

City of Shamokin Regular Council Meeting
November 13, 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:

MOTION BY: Moyer to amend the meeting agenda, with the revised meeting agenda being published within 24 hours.

Second by: Leschinskie

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

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

Absent: None

PRESENTATIONS:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

BIDS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Vinny Clausi stated he has an issue next to his property. He showed pictures to Council of two properties next to his building and a permit dated 11/6/2017. When he built his building, he did everything by the book. The City Administrator asked where this was. Mr. Clausi stated First Street. He blames the Code Enforcement Office; he spoke to him before but nothing is getting done but there is a motion to promote him to Fire Chief. Mr. Clausi stated he maintains his own property so he wants everyone to abide by the rule. The City Administrator asked if he can meet with him so he can deal with this with the Code Officer, the third party inspector, and the City Solicitor if needed. The permit was issued before the current third party inspector came on board. He asked if Mr. Clausi can contact him.

Joe Leschinskie stated he was asking the same thing as a couple years ago. Agenda items # 4-33 under New Business on the meeting agenda, most of them are push through items but he doesn't see anything in those items that need to be done tonight. Is this something that can wait until

January until the new people come in, just out of respect. The City Administrator responded the reason why there are so many like this and why they are not waiting until April or May; he gets them in and move them through workshops and public meetings. Council sees them at the workshop, and unless there are objections, they move on to the next public meeting. If Council does not want these to go through, they can take the action they want. He is willing to sit with anyone to review the event form. Mr. Leschinskie stated that he has no issue with the events. Councilwoman Annis stated that a lot of these events that are on here, such as Music in the Park, they need to secure bands. Councilwoman Moyer stated that a band needs to be booked so she asked Council regardless of what they decide to do on the other items, they need to book bands for Music in the Park. Mr. Leschinskie stated he wasn't trying to put anything off.

MINUTES:

MOTION BY: Annis to accept the minutes of the City of Shamokin Council Meeting on October 9, 2023 (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 October 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

General Fund \$ 367,618.88
Motor License \$ 195,461.14
Library \$ 159,580.48
Debt Service \$ 203,494.93
Recreation \$ 376,580.75
Street Lighting \$ 10,042.55
American Legion \$ 175.19
Neighborhood Mitigation \$ 47,816.27
Code Department Credit Cards \$ 11,414.50
Police Department Credit Cards \$ 6,067.01
Total All Funds \$ 1,378,521.70

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

Parks and Public Buildings

Councilwoman Moyer stated she had nothing at this time.

Streets and Public Improvements

Councilwoman Leschinskie reminded everyone that the street sweeper is winding down by the end of the month, the first week of December. The Street Dept. are out doing the leaves and decorating for the holidays. Councilwoman Moyer asked do they can clean the streets if there are leaves in the gutter. Councilwoman Leschinskie replied that Kevin stated they just started and they will be out doing that. Councilwoman Moyer stated she thinks it kind of overlaps but she doesn't think they do because it may block the machine.

Public Safety

Fire Department reported 42 total calls for the month of October.

Code Office collected \$4,600.75 in total revenue for the month of October.

Controller

Mr. Kinder stated all accounts are reconciled and the balances are all correct as of November 1st.

Treasurer

Absent.

SEDA-COG

Betsy spoke about the Downtown Manager and right now they are working on contracts and service agreements; she is taking care of all the legal items then they will put out an advertisement to get a Downtown Manager. For the Volunteer Park and Footbridge Feasibility Study, they will get the contract for that in January, so it is kind of on hold until then, and that is something she will be working on with Councilwoman Moyer. She is working with Ken Pilkus and the Fire Company, they put in for a Local Share Account and that is on the agenda tonight for permission for them to apply. She spoke about the EPA Coalition Grant. She mentioned the Safe Streets for All grant, which is a planning grant for safety on the streets, which they were successful with, is kicking off this month. She spoke about the Façade Grant. She spoke about the EPA Revolving Loan Fund for remediation of environmental contaminants. Currently they have a outstanding \$500k grant application to Senator Bob Casey and \$500k grant application to Senator Fetterman's office, for Fiscal Year 2024 so if they are successful with that, that won't be for at least 1.5 to 2 years. She spoke about the action tonight for the Independence Street Downtown Makeover for a document that PennDOT needs done and right now they are working through all the PennDOT requirements. PennDOT implements it, so everything is through them.

