

City of Shamokin Regular Council Meeting
August 14, 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: Moyer, Leschinskie, Milbrand, Annis, Ulrich
Absent: None

Roll call was taken to amend the agenda. All ayes, but there was no motion and second.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mike McLaughlin- Blight Task Force

There was no motion and second when amending the agenda earlier in the meeting. Council started over with a motion and second.

MOTION BY: Moyer to amend the meeting agenda.

Second by: Leschinskie

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

The amended agenda will be posted within 24 hours.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

BIDS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Jesse Storm thanked Mike and the Blight Task Force. The RDA this month had no meeting, they cancelled it because two out of five members couldn't make it. Last two months, they had it during the regular schedule Shamokin meeting. The month before that was the only meeting that he's been able to attend because he's been here. They changed the locations because their meetings are at 6:30 and the monthly meeting here starts at 6 pm. They moved the meetings to

the attorney's office the same day the meeting is supposed to happen. Big issues and violations of laws. He stated the biggest problem is leadership. They re-elected individuals. Regarding the police station building, the grass is high, they don't do maintenance and make repairs. They don't want to spend money on anything, which could be directed to fight blight. Leadership doesn't want to do anything. He is asking Mayor and Council about what can be done to get people on the board that actually want to redevelop Shamokin. Blight Task Force is doing a great job, they've got really good recommendations. The City needs to put out for bid for municipal trash haulers. We have six regular trash haulers in the city, they could bid the best price on each ward. Current trash pickup is about \$54 - \$180 for residential trash. Commercial will fall under commercial policy. Identifying properties for the blight task force is a great idea. The two committees Blight Task Force and RDA could get together as a joint meeting and go over properties identified, put those out for quotes, see about tearing down or rehab those properties as much as they can. Mayor stated his 3 minutes were over and asked that he come back at the end and finish.

Joe Leschinskie asked about #6 the SABER Go Shamokin Halloween Parade. In the past the rules were no one running for political office is allowed to promote their candidacy in the parade – is that staying in effect? It was stated that it would be the same. #10 Section 504 Resolution 23-13 - what does that entail and what are the duties/responsibilities? #11 PennDOT agreement to authorize electronic access for \$2.675 million - who will be given access to that money? Betsy stated for the last one, the City is the applicant. Joe asked if that means anybody has access. Betsy stated it something that she'll work with the City on, but it's not SEDA-COG, it'll be City of Shamokin. The Solicitor stated that the 504 item is for CDBG, that he is the signatory on any documents.

MINUTES:

MOTION BY: Moyer to accept the minutes of the City of Shamokin Council Meetings on May 8, 2023 (Regular Council Meeting); June 12, 2023 (Regular Council Meeting); June 28, 2023 (Special Council Meeting); July 10, 2023 (Regular Council Meeting); and July 25, 2023 (Special Council Meeting).

Second by: Milbrand

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

BILLS:

MOTION BY: Milbrand to approve the bills from July 2023, as listed on the Bill List.

Second by: Moyer

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Accounts & Finance

Councilwoman Annis stated she did not have a report tonight. She will have two reports at the next meeting.

Parks and Public Buildings

Nothing at this time.

Streets and Public Improvements

Nothing at this time.

Public Safety

Councilman Milbrand stated the Fire Department report may have been emailed to him, however he did not have it available at this time.

Code Office collected \$4,951.50 in total revenue for the month of July.

Controller

Absent.

Treasurer

Absent.

SEDA-COG

Betsy spoke about the Resolution that they'll be voting on. That is for the CFA Multimodal grant application that was applied for last year too. She reached out to the funding source and they reviewed it. She used the resolution from last year since it's the same amount of money but they want a resolution dated for this year. She spoke about the EPA Brownfield RLF, EPA Brownfield Job Training Grant, Legion Building, and Safe Streets for All.

See SEDA-COG report.

Chief of Police

Police Department reported 2,165 total calls for July 2023.

The Chief of Police spoke about the officers doing the abandoned vehicles, they've been doing very well. They moved several last week and the week before. He also mentioned Officer

