

City of Shamokin Regular Council Meeting  
February 14, 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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT:**

Certificate of Appreciation was awarded for the recognition of the Searls Family for their donation of Christmas decorations to the City to be displayed on Market Street for the next holiday season.

Life-Saving Award with Valor was awarded for the recognition of Fire Chief Yohe and Officer Hoffman for their heroic actions during a carbon monoxide incident on December 16, 2021 in which two citizens' lives were saved.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**BIDS:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

Jesse Storm with Brokers Realty spoke about the Solicitor's Report section of the agenda and the first reading of Ordinance 22-01. He mentioned that it came up a couple months ago and he spoke to the Chief of Police about this regarding businesses and people who do a lot of things with trailers in Shamokin. His concern is, if that legislation was revised or that Council would write in for trailers being used on City streets for multiple days for business purposes, a waiver be put in for those. He spoke to the Chief in consideration of that. He provided examples of trailers being used for businesses and being parked on City streets to protect those in the Ordinance.

**MINUTES:**

MOTION BY: Moyer to accept the minutes of The City of Shamokin Council Meeting on December 13, 2021 (Regular Council Meeting); December 31, 2021 (Special Council Meeting); January 3, 2022 (Special Reorganization Council Meeting); January 10, 2022 (Regular Council Meeting); and January 31, 2022 (Special Council Meeting).

Second by: Roughton

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Leschinskie, Roughton, Annis, Moyer, Ulrich  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

### **BILLS:**

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve the bills from January 2022, as listed on the Bill List.

Second by: Annis

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Leschinskie, Roughton, Annis, Moyer, Ulrich  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

### **DIRECTORS' REPORTS:**

#### *Accounts & Finance*

General Fund \$ 429,241.59  
Motor License \$ 128,906.51  
Library \$ 33,354.89  
Capital Projects \$ 120,543.54  
Debt Service \$ 146,810.45  
Recreation \$ 27,902.22  
Street Lighting \$ 1,951.37  
Total All Funds \$ 888,710.57

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

#### *Parks and Public Buildings*

Councilwoman Moyer stated she has been in touch with Dave Spotts about the upcoming Music in the Park concert series. They have a few different ideas and they are planning things. She mentioned that some things will need to be discussed with Council such as the number of concerts that will be provided. Mayor Ulrich and Councilwoman Moyer will be meeting in the future with the Shamokin City Garden Club. She mentioned they have a lot of great work around

the City. She also mentioned Illumination Station and hopes to speak to SEDA-COG about that. She is in contact with Larry Strausser to prepare for the spring and summer seasons.

### *Street and Public Improvements*

Councilman Leschinskie reminded everyone that when the City has snowfall to please keep the sidewalks clean and if anyone lives near parking meters to try to keep the snow away from the meters. He also stated that, when people are removing snow, please do not throw it on the streets after they've been plowed.

### *Public Safety*

Fire Department reported total 38 calls for the month of January 2022.

Police Department reported total 667 calls for the month of January 2022.

Code Office reported \$29,550.00 in revenue for the month of January 2022.

Councilman Roughton mentioned Illumination Station and two buildings they are demolishing there. The building on the far left has been anchored to the wall of the building being demolished. Mr. Knoepell believes it can be taken down leaving that wall remaining and not affecting the other property. Councilman Roughton was contacted by Linda saying that she had been in contact with the Borellis and they will speak again or she will speak with Mr. Knoepell. They should be on track to have it down by mid-March or somewhere in that timeframe so it should not be an issue getting it completed by the end of the year.

### *SEDA-COG*

See SEDA-COG report.

Betsy Kramer continued on with what Councilman Roughton said. Illumination Station will be completed by the end of the year. There were a couple hiccups with that project. They were concerned early on about the condition of the Borelli building because it is vacant and if the park was built what would happen if the building to the left of it falls down or is in disrepair. Mr. Knoepell was going to create an exterior wall to 124 as he takes down 122 so it can be guaranteed that the building would be in good shape when the park is built. If this project was not done 122 and 118 E. Independence St. were coming down regardless, and 124 would also

come down since they're connected. That project will be completed by the end of this calendar year. LERTA and the H&H study were highlighted as well. They should have the H&H final findings by the end of March which will then be taken to FEMA. The Comprehensive Plan and Brownfield Grant should be starting this month.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MOTION BY: Annis to approve the 3 events submitted by the Northumberland County Council of the Arts for 2022.

