

City of Shamokin Regular Council Meeting
October 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):

Joe Leschinskie spoke about the motion under Solicitor's Report 23-07 and asked that they already passed that previously so is there something different. The Solicitor answered that this is consistent that it's not more than two times a year but they're adding for it to state unless excused by 3rd class city code. The 3rd class city code gives reasons someone can participate, so they're incorporating that. Joe stated he asked was because he didn't want to see people not show up.

MINUTES:

MOTION BY: Milbrand to accept the minutes of the City of Shamokin Council Meeting on September 18, 2023 (Regular Council Meeting) and October 2, 2023 (Special Council Meeting).
Second by: Leschinskie

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

BILLS:

MOTION BY: Moyer to approve the bills from September 2023, 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 \$ 884,634.73
Motor License \$ 201,430.94
Library \$ 703,011.00
Debt Service \$ 146,059.97
Recreation \$ 385,329.33
Street Lighting \$ 8,668.61
American Legion \$ 537.14
Neighborhood Mitigation \$ 47,816.27
Code Department Credit Cards \$ 8,355.00
Police Department Credit Cards \$ 5,717.01
Total All Funds \$ 2,391,560.00

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

Parks and Public Buildings

Councilwoman Moyer stated her and Mr. Slaby met with the pool staff and they're in the process of closing up. Dave Spotts reached out to her today and stated he will bring up the Music in the Park schedule for 2024. Mr. Slaby confirmed he did. Councilwoman Moyer stated that will be on the agenda next month.

Streets and Public Improvements

Councilwoman Leschinskie reminded everyone that the street sweeper is going on for at least four more weeks.

Public Safety

Fire Department reported 35 total calls for the month of September.

Code Office collected \$3,395.75 in total revenue for the month of September.

Councilman Milbrand stated that tonight is the kickoff of Fire Prevention Week, starting it off with the traditional equipment parade through town of the Shamokin and Coal Township fire

units, so they will be coming through with sirens. They will end up at the East Parking lot where all the equipment for Shamokin and Coal Township will be on display until 9 o'clock he believes. The display is on Independence Street and the East Parking lot. If anyone wants to see what fire equipment they have, they can come on down.

Controller

Mr. Kinder stated he finished up the 3rd quarter of the calendar year until 9/30 and everything is up-to-date. He will be working to make sure the downloads for the payroll are done.

Treasurer

Mrs. Scandle stated that the reminder letters are now being prepared to remind anyone who has not paid their bills and they still have time to pay them face amount and not pay a penalty.

SEDA-COG

Betsy stated she doesn't need any action tonight from Council. She received notification that they were successful with getting the federal aspect of the grant to help fund a Downtown Manager. They're finalizing all the contracts, the City got half and the Shamokin EDA got the other half. She'll be working with Council and the EDA to establish rules, but it will be a full time City employee who will operate out of the office on Market Street. All the costs including, personnel, rent, and computer, that is all included in the grant so it will not be of any cost to the City. Ideally they will have someone in place before the end of the year. They were notified last Friday that they were successful with the DCNR C2P2 Grant for the Master Plan for the Volunteer Park and the Feasibility Study for the Pedestrian Bridge. The Downtown Manager position advertisement to hire was sent to all Council to review. It will be sent out hopefully within the next two weeks to advertise, so if Council has any comments on that draft, please let her know by the end of the week. She will be working with Councilwoman Moyer and will be putting out a RFP for a consultant to come in and help with the Master Plan and the Feasibility Study. SS4A that they were successful with, they will be starting that this month, but it is only for planning. Once they have the plan done, they can apply for implementation money. The SS4A is for the entire City; when the grant application was done, certain areas were identified, but the grant is for the whole City and it was put in there to incorporate the ATV traffic in town and to make sure the downtown is pedestrian friendly and to incorporate biking too. Regarding the Downtown Makeover, she will meet with the City Administrator tomorrow and they will have a kickoff for that probably next week with PennDOT. They are not sure if they are successful with the CFA Multimodal but they don't have to wait for that to get moving on the first round of the money. The Solicitor asked about the Downtown Manager, who makes the decision for hiring? Betsy stated herself, Councilwoman Moyer, and two people from the EDA. For interviewing, there will be one person from the EDA, Councilwoman Moyer, and herself. If anyone else from the City would like to look at resumes they are welcome to.

See SEDA-COG report.

