

City of Shamokin Regular Council Meeting
March 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, Ulrich
Absent: Moyer

PRESENTATIONS:

Vinny Clausi, former Northumberland County Commissioner, spoke to Council about the Northumberland County Citizens for a Cause Fundraiser for Ukrainian Orphanages in Lviv. See informational sheet for details.

BIDS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Coal Region Auto Sales and Service requesting consideration to be used as a towing agent when needed in the City. The City Administrator recommended that they should speak to the Chief of Police first and then to discuss it further with Council at the workshop when he's present. Mayor Ulrich agreed.

Letter from David Reed resigning from his position as Code Enforcement Officer, effective Monday, April 4, 2022.

MOTION BY: Roughton to accept the resignation of David Reed as the Code Enforcement Officer, effective April 4, 2022.

Second by: Leschinskie

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

The City Administrator requested a short executive session at the end of the meeting with Council, Solicitor Greco, and himself for personnel purposes.

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

MINUTES:

MOTION BY: Roughton to accept the minutes of The City of Shamokin Council Meeting on February 14, 2022 (Regular Council Meeting).

Second by: Annis

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

Nays: None

Absent: Moyer

BILLS:

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

Second by: Roughton

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

Nays: None

Absent: Moyer

Councilman Leschinskie inquired about the bill for Hourigan, Kluger, & Quinn for Legal Services – General Labor Matters for \$247.50 and what it was in reference to. The City Administrator stated that he doesn't have the invoice but he could provide a copy of it tomorrow. It was probably in reference to COLA and there may be a couple other things.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Accounts & Finance

General Fund \$ 442,254.20

Motor License \$ 98,210.15

Library \$ 33,280.90

Capital Projects \$ 5,954.50

Debt Service \$ 146,786.45

Recreation \$ 20,670.70

Street Lighting \$ 1,605.79

Total All Funds \$ 748,762.69

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

Parks and Public Buildings

Councilwoman Moyer was absent and the City Administrator stated she had nothing to report.

Street and Public Improvements

Councilman Leschinskie stated the street sweeper would start April 4. He read the sweeper schedule for 2022. He also reminded everyone to move their vehicles to take advantage of this City service. He spoke about the snowfall in the past weekends and apologized that some places of Bunker Hill and other parts of the City did not get plowed. Not everyone in the Street Dept. worked on the weekend and they tried to work with who's available. He also mentioned spring cleaning, including sweeping your front porch and sidewalk.

Public Safety

Fire Department reported 30 total calls for the month of February 2022.

Code Office reported \$8,047.00 in revenue for the month of February 2022.

SEDA-COG

See SEDA-COG report.

Aaron spoke about the demolition on Independence St. and it is being monitoring it closely and have nothing to report or update yet. He is available for questions regarding the two agenda items on regarding ARPA funding and amendment to the premium pay policy.

Councilman Leschinskie asked about the part-time one and who's going to be added to that and what the cost is going to be. Aaron said \$235,000 was spent in December initially and the amendment would include two part-time officers who they believe were eligible and it increases it another \$4,540.

Betsy Kramer spoke about the Independence Street Downtown Makeover project. She said it's a very specific project in regards to what the money can be spent on. It had to be on Independence Street and it had to help with the issue with the City's sidewalks. The final results from GPI were received today and they had a meeting with FEMA. GPI found a huge discrepancy and during the meeting today the City explained to FEMA why the map needed to be revisited. A letter of map revision and a contract amendment are needed and Council approval is required.

She also mentioned the Downtown Camera System Project and everything regarding that will have to be given back to the City. The equipment was purchased and there is a list of the businesses that agreed to have it on their business, the tasks, and MOU for businesses that were allowing the cameras on their business so the installer would not be held liable should something happen.

Chief of Police

Mayor Ulrich stated that Chief Siko had a prior commitment and read the Police Report in his place.

Police Department reported 762 total calls for the month of February 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request a motion to approve the Easter Egg Hunt at Claude Kehler Park II on April 9th, 2022, rain date April 10th, 2022 from 9a-5p.
2. Request a motion to approve Oliver's Cigar Lounge's event March 19th, 2022 9am-11pm, closing parking spaces 8am-11pm.
3. Request a motion to suspend the open container ordinance for Oliver's Cigar Lounge's St Patrick's Celebration on March 19, 2022 9am-11pm, in the specified event corridor, for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.
4. Request a motion to approve Lost Mined Brewing Company's Mind Melt Last Day of Winter event March 19, 2022 12pm-10pm, closing Spruce St 10am-10pm.
5. Request a motion to suspend the open container ordinance for Lost Mined Brewing Company's event on March 19, 2022 12pm-10pm, in the specified event corridor, for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.
6. Request a motion to approve the Pizza Party by the Shamokin Lions Club May 14, 2022 3pm- 8pm at Claude Kehler Park, closing W Arch St between 5th and 3rd Sts 2:30pm-8:30 pm.
7. Request a motion to approve 7th St Primitive Methodist Church's Family Movie Night at Claude Kehler Park June 24th, 2022 8pm-11pm.

