

City of Shamokin Regular Council Meeting  
January 10, 2022  
7:00 PM

The Regular Monthly Meeting of Shamokin City Council was held this evening with Mayor Richard Ulrich presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PLEDGE TO FLAG:**

**PRAYER:**

**ROLL CALL:** Leschinskie, Roughton, Annis, Moyer, Ulrich  
Absent: None

**PRESENTATIONS:**

The AOAA presented a \$5,000 check to thank the City for their continued support.

The swearing in ceremony of Alexis Temple as a Police Officer took place with Council present.

**BIDS:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** (contingent upon business listed on the agenda):

Jesse Storm with Brokers' Realty encouraged the Council members to vote no on a few of the Boards and Committees agenda items, such as the reappointment to the Housing Authority, stating that they need someone who will push for increases in the rental amounts, as average rental amounts are higher in Shamokin. He also asked them to vote no on the Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority reappointment, citing that Shamokin has the highest rate compared to other nearby cities and that vacant houses still receive sewer bills. Another such item which he asked Council to vote no on was the Zoning Board reappointment. He stated that Shamokin does not have sufficient zoning for new businesses, referencing that the City has many old buildings and infrastructure, and that we need new infrastructure and new areas that can be rebuilt commercially for new businesses in the City.

The Treasurer responded that the housing goes by 30% of a tenant's income, not on an average of rentals in the City.

Mr. Storm clarified that the amount assessed to an individual is based on a State number that they recalculate yearly by average rental amounts, which is the maximum amount of rent for a unit. How much they will pay on behalf of the tenant is based on the tenant's income. He cited that he went through this process multiple times as a property manager in Shamokin. It is based on a calculation, derived from the maximum number from the State from the average rentals in the area. The Housing Authority has to have the percentage of the increase in rent approved by the State. They can appeal that decision and show additional rental units because a lot of local renters and landlords do not have their numbers published, and they have to be physically published for the State to look at the numbers.

#### **MINUTES:**

*Minutes are not available at this time and will be presented at the February Public Meeting.*

#### **BILLS:**

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve the bills from December 2021, as listed on the Bill List.

Second by: Leschinskie

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Leschinskie, Roughton, Annis, Moyer, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: None

#### **DIRECTORS' REPORTS:**

##### *Accounts & Finance*

General Fund \$ 508,963.60

Motor License \$ 140,214.21

Library \$ 29,028.65

Capital Projects \$ 120,542.51

Debt Service \$ 135,029.14

Recreation \$ 12,762.95

Street Lighting \$ 2.25

Total All Funds \$ 946,543.31

Fund balances as of January 1, 2022 submitted by Brenda Scandle, City Treasurer.

### *Parks and Public Buildings*

Councilwoman Moyer received a call from Kevin who stated that the 99 steps were closed due to the snow and ice, for the safety of the citizens and people who may use them, as using ice melt would corrupt the steps. She also reached out to Larry to meet with him and discuss the Parks and Public Buildings department. She had also mentioned that, due to weather issues, the Christmas decorations on Market Street and Lincoln Street would be up for a little longer.

### *Street and Public Improvements*

Councilman Leschinskie stated that he met with Kevin and familiarized himself with how things work in terms of the department. He also spoke about the past weekend and the work that was done to take care of the roads with the weather over the weekend. He thanked Kevin and the Street Department for making sure the roads were clear and taking care of it in a timely manner. He also mentioned the weather for the upcoming weekend.

### *Public Safety*

Fire Department reported 25 total calls for the month of December 2021.

Police Department reported 708 total calls for the month of December 2021.

Code Office reported \$5,602.00 in revenue for the month of December 2021.

### *SEDA-COG*

See SEDA-COG report.

It was mentioned that everything the City applied for was received, a significant amount came through in the last couple months. The award letter for the CDBG 2021 grant application was received. There were updates with 118-122 demolition process. Regarding ARPA, the Treasury released the final rule for it. It was stated that it will be a lot easier to spend that money, and it will take effect in April. The change concerning revenue loss was highlighted.

Before moving on to new business, Mayor Ulrich noted that in February meetings they will be starting a sign-in sheet for the meetings.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

MOTION BY: Roughton to appoint the City Administrator, Robert Slaby, to be the certifying officer for environmental reviews.

Second by: Moyer

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Leschinskie, Roughton, Annis, Moyer, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Annis to open a new bank account at M&T Bank, for the grant funds from DCED (EDCDI).

Second by: Roughton

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Leschinskie, Roughton, Annis, Moyer, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Leschinskie to ratify Nathan Rhodes's pension with a request to start his benefits as of February 1, 2022.

Second by: Roughton

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Leschinskie, Roughton, Annis, Moyer, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: None

Councilman Leschinskie thanked Mr. Rhodes for his service.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

## **BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**

MOTION BY: Roughton to accept the resignation of Erik Seidel from the Planning Committee effective 12/31/2021.

Second by: Annis

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Roughton, Annis, Moyer, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Leschinskie

MOTION BY: Moyer to reappoint William Dobson to the Housing Authority for a 5 year term.

Second by: Roughton

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Roughton, Annis, Moyer, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Leschinskie

MOTION BY: Moyer to reappoint Charles Sosnoskie to the Shamokin-Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority for a 5 year term.

Second by: Annis

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Leschinskie, Roughton, Annis, Moyer, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Leschinskie to reappoint Eugene Garancheskie to the Zoning Board, whose term expired January 1, 2022, for a 5 year term.

Second by: Moyer

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Leschinskie, Roughton, Annis, Moyer, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Roughton to remove Jerry Splane from the Zoning Board, due to moving out of city limits.

Second by: Moyer

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Leschinskie, Roughton, Annis, Moyer, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: None

### **SOLICITORS REPORT:**

Solicitor Greco mentioned that he reached out to Attorney Konopka to see if there were any matters pending that would need to be passed along to him. There were none, however, there is one pending action that Solicitor Greco is working on. He received a copy of the working documents for the Code Book changes.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Jesse Storm stated that he hoped Council will work with the Housing Authority to promote home ownership, coaching, and money management for the public. He mentioned the USDA program which concerns rural housing redevelopment and hopes the City will push for this program.

Councilman Leschinskie responded to Mr. Storm that he plans on attending Housing Authority meetings. He also stated that if there is anyone who is interested in getting involved with boards and committees, they can stop by City Hall.

Mike Duganitz, President of SYBL Basketball, thanked Mr. Slaby and City Council for the work being done at the Legion building.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION BY: Roughton to adjourn the meeting.

Second by: Leschinskie

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting ended at 7:46 PM

Minutes taken by Aeman Kamran, Administrative Accountant