letter was sent out to the Landlord. Council Stated it was.

City Resident from 407 S. Shamokin Street also complained about the Major Issues at 401 S. Shamokin Street, mice, Garbage, and roaches.

Judy Allen – Asked about the stats from the AOAA. Was it just from the AOAA? They were just from the AOAA. What ever happen to the Grant for the City Steps? Betsy stated that the grant was not approved. Landlord tenant board? Has there been any changes. Atty. Rovito stated he is still working on it. We are working on Ordinance by order of importance right now.

Kathy Vetovich – Thank you for approving the Home for the Holiday Event and along with that is Light up Lincoln, and we are looking at a sponsorship program called Step up Shamokin to restore the historic 99 steps.

Judy Surak

I sent a complaint to city hall weeks ago via email. Mr. Leshock is a nuisance landlord. (401 S. Shamokin St)

Brian Pufnak

I would like to say thank you to Chief Tobias and all of our police officers for their hard work. We are dealing with some challenging times.

Sandy Persing

Can anyone explain the loud bangs or explosive noises across the city multiple times through the weeks?

We have no answer

Tonya Peifer

They need to clean up the drugs going on in front of the pool hall. Seen it first hand when going for a walk and walking by there.

Chief : See something, say something. Please call the PD.

ADJOURN:

Minutes taken by Doreen Annis, Administrative Accountant

Meeting ended at 8:10 PM