She spoke about the CFA Multimodal Grant. She spoke about the H&H Study. There is action tonight for a date for the Environmental group who are putting on different workshops throughout the year; the first one is proposed for December 2 and she had flyers available. She is also working with Chief Siko for Police Grants.

See SEDA-COG report.

Chief of Police

Police Department reported 1,506 total calls for October 2023.

The Chief of Police stated that they hosted a class through the DOI Enforcement and all officers are certified in ARID which is Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving to administer those tests. They are planning on some more classes as well through the DOI Association.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request a motion to approve Shamokin Fire Police is requesting to host a yard sale fundraiser at Claude Kehler Park preferably on November 18th, 2023, but open to any Saturday morning 8am-11pm.
2. Request a motion to approve Shamokin Environmental Resiliency Plan group is requesting to host a draft door stoppers making event with Momma T's Homestead in the Municipal Lot at Independence and Water St on December 2nd, 2023 10am-12pm.
3. Request a motion to approve Covered Bridge BrewHaus is requesting to host an event on March 9, 2024, closing 8th St from Independence St to Water St. 9am-12am
4. Request a motion to suspend the Open Container Ordinance for Covered Bridge BrewHaus's event on March 9, 2024 in specified event courier for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.
5. Request a motion to approve GoShamokin/SABER is requesting to host Shamokin Warms My Heart March 30th, 2024 11am-5pm on Arch St from 6th St to Market St, closing the street 9am-6pm
6. Request a motion to suspend the Open Container Ordinance for Shamokin Warms My Heart on March 30th in specified event courier for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.
7. Request a motion to approve Covered Bridge BrewHaus is requesting to host an event on April 27, 2024, closing 8th St from Independence St to Water St. 9am-12am
8. Request a motion to suspend the Open Container Ordinance for Covered Bridge BrewHaus's event on April 27, 2024 in specified event courier for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.
9. Request a motion to approve Covered Bridge BrewHaus is requesting to host an event on May 25, 2024, closing 8th St from Independence St to Water St. 9am-12am

10. Request a motion to suspend the Open Container Ordinance for Covered Bridge BrewHaus's event on May 25, 2024 in specified event courier for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.
11. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park is requesting to host Music in the Park at Claude Kehler Park June 1, 2024 6pm-9pm
12. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park is requesting to host Music in the Park at Claude Kehler Park June 15, 2024 6pm-9pm, using the facilities.
13. Covered Bridge BrewHaus is requesting to host an event on June 22, 2024, closing 8th St from Independence St to Water St. 9am-12am
14. Request a motion to suspend the Open Container Ordinance for Covered Bridge BrewHaus's event on June 22, 2024 in specified event courier for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.
15. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park is requesting to host Music in the Park at Claude Kehler Park June 26, 2024 6pm-9pm, using the facilities.
16. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park is requesting to host Music in the Park at Claude Kehler Park July 6, 2024 6pm-9pm, using the facilities.
17. GoShamokin/SABER is requesting to host Independence on Independence July 6, 12pm-9pm on Independence St from 8th St to N Washington St and side streets from Water to Commerce St, closing the street from 10am-10pm.
18. Request a motion to suspend the Open Container Ordinance for Independence on Independence on July 6, 2024 in specified event courier for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.
19. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park is requesting to host Music in the Park at Claude Kehler Park July 17, 2024 6pm-9pm, using the facilities.
20. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park is requesting to host Music in the Park at Claude Kehler Park July 27, 2024 6pm-9pm, using the facilities.
21. Request a motion to approve Covered Bridge BrewHaus is requesting to host an event on July 27, 2024, closing 8th St from Independence St to Water St. 9am-12am
22. Request a motion to suspend the Open Container Ordinance for Covered Bridge BrewHaus's event on July 27, 2024 in specified event courier for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.
23. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park is requesting to host Music in the Park at Claude Kehler Park August 7, 2024 6pm-9pm, using the facilities.
24. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park is requesting to host Music in the Park at Claude Kehler Park August 17, 2024 6pm-9pm, using the facilities.
25. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park is requesting to host Music in the Park at Claude Kehler Park August 28, 2024 6pm-9pm, using the facilities.
26. Request a motion to approve Covered Bridge BrewHaus is requesting to host an event on August 31, 2024, closing 8th St from Independence St to Water St. 9am-12am
27. Request a motion to suspend the Open Container Ordinance for Covered Bridge BrewHaus's event on August 31, 2024 in specified event courier for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.

28. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park is requesting to host Music in the Park at Claude Kehler Park September 7, 2024 6pm-9pm, using the facilities.
29. Request a motion to approve Music in the Park is requesting to host Music in the Park at Claude Kehler Park September 21, 2024 6pm-9pm, using the facilities.
30. Request a motion to approve Covered Bridge BrewHaus is requesting to host an event on September 28, 2024, closing 8th St from Independence St to Water St. 9am-12am
31. Request a motion to suspend the Open Container Ordinance for Covered Bridge BrewHaus's event on September 28, 2024 in specified event corridor for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.
32. Covered Bridge BrewHaus is requesting to host an event on October 19, 2024, closing 8th St from Independence St to Water St. 9am-12pm
33. Request a motion to suspend the Open Container Ordinance for Covered Bridge BrewHaus's event on October 19, 2024 in specified event corridor for alcoholic beverages sold within the event corridor.
34. Request a motion to suspend meter collection in the City of Shamokin from November 24, 2023 until January 2, 2024.

MOTION BY: Moyer to approve agenda items # 1-34 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 approve Resolution #23-08 for the Local Share Account (LSA) grant in the amount of \$882,835.00 for the City of Shamokin from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for an Engine Fire Pumper purchase.

Councilman Milbrand clarified if this was just permission to apply for the grant. Betsy stated that is correct and there is no match, just a \$100 application fee.

Second by: Moyer

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Milbrand to ratify the hiring of Brian Annis effective October 30, 2023 full time street department employee with all benefits per the contract between AFSCME and City of Shamokin.

Second by: Moyer

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Annis

MOTION BY: Annis to ratify the hiring of David Kashner for the full-time Street Department position, with all benefits per the Contract between AFSCME and the City of Shamokin, effective November 13, 2023.

Second by: Leschinskie

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION BY: Annis to accept the resignation of Aeman Kamran effective December 29, 2023.

Second by: Moyer

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion to accept the recommendation of the Shamokin Fire Bureau to appoint Bruce Rogers to the open Battalion Chief position effective immediately.

Councilman Milbrand stated that as the Director of Public Safety, he needs some time to discuss to this, he has nothing personal against Bruce. He didn't see the correspondence from the Fire Dept. He thinks they need to have a discussion amongst Council to approve this. Council spoke about tabling the motion.

MOTION BY: Milbrand to table the agenda item.

Second by: Moyer

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

SOLICITORS REPORT:

MOTION BY: Annis to accept Resolution 23-09: To authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to sign the agreement with PennDot for electronic access to PennDot systems.

Second by: Milbrand

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Joe Leschinskie stated he was following up from last month. Has anybody from Council heard anything from Andy Twigg about his buildings or what he plans on doing and has anything been issued to him as far as any of his buildings? He stated with the Blight Task Force that has a meeting upcoming and two of the three properties being red X properties. All there he has had for five years. It shouldn't be up to the City to reach out. He thinks Covid is not an acceptable reason anymore. The Administrator stated he can set up a meeting with the Chief of Police and the Solicitor to discuss how they move forward with it. Mr. Leschinskie asked if he is still active on the EDA. The Administrator stated to the best of his knowledge, yes. Mr. Leschinskie asked if somebody from the City could get him the openings that are coming up with boards and committees.

Vinny Clausi stated that when he bought the property on First Street and Second Street, that was paid by grants to take the building down. According to laws, when they take a building down with grants, there are laws about the basement being filled with fresh soil. He had to bring in fresh soil and it cost him \$40,000. He could file a complaint but he is not going to do that. He doesn't know who the Code Officer was at that time but he didn't do his job.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The City Administrator stated that this December, just like each year they will hold Special Meetings. He will advertise it and give copies to Council. The meetings will be: Special Council Meeting on December 4, Regular Workshop Meeting on December 6, Regular Council Meeting on December 11, and Special Council Meeting on December 27 at 12 noon that has to do with the budget. Joe Leschinskie asked what time is the meeting on the 4th. The City Administrator stated that will probably be at 5 p.m., the Regular Workshop at the normal time 6 p.m., the Regular Council Meeting at 6 p.m., and the one on the 27th just like last year at 12 noon. Joe asked if there is an RDA meeting as well on Monday 12/4 right after the City Council meeting. The City Administrator stated he doesn't know that.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION BY: Moyer to adjourn the meeting.

Second by: Leschinskie

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting ended at 6:39 PM

Minutes taken by Aeman Kamran, Administrative Accountant