Chief of Police

Police Department reported 1,457 total calls for September 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request a motion to approve the Citizens for Better Community's Chicken BBQ on October 21, 2023, 7am until finished at Claude Kehler Park and using the facilities.
2. Request a motion to approve Mountainside Assembly of God's Light the Night at the Shamokin St Playground on October 31, 2023, 5pm-10pm.
3. Request a motion to approve Heather Reigle's Trunk or Treat on October 29th, 2023, 4pm-8pm at Claude Kehler Park, closing Arch St from 6th St to 3rd St.
4. Request a motion to appoint Attorney Ed Greco as an alternate representative for the Northumberland County Tax Collection Committee on behalf of the City of Shamokin.

The City Administrator mentioned that he received notification from Angie Arnold this afternoon that they requested the October 21st Chicken BBQ event request be withdrawn. Mr. Slaby asked if it is okay to leave it in there. The Solicitor stated they won't act on it, so just a motion for 2-4.

MOTION BY: Milbrand to approve agenda items # 2-4 under New Business as listed on the agenda.

Second by: Annis

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

MOTION BY: Milbrand to donate \$200 to SABER to assist sponsoring the 2023 Halloween Parade.

Second by: Moyer

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

MOTION BY: Moyer to donate \$100 to the Shamokin Band & Orchestra Boosters to go towards their equipment truck.

Second by: Milbrand

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

MOTION BY: Milbrand regarding the fire chief to remove, as per the investigation that was conducted after the Junior Fireman was injured at the training session, Chief Stephen Jeffreys as Battalion Chief of the Shamokin Fire Bureau and that he be given a 60 day suspension from the

Bureau, which can be retroactive to the date he was originally suspended, as he under suspension now.

Second by: Moyer

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mayor Ulrich spoke further about this and Councilman Milbrand stated that the rest of the officers that were involved in the incident were dealt with by the Shamokin Fire Bureau, one of them being removed completely and the other two given disciplinary action through suspensions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

SOLICITORS REPORT:

Solicitor Greco stated he attended the hearing on a challenge to a tax-exempt property within the City. That was held on Thursday and the determination will be issued by mid-November. If there are any other properties that Council wishes to challenge in the future for being tax-exempt without meeting tax-exempt purposes, each year the challenges are able to be filed by September 1st, so they have time for the next round.

1. Request a motion to approve Resolution 23-07: to permit the Mayor and Council Members to vote and attend City Council meetings via telephone and video call.
2. Request a motion to accept, pending court approval, the stipulation and settlement agreement in the declaratory action between the plaintiff, City of Shamokin and defendant, Brenda Scandle.

MOTION BY: Moyer to adopt Resolution 23-07: to permit the Mayor and Council Members to vote and attend City Council meetings via telephone and video call.

Second by: Milbrand

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Solicitor spoke about the next item that is still pending court approval but one of the conditions was that Council has to approve it first. They still have to submit it to the court for their final approval. It makes no admissions of any wrongdoing by Brenda Scandle and it also

acknowledges the City's right to clarify issues that they've raised. It is on good terms and resolved and there is no more litigation as long as the court approves it.

MOTION BY: Moyer to accept, pending court approval, the stipulation and settlement agreement in the declaratory action between the plaintiff, City of Shamokin and defendant, Brenda Scandle.

Second by: Milbrand

Mayor Ulrich stated that he would like to make the statement on this. He would like the City to know that Mrs. Scandle did nothing wrong, it was just something that had gone on for 51 years. It was no fault of hers.

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Joe Leschinskie stated he attended a Blight Meeting last week and he will continue to attend them. He thought it was informational. They have a lot of events going on during the Halloween Season downtown and he has a question for Code – there are three big buildings in the City, all owned by Andy Twigg and purchased at least five years ago. He stated that regarding blight in the City, they go after people for their homes. He understands there were plans and they're past COVID; there were plans to develop those three properties and the healthcare facility downtown and there's no progress. Has Code ever cited Mr. Twigg because he thinks those are properties that he thinks need to be fixed. When people go to places near those properties, they see those buildings. He has no personal issues with Mr. Twigg, but they talk about blight and they miss some big opportunities there. He knows there were meetings and events that were supposed to be planned out but never came to fruition. Is there going to be any movement on this or can they start citing him? It is just a statement, he doesn't need a response.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting ended at 6:32 PM

Minutes taken by Aeman Kamran, Administrative Accountant