Second by: Roughton

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The three events were the Downtown Christmas Market at Claude Kehler on the first Saturday of December, the Food Truck Frenzy on the last Saturday of October, and Heritage Festival of the Arts on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve the reappointment of Brenda Scandle as the Tax Collector for the City of Shamokin in the year 2022, releasing her from 2021 taxes.

Second by: Moyer

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Roughton ratifying the City Administrator's authorization granting the City Treasurer to open two additional new checking accounts to cover grant monies from H&H and Zoning Book Rewrite at M&T Bank.

Second by: Moyer

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**

**SOLICITORS REPORT:**

The first reading of Ordinance 22-01 City of Shamokin Trailer, Commercial and Recreational Vehicle Parking Ordinance took place.

The City Administrator stated a counter copy will be available either after the meeting this evening or the next morning.

Councilman Roughton asked that, if the vehicle is registered and inspected to be on the roads in the State of Pennsylvania, how that enforcement is going to work if they park by their house. The Chief of Police stated that it can be enforced by ordinance. Under the vehicle code, it is legally inspected and registered. The enforcement would come through the ordinance that is adopted by the City. It would be the same way as if it's a parking issue; it falls under ordinance which is protected by the City, and it would be Law Enforcement's part to enforce it.

Councilman Leschinskie asked if it would work the same way if someone got a motor home and parked it, if it was registered. The Chief of Police responded yes. Councilman Leschinskie asked about Jesse Storm's concern that he stated earlier and how that would work. The Chief of Police responded that should be on a waiver basis. That would be something for City Council or Code Enforcement to give a waiver to permit a certain number of hours for removal.

#### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Kelly Pellowski of Vine Street in Shamokin recognized the Street Department for the job they have done with the snow removal. She asked if there is any solution for the condemned house on Vine Street two doors next to her. It is infested with roaches and bed bugs and the nearby houses need to get exterminated which is costly. The homeowner next to the abandoned house does not take their own garbage out. She inquired if any citations have been issued to the landlord or homeowner. The City Administrator stated that he discussed with Mr. Roughton about those issues and they have an idea about how to deal with that. However, there are some other people that need to be involved that are not here this evening but they planned on discussing this.

Mr. Roughton stated they had a bug issue previously and it was taken care of. He asked if it is back again now. Ms. Pellowski stated that it is two homes, the vacant home and the one attached, and the problems are coming from both and it is becoming costly for many of them. She thanked them for taking her problems seriously.

Councilman Leschinskie asked about anything that this issue could fall back on with homeowners regarding upkeep or quality-of-life. The City Administrator mentioned that the City has a quality-of-life ordinance but they would need to discuss this further. Finally, it was clarified that the two properties' addresses are 911 and 909 Vine St., one is occupied and the other is vacant.

Jesse Storm spoke regarding what he mentioned earlier under the new business. He showed a picture of a trailer which was used to pick-up trash as a business which was booted in Coal Township. That is why he is asking for something in writing for if it is a business use vehicle and it needs to be parked for a day or overnight. The trailer shown before had a boot on it that prevented the person from using it for business but right next to it was a travel trailer for lawn mowers parked half on the street and half on the grass and nothing was done for that. If Shamokin is going to enforce something he is asking that they put it in the ordinance and get it all laid out from the beginning so there is no question in the future on the trailer aspect of things, for business trailers who need to park and unload everything that can't do it all at once, which is also his fear for his business. He has had people approach him from Coal Township who have had issues with getting their trailers booted and things like that because of the legislation there. So he wants them to reconsider something there.

The second thing he spoke about was an issue in regards to marking homes uninhabitable but then padlocking the home and putting a sign up that nobody can enter the home. His concern is that they never take possession of the home; marking it unfit for habitability means they can't live in it but that should not prevent the owner from going in and cleaning out the debris from the home and doing the repairs that are needed to bring it out of inhabatability. By the City padlocking the home they've taken possession of that home and it was never condemned, the City's never taken possession. With that same topic, the particular house he was referring to was owner occupied and the owners of the home were thrown out the same day Children and Youth had contractors out to measure and inspect to put a new furnace into the people's homes.

Mr. Storm's three minutes of time were up. He requested a few extra minutes to finish what he was saying. His request was denied.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION BY: Moyer to adjourn the meeting.

Second by: Roughton

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting ended at 7:57 PM

Minutes taken by Aeman Kamran, Administrative Accountant