Jenkins was accepted and successfully passed training to become a field training officer for the department. Two weekends ago four officers attended a training session that was sponsored.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request a motion to ratify the approval of FAR Better Together's Fifth Ward Clean Up on August 11, 2023 9am-12pm.
2. Request a motion to ratify the approval of Lost Mined's 5 year anniversary event on August 12, 2023 12pm-9pm, closing Spruce St from Market St to Coal St.
3. Request a motion to ratify the suspension of the Open Container Ordinance for Lost Mined's event August 12, 2023 in the specified event corridor for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.
4. Request a motion to approve 7th St PM Church to hold an outdoor church service at Claude Kehler Park and using the facilities on September 10, 2023 830am-2pm.
5. Request a motion to approve Mike Duganitz's 9/11 Memorial Ceremony in front of City Hall on September 11th, 2023 7pm-9pm, closing Lincoln St from Liberty to 8th St and Grant St from Church St to Lincoln St.
6. Request a motion to approve SABER/GoShamokin Halloween Parade October 24, 2023, rain date October 25, 2023 at 6pm following the same route was previous years. Closing the area of a Claude Kehler Park (Arch St from 6th St to 2nd St, and 3rd St from Walnut St to Chestnut St 430pm-6pm.
7. Request a motion to approve the Hillside Coaches Pep Rally October 24, 2023, rain date October 25 2023, following the Halloween Parade in the East Lot. Closing the lot starting at 4pm.
8. Request a motion to approve the Resolution 23-11 to Apply for the City's FFY 2023 CDBG Entitlement application by October 15, 2023
9. Request a motion to approve the Fair Housing Resolution 23-12.
10. Request a motion to approve the Section 504 Resolution 23-13 and designate City Administrator Robert M. Slaby as the City's 504 Compliance Officer.
11. Request a motion to approve the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Agreement to Authorize Electronic Access to PennDOT Systems for the \$2,675,000 Congressional Appropriation for the Independence Street Streetscape project.
12. Request a motion to take disciplinary action against Steve Jefferys
13. Request a motion to take disciplinary action against Thomas Jefferys.
14. Request a motion to approve Resolution 23-06 for the Multimodal Transportation Fund grant in the amount of \$1,971,275 for the City of Shamokin from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Independence Street improvement project.

MOTION BY: Annis to approve agenda items # 1-11 as listed on the agenda.

Second by: Leschinskie

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Milbrand to take disciplinary action against Steve Jefferys, indefinite suspension pending further review.

Second by: Annis

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

Nays: Leschinskie

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Milbrand to take disciplinary action against Thomas Jefferys, indefinite suspension pending further review.

Second by: Annis

Councilwoman Annis asked that is it pending review until next meeting? Solicitor Greco stated that in event they have all the information they can call special meeting.

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

Nays: Leschinskie

Absent: None

The agenda was amended earlier in the meeting to add item #14.

MOTION BY: Milbrand to approve Resolution 23-06 for the Multimodal Transportation Fund grant in the amount of \$1,971,275 for the City of Shamokin from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Independence Street improvement project.

Second by: Moyer

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

SOLICITORS REPORT:

Nothing at this time.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

William Wood stated he heard one no on #12 and #13. He stated if they would like to know what happened, his 17-year-old son was placed into a container that had live fire. Councilwoman Leschinskie stated she didn't know all the facts so she couldn't vote on something she wasn't sure of. He stated his son has third degree burns. Besides this, he stated he is part of tri-county ABATE, so if there is anything they can do for off & on road activities, motorcycle activities,

safety, etc. they are welcome to help. He thanked the City for the generous donation for passes for Independence on Independence St. They had a good turnout and raised \$400 for the veterans.

Jesse Storm continued on what he was saying before. He asked the Mayor to take action in regards to the RDA. He also asked if could facilitate for the RDA and the Blight Task Force to sit down together. He also asked why the Code Officer is not citing RDA for tall grass and weeds that are at the Police Station. The Code Officer stated he could take care of that. Mr. Storm stated it is not the City's responsibility to mow the grass, it's commercial so it should be taken care of by the owner of the building. The Blight Task Force has a lot of good recommendations. He spoke about the three strike policy that if someone has bad tenants and if Police show up three times in the same year (not for domestic violence), they can also three strike owners too. Mayor and Council could have the RDA file action and work with the RDA attorney on Red X homes and start working on the condemnation process. They have the funds available, and owners will have to appear in court. If they start maintaining those properties, they can take it by eminent domain. There are laws that they can use to help this along.

Joe Leschinskie asked Councilwoman Moyer that this is her 8th time voting on the Government Study Commission – he asked in last month's meeting and no one knew what it is or what it does. He spoke about Mike Duganitz's comments from last month's meeting about his research on WHY.org. He asked what it is, what it does, how much it costs, etc. This has been voted on twice and this the third time but they have no informational meetings. He asked the Mayor, since he stated it would be taken under advisement, if they have an answer. Solicitor Greco stated DCED put out a pamphlet and it was redone in 2022 or 2023 and it is available at City Hall. It has 105 pages. He stated that it talks about some of his questions about the Government Study Commission, their law, their organization, their ability to look at finances, their ability to be funded as well. A person part of it has the ability to look at the finances, that's part of the process. People can search for it but there is a copy available downstairs at City Hall. Mr. Leschinskie stated no one is going to read 105 pages. He also spoke about the laws on receivership – they can't take away necessary services, so a receiver can't cut the City's cops. They are required to cover the Police and MMO. Solicitor Greco stated that if there are people that want copies of the pamphlet, the City & his office will make copies available. It's been made available to Council. It explains the process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION BY: Milbrand to adjourn the meeting.

Second by: Annis

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting ended at 6:55 PM

Minutes taken by Aeman Kamran, Administrative Accountant