

THE CITY OF SHAMOKIN COUNCIL MEETING
July 08,2024
6PM

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE TO FLAG:

PRAYER:

ROLL CALL:

PRESENTATIONS:

BIDS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

MINUTES:

Motion to accept the Minutes of May 13th, 2024.

Motion to accept the Minutes of June 10th, 2024.

BILLS:

Motion to approve the bills from June 2024, as listed on the Bill List.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

*Accounts & Finance
Parks and Public Building
Street and Public Improvements
Public Safety
Controller
Treasurer
Chief of Police*

SEDA-COG
Downtown Manager
CDBG

NEW BUSINESS:

1. *Request a motion to approve Music in the Park- Keep Out Brass Band on August 21, 2024 at Claude Kehler Park from 6pm-8pm.*
2. *Request a motion to approve the VNA-Hospice Butterfly Release on August 25,2024 at Claude Kehler Park starting at 1:30pm.*
3. *Request a motion to approve 9-11 Memorial on September 11,2024 in the front of Shamokin City Hall from 7pm-8pm.*
4. *Request a motion to approve Oasis Recovery Carnival on September 21,2024 at Claude Kehler Park from 1pm-4pm.*
5. *Request a motion to approve Trunk or Trunk on October 20, 2024 at Claude Kehler Park from 6pm-8pm.*
6. *Request a motion to approve Halloween Parade on October 22,2024(Rain date- October 23rd) starting at Claude Kehler Park and ending on Independence Street from 4pm-7:30pm.*
7. *Request a motion to approve Pep Rally on October 22,2024 in the Municipal Parking G Lot after Halloween Parade until 8pm.*
8. *Request a motion to approve the Shamokin Car Cruise at the Downtown of Shamokin on August 17,2024 from 6pm-10pm.*
9. *Request a motion to allow AmeriCorps Vista Matt McMullen & SEDA-COG's Betsy Kramer to apply for a Department of Environmental Protection Municipal Opportunities for Retrofits and Energy Efficiency (MORE) Grant in the amount of \$50,000. There is no application fee or match for this grant opportunity.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES: *A letter was received from the Fire Bureau requesting a meeting in the near future.*

SOLICITORS REPORT:

A motion needed to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance 2024-03, the said Ordinance amends Chapter 478-3 Trailers Parking Prohibited at certain times for trailers on City streets at any time.

A motion needed to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance 2024-04, the said Ordinance modifies Chapter 497: Vehicles, Abandoned, Hazardous, Harmful and Junked.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, adjourn the meeting.

City of Shamokin Regular Council Meeting
Monday, July 8, 2024
Minutes
6:00 PM

The Regular Monthly Meeting of Shamokin City Council was held this evening with Councilwoman Barbara Moyer presiding.

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE TO FLAG:

PRAYER:

ROLL CALL: Duganitz, Kehler, Moyer
Absent: Leschinskie

PRESENTATIONS:

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

BIDS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

MINUTES:

MOTION BY: Moyer to approve the minutes of the City of Shamokin Council Meetings of May 13, 2024 and June 10, 2024 (Regular Council Meetings).

Second by: Kehler

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, Kehler, Moyer
Nays: None
Absent: Leschinskie

BILLS:

MOTION BY: Duganitz to approve the bills from June 2024, as listed on the Bill List.

Second by: Kehler

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, Kehler, Moyer
Nays: None
Absent: Leschinskie

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Accounts & Finance

Councilwoman Moyer reported a balance in the General Fund of \$1,007,210.67. The full breakdown has not been completed but will be available by the next city council meeting.

Parks and Public Buildings

Councilman Duganitz commented on the success of the Independence on Independence event and thanked Justin Bainbridge for his help. A few vendors left early due to the high temperatures, but many returned in the evening and signed up for next year. Councilman Duganitz also thanked Chief Siko and the police department for their presence during the event, as well as the fireworks committee for the success of the fireworks display.

Councilman Duganitz mentioned that swim lessons start today, July 8, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Strausser-Shroyer Memorial Pool, and thanked Betsy Kramer of SEDA-COG for her work on the grant that made this program free. Anyone interested will need to sign up to join the lessons, which will run through the end of the week. Councilman Duganitz added that the parks department is researching possible private grant funding options for improvements to the Race Street and Shamokin Street playgrounds.

Streets and Public Improvements

The Director of Public Works was absent from the meeting.

Public Safety

The Fire Department reported 44 calls for the month of June.

The Code Enforcement Office collected \$4,306 in revenue for the month of June.

Councilman Kehler reported that Engine 11 had a broken stem repaired but still needs additional repairs, as does Engine 33. Repairs for Engine 51 are going through insurance. Barricades were recently put up around unsafe properties on North 4th Street and on the corner of Shamokin and Spurzheim Streets.

Chief of Police

The Police Department reported 2,067 calls for the month of June.

Chief Siko reported that the police department is working with Betsy Kramer to determine whether the City may be eligible to have a co-responder from Mental Health assigned to the police station. The cost

to fund the hiring would be \$125,000 per year; however, there are multiple grant opportunities available. If hired, the co-responder would relieve the burden on the police department by assisting with crisis response, overdose and domestic violence situations, as well as providing administrative support with programs such as Women In Transition. Chief Siko stated that he believes there is a great need for these services in our area and that he and Betsy will be meeting in the near future to determine the City's eligibility.

Councilman Duganitz asked for an update on the National Night Out event. Chief Siko replied that the event is scheduled for August 6th at Claude Kehler Park and that he continues to be in communication with the committee and Crime Watcher. The new canine may make her debut at this event.

