

City of Shamokin Regular Council Meeting
September 18, 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, Ulrich
Absent: Annis

PRESENTATIONS:

EDA Presentation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

BIDS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Joe Leschinskie asked about #1 under Solicitors Report. It was changed from 23-02 to 03 to 04. He knows there were five people who submitted the petition. What is that for? He also asked about #2 and is that the same thing? The Solicitor stated that the two agenda items are switched. The proposed ordinance would be repealing 23-04. It is asking the Board of Elections to take it off the ballot. Mr. Leschinskie asked why did they change their mind now and what is plan B? Mayor stated that there were only 5 people on the ballot, they should have had 7 so they didn't have criteria. There was also a lack of interest in this so speaking with Act 47, there would have been a waste of time and possibly money. Mr. Leschinskie asked is there a plan to close up the deficit. Mayor stated he met with Act 47 and it was a lengthy meeting and there were some ideas brought up. Mr. Leschinskie stated he also has a couple of ideas if anyone would like to meet. He also stated that if the City needs help with boards/committees he is willing to volunteer.

MINUTES:

MOTION BY: Milbrand to accept the minutes of the City of Shamokin Council Meeting on August 14, 2023 (Regular Council Meeting).
Second by: Leschinskie

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

BILLS:

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

Second by: Leschinskie

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

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Accounts & Finance

Absent.

Parks and Public Buildings

Councilwoman Moyer spoke about the passing of Larry Strausser and the community came together. She also mentioned the proposal on the agenda to change the name which has stood for about 50 years. That suggestion has been supported. She also commended the staff at the pool and all of the volunteers that have helped them get through these past few weeks. She acknowledged the 9/11 ceremony and Mike Duganitz and Craig Rhoads. She mentioned the last Music in the Park concert had to be cancelled due to the weather. She commented on the effort and time from the volunteers and especially Dave Spotts. For season 11 she looks forward to the support.

Streets and Public Improvements

Councilwoman Leschinskie she thanked Mike Duganitz for the 9/11 Memorial. It was very nice. She also thanked the guys from the Street Dept. for helping getting everything together and helping setting up.

Public Safety

Councilman Milbrand stated that he doesn't have the report from the Fire Dept.

Code Office collected \$9,161.50 in total revenue for the month of August.

He mentioned that they need to find some help for the Code Dept. If anyone attended or heard about the Blight Task Force meeting, that is the number one subject. He mentioned Mr. Keele who was present and he knows he was having some issues with blighted properties. He invited him to attend the next monthly Blight Task Force meeting, they would like to hear from him. His input there would be very welcome. He also asked if is possible to read #9 under New Business separately from the other eight. He would like to have that vote recorded as the vote for that particular item.

Controller

Mr. Kinder stated he had nothing, but provided an update on the Treasurer's report. They will have both for next month.

Treasurer

Absent.

SEDA-COG

Chief of Police

Police Department reported 1,591 total calls for August 2023.

The Chief of Police stated in reference to Code, Officer Busko has been working with the Code Officer. He also mentioned they removed three more abandoned vehicles during the last two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request a motion to ratify the Restoration Ministries Church's Outdoor Church Service on September 10, 2023 at 10:30am-3:30pm at Claude Kehler Park Bandstand, closing Arch St. from 10am-3pm.
2. Request a motion to ratify Mark Rebeck's Shamokin Cruise on September 16, 2023 at 7pm-10pm in Downtown Shamokin.
3. Request a motion to approve Brookside Ministries Church's He Covers Me on November 11, 2023 at 10am-4pm at the parking lot beside the post office.
4. Request a motion to approve Carrington Family Investments' 3rd Annual 5th Ward Block Party on August 10, 2024 at 11am-8pm on N. Pearl St & E. Chestnut St., closing Pearl St from Race St to Spruce St and Chestnut St from Franklin St to Pearl St., with garbage receptacles on Chestnut St and Pearl St. and no parking bags on meters.
5. Request a motion to suspend the Open Container Ordinance for Carrington Family Investments' event on August 10, 2024 in the specified event corridor for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.

6. Request a motion to approve Trick-or-Treat in the City of Shamokin on October 31, 2023 at 6pm-8pm.
7. Request a motion to allow the Treasurer to open a new City bank account titled Vandalism Fund.
8. Request a motion to allow the Treasurer to open a new City bank account titled County ARPA Fund.
9. Request a motion to rename the Lawton Shroyer Memorial Swimming Pool to the Shroyer-Strausser Memorial Swimming Pool.

MOTION BY: Milbrand to approve agenda items # 1-8 as listed on the agenda.

Second by: Leschinskie

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

MOTION BY: Moyer to approve agenda item # 9 as listed on the agenda.

Second by: Milbrand

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

SOLICITORS REPORT:

1. Request a motion to repeal Ordinance 23-04: Submitting the question of a government study commission to the electors as drafted in the proposed ordinance.
2. First reading of Ordinance 23-05, Home Rule Charter Question.

Solicitor Greco spoke about the Blight Task Force meeting, as requested, he did attend it in September and plans on attending the October meeting. He thought it was a good meeting, and the individuals are well-informed. Working together in conjunction along with the Chief's assistance and his officer they can make some progress on fighting blight. Regarding the agenda, the numbers are out of order, so reading number 2 occurred first, which is going to repeal Ord. 23-04. Since that was the first reading there would need to be a motion to repeal Ord. 23-04.

MOTION BY: Milbrand to repeal Ordinance 23-04.

Second by: Leschinskie

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

Solicitor Greco stated that in light of the fact that the first reading of this ordinance was approved, they are going to need a special meeting timely to get the second reading approved because the County Board of Elections is holding off submitting the ballot based on this. They will have to see when it going to be advertised and will coordinate that with Mr. Slaby and the News Item.

MOTION BY: Milbrand to hold a Special Meeting for General Purposes, with the date and time to be announced and advertised.

Second by: Leschinskie

Councilwoman Moyer asked are they voting for the date. Solicitor Greco stated it is to have a special meeting, with the date and time to be coordinated, because they have to contact the News Item and make sure what date it is going to be in.

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Meghan Beck stated she is running for County Commissioner. She is traveling around to different municipalities to get to know the people that are in the communities and the challenges they are facing. She can talk now or if anyone would like to speak with her after the meeting. She might be able to help as she has a lot of experience in revitalization efforts, so she understands where they are at. The Mayor thanked her for coming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Executive session took place for operations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting ended at 6:37 PM

Minutes taken by Aeman Kamran, Administrative Accountant