8. Request a motion to approve West End Fire Company's Annual Block Party June 3rd and 4th, closing Pine St between 5th and 6th Sts and 5th St between Pine and Mulberry Sts starting noon on June 1st until June 5 at noon.
9. Request a motion to suspend the open container ordinance for West End Fire Company's annual Block Party on June 3rd and 4th, in the specified event corridor, for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.
10. Request a motion to approve Brenda Scandle, and Justin Minnich as an alternate, to represent the City of Shamokin at the Northumberland County Tax Collectors Quarterly Tax Meeting.
11. Request a motion to amend the City of Shamokin's Premium Pay Policy to compensate eligible part-time Police Officers.
12. Request a motion to use Klacik & Associates as the City of Shamokin's auditor for 3 years (2021, 2022, 2023).
13. Request a motion to approve the 2022 Street Sweeper Schedule.
14. Request a motion to approve the City of Shamokin Police Department to look into the pricing for a K9 unit for the Police Department.
15. Request a motion on the recommendation of Foster and Foster (the actuaries and consultants for the Police Pension Fund) to approve cost of living increases to Deborah Strausser and Susan Witmer, effective Jan 1, 2022.
16. Request a motion ratifying the hiring Henrietta Hine effective March 7, 2022- Full Time Code Secretary, starting hourly rate \$14.50/hr with city benefits.

Mayor Ulrich stated that if any member of Council has a question on the above listed agenda items, they would hold on voting on those.

Mayor Ulrich spoke about agenda item #14. Bob Dirk with Crime Watch was present to explain that the possibility of getting a K9 and raising the money was being looked into pre-COVID. He stated there is a \$20,000 startup cost and asked that Council allow Crime Watch to start the process of securing the funding. There is an average of 6-8 years of service for K9s. They are asking to let them try to raise all or almost all of the money so the City isn't burdened with the price.

Councilman Leschinskie spoke about agenda item #15. He stated that it's been approved every year and it was looked into this year. Those two people were the only ones entitled to it. The City Administrator noted that this was done by the actuaries. Councilman Leschinskie cleared up that he will be voting no on this agenda item.

Councilwoman Annis stated that she needs to abstain from agenda item #11 due to the Premium Pay part of it.

Agenda items #11 and #15 were excluded and would be voted on separately.

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve all agenda items under New Business, with the exception of #11 and #15.

Second by: Leschinskie

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve agenda item #11 under New Business.

Second by: Leschinskie

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

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve agenda item #15 under New Business.

Second by: Annis

Councilman Roughton mentioned that they looked at a contract and contacted Labor Council because if City Council said no to it, they could file a grievance that would go to an arbitrator and it's in the contract so they would have to pay it anyway. The City Administrator stated it is cheaper this way than to have a grievance filed against the City.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

1. Request a motion to appoint Jamie Yerkes to the Landlord/Tenant board for a term of 5 years.
2. Request a motion to reappoint Brian Annis to the Landlord/Tenant board for a term of 5 years.
3. Request a motion to appoint Michael Dietz Jr. to the Zoning Board to replace Jerry Splane, term expiring 1/2023.

MOTION BY: Leschinskie to approve agenda items #1 and #3 under Boards and Committees.

Second by: Annis

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

Nays: None

Absent: Moyer

MOTION BY: Leschinskie to reappoint Brian Annis to the Landlord/Tenant board for a term of 5 years.

Second by: Roughton

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Leschinskie, Roughton, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: Moyer

Abstain: Annis

SOLICITORS REPORT:

Second reading of Ord 22-01 Shamokin Trailer, Commercial and Recreational Vehicle Parking Ordinance.

MOTION BY: Annis to adopt Ordinance 22-01 Shamokin Trailer, Commercial and Recreational Vehicle Parking Ordinance.

Second by: Ulrich

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Roughton, Annis, Ulrich

Nays: Leschinskie

Absent: Moyer

First reading of Ord 22-02, Sidewalk Ordinance.

First reading of Ord 22-03, Landlord/Tenant Ordinance.

First reading of Ord 22-04, Garbage Ordinance.

First reading of Ord 22-05, Property Maintenance Ordinance.

First reading of Ord 22-06, Ticket Ordinance.

MOTION BY: Roughton to advertise the Ordinances listed above.

Second by: Annis

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

Nays: None

Absent: Moyer

Request a motion for Resolution 22-02, for council members to be able to attend and vote at City Council Monthly Meetings via telephone or video call, with a maximum twice per year.

Request a motion for Resolution 22-03 to approve the APRA revenue loss to allocate remaining ARPA Funding to be used for General Government services.

Request a motion approving Resolution 22-04 at the request of the City Treasurer to increase the current duplicate bill fee from \$5 to \$15 effective immediately.

MOTION BY: Roughton to approve the three resolutions listed above.

Second by: Leschinskie

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

Nays: None

Absent: Moyer

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Jesse Storm spoke about the garbage ordinance. There are many residents that park their trash cans on their front porch and bring them off the porch and set them at the curb during that time. It is unsafe and unsanitary to drag week-old trash from the back of house through the home to the front of the street. He thinks the current garbage ordinance is sufficient and asked Council not to move forward with the new ordinance. A lot of homes don't have backyards so where would they put the trash if they can't put it on the front porch. The ordinance the City already has covers majority of those things. The part of the Landlord Tenant ordinance revision that states it is for 2018 and all future renditions has been struck down by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania because Council cannot give a third party the right to revise rules, regulations, and laws without first reviewing it and passing it themselves. He is asking Council to revisit what they're looking to adopt. The Property Maintenance Code was also brought up and the City is allowed to adopt their own Property Maintenance Code or a nationally recognized one. There a lot of things in the IPMC that violate current state law, one of which would require every rental property to have a sprinkler system.

The City Administrator stated that based on the comments made by the citizen, the City Solicitor would look into it and review it.

Councilman Roughton mentioned that the City received a letter of support from Congressman Meuser for the federal grant that the Fire Bureau applied for to replace the breathing apparatus.

An executive session took place prior to adjournment for personnel matters. It began at 8:15 PM and lasted until 8:27 PM. Council reconvened to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting ended at 8:30 PM

Minutes taken by Aeman Kamran, Administrative Accountant