SEDA-COG

Betsy Kramer spoke on the subject of the DEP "MORE" grant, which is being pursued through a collaborative effort between Kramer of SEDA-COG, Matt McMullen of Americorps Vista, and Downtown Manager Justin Bainbridge. The grant would provide \$50,000 toward a Level 2 Energy Audit and energy efficiency retrofitting of municipal buildings, such as the American Legion and City Hall. Approval to apply for this grant is up for vote in tonight's council meeting. Ms. Kramer added that part of the grant may be used as an interest buy-down in the event the City obtains a loan to fund implementation of the plan. However, she stressed that she is focused on securing grant funds rather than a loan.

Ms. Kramer also stated that the planning phase for the Independence Street Downtown Makeover project is well underway, as is the Safe Streets for All project. Proposals for the Volunteer Park and Footbridge Feasibility Study are currently being accepted and are due by August 9th. Interested parties should direct bids to City Hall to the attention of Justin Bainbridge. Ms. Kramer added that grant funds for various projects are approved but delayed until the State passes a budget.

Downtown Manager Bainbridge spoke on the success of "Independence on Independence" and thanked the police and street department for going above and beyond in their assistance with the event.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motions #3 and #7 on the agenda, pertaining to events requests sponsored by Councilman Duganitz, were tabled due to Councilwoman Leschinskie's absence.

MOTION BY: Duganitz to approve Music in the Park – Keep Out Brass Band on August 21, 2024 at Claude Kehler Park from 6pm-8pm.

Second by: Kehler

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, Kehler, Moyer

Nays: None

Absent: Leschinskie

MOTION BY: Duganitz to approve the VNA Hospice Butterfly Release on August 25, 2024 at Claude Kehler Park starting at 1:30 P.M.

Second by: Kehler

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, Kehler, Moyer

Nays: None

Absent: Leschinskie

MOTION BY: Kehler to approve Oasis Recovery Carnival on September 21, 2024 at Claude Kehler Park from 1pm-4pm.

Second by: Duganitz

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, Kehler, Moyer

Nays: None

Absent: Leschinskie

MOTION BY: Duganitz to approve Trunk or Trunk on October 20, 2024 at Claude Kehler Park from 6pm-8pm.

Second by: Kehler

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, Kehler, Moyer

Nays: None

Absent: Leschinskie

MOTION BY: Kehler to approve the Halloween Parade on October 22, 2024, with a rain date of October 23, starting at Claude Kehler Park and ending on Independence Street from 4pm-7:30pm.

Second by: Duganitz

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, Kehler, Moyer

Nays: None

Absent: Leschinskie

MOTION BY: Duganitz to approve the Shamokin Car Cruise at the Downtown of Shamokin on August 17, 2024 from 6pm-10pm, contingent upon the successful resolution of a discussion with the event organizer, City Administrator, Chief of Police and Department of Public Safety. Approval may be rescinded if the City's safety stipulations cannot be met.

Second by: Kehler

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, Kehler, Moyer

Nays: None

Absent: Leschinskie

MOTION BY: Duganitz to allow AmeriCorps Vista, Matt McMullen and SEDA-COG's Betsy Kramer to apply for a Department of Environmental Protection Municipal Opportunities for Retrofits and

Energy Efficiency (MORE) Grant in the amount of \$50,000. There is no application fee or match for this grant opportunity.

Second by: Kehler

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, Kehler, Moyer

Nays: None

Absent: Leschinskie

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

The City Administrator reported that the City has received a letter from the Fire Bureau requesting a meeting in the near future.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

MOTION BY: Kehler to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2024-03. The said Ordinance amends Chapter 478-3: Trailers, Parking Prohibited at certain times for trailers on City streets at any time.

Second by: Duganitz

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, Kehler, Moyer

Nays: None

Absent: Leschinskie

MOTION BY: Kehler to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2024-04, modifying Chapter 497: Vehicles, Abandoned, Hazardous, Harmful and Junked.

Second by: Duganitz

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, Kehler, Moyer

Nays: None

Absent: Leschinskie

Councilman Duganitz asked whether this ordinance covers the ATV chained to a pole. The Solicitor replied that it does as "vehicles" are broadly defined.

The Solicitor provided an update on the tax exempt property challenges. Originally, fifteen parcels had been identified for review, and that list has now been narrowed down to five. The City will review these parcels to determine whether they still qualify as tax exempt. This is not an automatic process; there will be a hearing to determine tax exempt eligibility.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Robert Boyce spoke on the subject of the new ordinances and asked Council to elaborate on the criteria used to determine whether a vehicle is hazardous. The Solicitor replied that police are responsible for determining a vehicle's condition. Chief Siko added that the police follow Pennsylvania law as well as City ordinances in making their judgment. Mr. Boyce asked what recourse citizens have if they wish to dispute a determination. Chief Siko replied that if anyone is cited for an abandoned vehicle, they may request a hearing before a court judge. Mr. Boyce also asked for a clarification as to whether the second line item of the ordinance applies to any private property in the City of Shamokin. The Solicitor confirmed that it does. Mr. Boyce closed his remarks by stating that he believes the exact criteria for defining an abandoned vehicle should be well-publicized to ensure the public is properly informed.

Dakota Schuck took the podium to comment on the great fireworks show in the City.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting ended at 6:37 P.M.

Minutes taken by Valentine Mountjoy, Administrative Accountant