

City of Shamokin Regular Council Meeting
January 9, 2023
6:00 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, Moyer, Annis, Ulrich
Absent: None

PRESENTATIONS:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

BIDS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Jesse Storm spoke about the second reading and asked Mayor and City Council to strike out the section about reassessment.

MINUTES:

MOTION BY: Moyer to accept the minutes of The City of Shamokin Council Meeting on December 5, 2022 (Special Public Meeting), December 12, 2022 (Regular Council Meeting), and December 28, 2022 (Special Public Meeting).

Second by: Milbrand

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

BILLS:

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

Second by: Annis

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

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Accounts & Finance

General Fund \$ 306,781.97
Motor License \$ 153,373.07
Library \$ 118,581.67
Debt Service \$ 122,562.79
Recreation \$ 288,605.95
Street Lighting \$ 8.99
American Legion \$ 2,106.84
Neighborhood Mitigation \$ 20,316.34
Total All Funds \$ 1,012,337.62

Fund balances as of January 1, 2023 submitted by Brenda Scandle, City Treasurer.

Parks and Public Buildings

Councilwoman Moyer mentioned they will be voting on the schedule that Music in the Park submitted for approval, as usual.

Streets and Public Improvements

Councilwoman Leschinskie mentioned that the camera project downtown has been going on and cameras are being put up. There is a lot of household trash being dumped. She is going to talk to Larry to see what is going on downtown. She is reminding people that cameras are up and to please stop dumping home trash in the trash receptacles in the City.

Public Safety

Fire Department reported 36 total calls for the month of December 2022. 404 total calls reported for the year 2022.

Code Office collected \$5,610.00 in revenue for the month of December 2022.

SEDA-COG

Betsy spoke about the reconvening meeting on February 7 and 8, 2023 at Mother Cabrini Hall. The meeting is from 4 PM to 7 PM on the 7th and sometime during the day on the 8th, a flyer

will be ready tomorrow and posted on the City's and GoShamokin's Facebook. She mentioned the City was successful with another Façade Grant application for \$50,000 but there are still two openings from the last round of funding. It is up to ten new businesses that can receive \$5,000 if they spend \$5,000 so it is a matching grant. Today the City received mail about FEMA regarding the appeal period. Betsy mentioned she is waiting for the Safe Streets for All grant in the amount of \$200,000 to create a comprehensive street plan for the City. They are also waiting on if the CFA Multimodal Grant was successful. She also spoke about the Volunteer Park and Footbridge Plan. There is not much that can be done with Illumination Station until it gets warmer out. Next week is the next meeting for the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Book. All the funds for the Brownfield Grant have pretty much been allocated and they have applied for an additional million dollars for revolving local funds to remediate any of those places. Betsy also mentioned a grant to extend the time for SEDA-COG's revitalization efforts in Shamokin and to bring in a downtown manager.

Chief of Police

Police Department reported 14,864 total calls for the year 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park's event on June 10th, 2023, 6pm-9pm at Claude Kehler Park with set up starting at 4pm, closing Arch St from 3rd St to 5th St.
2. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park's event on June 21st 2023, 6pm-9pm at Claude Kehler Park with set up starting at 4pm, closing Arch St from 3rd St to 5th St.
3. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park's event on June 24th, 2023, 6pm-9pm at Claude Kehler Park with set up starting at 4pm, closing Arch St from 3rd St to 5th St.
4. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park's event on July 1st, 2023, 4pm-11pm at Claude Kehler park with set up starting at 12pm, closing Arch St from 3rd St to 5th St, with a rain date of July 2nd.
5. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park's event on July 12th 2023, 6pm-9pm at Claude Kehler Park with set up starting at 4pm, closing Arch St from 3rd St to 5th St.
6. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park's event on July 15th 2023, 6pm-9pm at Claude Kehler Park with set up starting at 4pm, closing Arch St from 3rd St to 5th St.
7. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park's event on July 29th 2023, 6pm-9pm at Claude Kehler Park with set up starting at 4pm, closing Arch St from 3rd St to 5th St.
8. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park's event on August 5th 2023, 6pm-9pm at Claude Kehler Park with set up starting at 4pm, closing Arch St from 3rd St to 5th St.
9. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park's event on August 19th 2023, 6pm-9pm at Claude Keher Park with set up starting at 4pm, closing Arch St from 3rd St to 5th St.
10. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park's event on September 9 2023, 6pm-9pm at Claude Kehler Park with set up starting at 4pm, closing Arch St from 3rd St to 5th St.
11. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park's event on September 17 2023, 6pm-9pm at Claude Kehler Park with set up starting at 4pm, closing Arch St from 3rd St to 5th St.

MOTION BY: Moyer to approve items #1-11 under New Business as listed on the agenda.

Second by: Leschinskie

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

MOTION BY: Annis to reappoint Angie Arnold to the Shamokin Housing Authority, current term expiring January 2023, for a 5 year term expiring January 2028.

