

City of Shamokin Regular Council Meeting  
December 12, 2022  
7:00 PM

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PLEDGE TO FLAG:**

**PRAYER:**

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

**SPECIAL GUESTS:**

Luzerne County Community College students were present at the meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

**BIDS:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Mayor accepted a \$5,000 check donation from the AOAA and thanked them.

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

Gerald Bogetti spoke about the tax reassessment. He stated it is unlikely to fill the void. An estimated 75% increase is needed in property values, but some properties could see a reduction in value. He stated the City could try to ask for the restriction on EIT to be waived. The reassessment is not going to equal the \$800k that the City needs. Another option was to find \$1.6M in the budget and the only department with that amount budgeted is the Police Department, so voting for Home Rule is needed to save the Police Department.

Jesse Storm spoke about the item under the Solicitor's Report. He explained that the City would lose money with the reassessment. He suggested that, for anything voted on for the 18 Month Extension Plan, the City strike out anything to do with the reassessment and keep everything

else. He also stated that a potential solution could be looking into whether the County could lend the City money or the City look at other communities or other alternatives for examples. He also spoke about reviewing the nonprofit statuses of places in the City. He stated the City should look at the ways it can bring revenue back into the community.

**MINUTES:**

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

Second by: Moyer

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

**BILLS:**

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

Second by: Leschinskie

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

**DIRECTORS' REPORTS:**

*Accounts & Finance*

General Fund \$ 185,260.14  
Motor License \$ 169,655.64  
Library \$ 114,798.56  
Debt Service \$ 169,330.23  
Recreation \$ 443,384.39  
Street Lighting \$ 1,242.72  
American Legion \$ 2,248.73  
Neighborhood Mitigation \$ 20,316.34  
Total All Funds \$ 1,106,236.75

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

*Parks and Public Buildings*

Councilwoman Moyer thanked the volunteers and the groups that helped during the holiday season. She mentioned the high school students that decorated for the holidays. She also

acknowledged Mike Duganitz, Craig Fegley, and the VoTech welding class. She also thanked the Street department. She congratulated Betsy for the award she received from the International Economic Development Council. She commended the Garden Club. It was mentioned that the Rotary donated a pet waste station. She thanked the Northumberland County Council for the Arts and Humanities and Jeanne Schaeffer and her team for the sponsoring of the Annual Downtown Christmas Market. She apologized if she missed anybody.

#### *Streets and Public Improvements*

Councilwoman Leschinskie spoke about a reminder from Kevin about if it snows, please park close to the curbs in allies and don't park on the corners. Also, please don't throw snow in the streets.

#### *Public Safety*

Fire Department reported 40 total calls for the month of November 2022.

Code Office collected \$4,461.75 in revenue for the month of November 2022.

Councilman Milbrand spoke about the repairs to the Friendship Fire Engine being done through ARPA funds. The City Administrator asked about the purchase of the fire hose that was being discussed. Councilman Milbrand stated that has been ordered along with personal protective gear. The time for receiving that equipment is estimated to be one year.

#### *Chief of Police*

Police Department reported 1,188 total calls for the month of November 2022.

The Chief spoke about the bad weather and the ordinance about plowing. He spoke about personal plowers. He stated people cannot reserve parking spots with chairs or items. They got a lot of abandoned vehicles moved, especially with the winter incoming, but they are still working on that. He also requested an executive session at the end of the meeting for personnel purposes.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Request a motion to ratify the promotion to Battalion Chief for Stephen Jeffery for the year 2023 as of January 1st, 2023 on the recommendation of The City of Shamokin Fire Bureau and the approval of the City Administrator.

2. Request a motion granting final approval for a chair lift to be installed at the American Legion Building, with the American Legion assuming the responsibility of cost for installation, assuming all liability, repairs and maintenance for the chair lift. Representatives of the American Legion and Youth Basketball team, along with city representatives must meet with the chair lift company prior to the chair lift being installed.
3. Request a motion to approve the changing of the meeting times for Regular Monthly Council meetings in 2023 to 6pm.

MOTION BY: Annis to approve items #1-3 under New Business as listed on the agenda.

Second by: Moyer

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**

**SOLICITORS REPORT:**

There was discussion about the Ordinance before a vote was conducted.

The Solicitor spoke about what Mr. Storm commented on earlier regarding the reassessment and the nonprofit properties. The City could reach out to the Assessor's Office for a list of properties that are tax-exempt and take a look at those to see if the charitable purpose is no longer there, they could file a documentation to challenge that and if the City was successful, it would revert back and be put on the tax rolls.

1. First reading of Ordinance 22-08, 18 Month Extension Plan for Act 47.

The Solicitor stated that DCED and the Act 47 Coordinator were recommending litigation, but they are not mandating it; it is just for City Council to consider it. It is not mandated or something they must do. If the Plan Amendment is not approved, the City will be out of the recovery plan as of February 20 2023. The taxes are approved for year 2023 but the City loses that ability for 2024 to raise additional revenue.

Councilman Milbrand stated that the keyword is consideration, which does not mean they have to go through with it. The vote tonight doesn't mean that they are voting for the reassessment.

They are only voting, as a part of the plan, to consider and this vote is not to pursue that. Also, this is only the first reading so they will be coming back again for the final adoption.

MOTION BY: Milbrand to approve agenda item #1 under Solicitors Report as listed on the agenda.

Second by: Moyer

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

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

Mr. Bogetti inquired regarding the meter collection and fine collection from the Police Department and whether that information was presented or not. The Chief of Police stated that is forwarded to the Treasurer and she was not present. The City Administrator stated he can get him a copy of it.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

*Season's Greetings!*

*Mayor and Council would like to extend an invitation to all board and committee members and city employees to a holiday lunch on December 21 at 11:30am on the second floor of City Hall.*

*Special Council Meeting for General Purposes on December 28th at 12pm.*

MOTION BY: Milbrand to advertise the meeting.

Second by: Annis

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION BY: Milbrand to adjourn the meeting.

Second by: Annis

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

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Council held an executive session for personnel purposes after the meeting.

Meeting ended at 7:35 PM

Minutes taken by Aeman Kamran, Administrative Accountant