Second by: Moyer

The Solicitor questioned when the term is expiring. It was clarified that it was January 1st.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT:

The Solicitor mentioned that the Ordinance on the agenda for the second reading is actually 23-01 instead of 22-08 because it would be adopted in the year 2023.

1. Second reading of Ordinance 23-01, 18 Month Extension Plan for Act 47.

Solicitor Greco mentioned the 18 Month Extension Plan was enabled because of the pandemic and the second amendment to the plan is allowing the City 18 more months within the recovery plan. There was a prior amendment that was done in 2015, which was the first amendment to the plan. He also stated that the reassessment part of it is only directing the City to consider, not to implement or start any litigation.

MOTION BY: Milbrand to adopt Ordinance 23-01, 18 Month Extension Plan for Act 47.

Councilman Milbrand mentioned that this is just a consideration, it is not a vote to go ahead with that part of the plan. He would like to have that noted in his motion and the motion is contingent upon that portion being just a consideration.

Second by: Moyer

Councilwoman Moyer seconded the motion with the same contingency as Councilman Milbrand.

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Anthony Floyd had a question about whether a business in the City has a right to ask him to leave for any reason. The Chief stated that as far as the legal issue, Mr. Greco could probably answer that better, but an organization has the right to refuse service to anyone. The Chief also stated he is aware about what transpired but he will not be discussing it because it's a police incident. He suggested to call corporate and that would probably be the best solution. The City Administrator stated he will take his name and phone number and help him get a number.

Joe Leschinskie asked about the downtown manager and whether that would be applied for through the City or through SEDA-COG. Betsy stated that if they were successful with that, Shamokin would be the applicant for that and SEDA-COG would just be contracted. It is not a SEDA-COG grant, it would be a City of Shamokin grant. Joe questioned whether that has been applied for yet and if it could take a while. Betsy stated they are hoping to have everything done so it'll be seamless and in July she could be here just like in June. He also inquired that, when that comes through, where would people who are interested in the job apply for it. Betsy answered that she would probably make a recommendation of who it would be but it will still be the City of Shamokin, with the EDA probably being the actual applicant of it, but it would be a City of Shamokin position. He also commented on the vote that just took place and stated there are three Council seats up in next election which is a majority that could not feel the same way that some people do.

Jesse Storm expressed his concerns that any person who takes those Council seats can go through with the reassessment. Councilman Milbrand stated it said consider and they would still have to take a vote of Council if they were going to go through with that particular part of the Exit Plan. Jesse Storm stated that the next people to take the Council seats could take a vote and move that legislation forward for reassessment. Councilwoman Moyer stated that there are many places where things are voted on that the current members may not be a part of seeing it through. They must make decisions based on the best information they have now and go forward. Solicitor Greco stated that any municipality in this county could take this initiative to file such action. The adoption of the second amendment doesn't give the City any special treatment. Any litigation such as that could be initiated by any municipality so it's not limited to municipalities in Act 47.

Mike Duganitz asked if they voted yes so the City could get the extension. He asked about the Treasurer's idea about getting the loan. The Treasurer stated that her idea is to try and borrow five million dollars which would pay off the MMO for years. A loan for five million for 25 years. The City has enough money to pay that debt off by adding six mills onto everyone's real estate tax bill and by readjusting the millages where they're at currently. Six mills would equal to about thirty nine to forty dollars for anyone living in a half double. Someone who has a single home would be about sixty seven to sixty eight a year. It's only going to be the city portion that would go up. Mr. Duganitz questioned how much the City gets per person on the EIT. The Treasurer stated it's approximately \$800,000 total. She said there are also some other things the City can do, such as increase on occupation tax. The School District and other municipalities around the area like Coal Township are at 200% while right now the City is at 100%. That would double what the City brings in on the local occupation part so that would only affect working people it would not affect retirees or anyone else. Councilwoman Moyer asked whether these are ideas and suggestions that are going to be discussed at a future meeting with Act 47. The

Treasurer said yes, and with all of them. Mr. Duganitz stated he would just like to get it out in the public.

Mr. Storm spoke again about a suggestion he had and cited the example of Manor Township instituting a temporary street light tax to get through their issue on budgeting. It lasted for about six years and then they terminated it when their budget was balanced. The Treasurer stated she thought to get rid of the Street Lighting tax and move that millage up to Debt Service by taking the loan. Mr. Storm questioned if there was currently a street light tax. The Treasurer said yes, but it's very minimal and the City subsidizes the Liquid Fuels with that and pay electric bills with it. Mr. Storm questioned why not jump the street light tax up. The Treasurer stated that would not help because if you increase street lighting the City can only use that for street lights. The Recreation tax goes into the Recreation fund, Street Light goes into Street Light fund, the Debt Service goes into the Debt. That's why by getting rid of that tax the City would just use that amount of millage and move it up to Debt Service. The mills on the Library were 0.75 mills for about 10 years then it went up to four then eight. Those mills can be moved, the City doesn't need that amount in Library because then that has to be spent on the Library.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION BY: Milbrand to adjourn the meeting.

Second by: Leschinskie

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting ended at 6:42 PM

Minutes taken by Aeman Kamran, Administrative Accountant