

THE CITY OF SHAMOKIN COUNCIL MEETING
December 9, 2024
6PM

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE TO FLAG:

PRAYER:

ROLL CALL:

PRESENTATIONS:

BIDS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Request a motion to accept letter of resignation from Officer Derek Jenkins as of December 8, 2024.

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

MINUTES:

Motion to accept the minutes of the City of Shamokin Council Meeting of November 18, 2024 (Regular Council Meeting).

BILLS:

Motion to approve the bills from November 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- Spring Fling on May 18, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 12pm-7pm.*
2. *Request a motion to approve the Anthracite Heritage Festival on May 24, 2025 from 10am-5pm.*
3. *Request a motion to approve Music in the Park- Spring Fling on May 25, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 12pm-7pm (rain date).*
4. *Request a motion to approve Music in the Park Concert on June 11, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 6pm-8pm.*
5. *Request a motion to approve Music in the Park Concert on June 21, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 6pm-8pm.*
6. *Request a motion to approve the Rescue Fire Company Block Party on June 27, 2025 from 5pm-10pm and June 28, 2025 from 12pm-10pm. Both will take place at Claude Kehler Park.*
7. *Request a motion to approve Music in the Park Concert on July 16, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 6pm-8pm.*
8. *Request a motion to approve Music in the Park Concert on July 26, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 6pm-8pm.*
9. *Request a motion to approve Music in the Park Concert on August 6, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 6pm-8pm.*
10. *Request a motion to approve Music in the Park Concert on August 23, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 6pm-8pm.*
11. *Request a motion to approve Music in the Park Concert on September 13, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 6pm-8pm.*
12. *Request a motion to approve Music in the Park Concert on October 5, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 12pm-6pm.*
13. *Request a motion to approve Music in the Park- Fall Festival on October 12, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 12pm-6pm.*
14. *Request a motion to approve Reigle's Trunk or Treat on October 19, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 12pm-8pm. (Vendors will be from 12pm-5pm and Trunk or Treat will be from 6pm-8pm)*
15. *Request a motion to approve Food Truck Frenzy on October 25, 2025 on Independence St.(Rite Aide-Wendy's) from 11am-5pm.*
16. *Request a motion to approve Downtown Christmas on December 6, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 10am-3pm.*
17. *Request a motion to approve the City of Shamokin Façade Grant Program application of Ryan Hickey.*
18. *Request a motion to approve the reimbursement of the City from the remaining COVID ARPA funds for COVID-19-related revenue loss, as approved under the American Rescue Plan.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

1. *Request a motion to accept a check in the amount of \$3,380.00 representing settlement of the sale of 721-723 N. Shamokin St.*
2. *Request a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2024-07, Regulating the Conduct and Advertising of Yard Sales, Garage Sales and Similar Types of Sales Within the City of Shamokin.*
3. *Request a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2024-09, amending Chapter 450 of the Shamokin City Code: Solid Waste.*

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

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

THE CITY OF SHAMOKIN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, December 9, 2024
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE TO FLAG:

PRAYER:

ROLL CALL: Duganitz, McLaughlin, Moyer, Kehler, Ulrich
Absent: None

Council retired to executive session from 6:01 P.M. to 6:22 P.M.

PRESENTATIONS:

BIDS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

The City Administrator reported that he has received a letter of resignation from Officer Derek Jenkins, and that the Chief of Police has advised him of the receipt of a letter of resignation from Officer Wesley Jordan. Officer Jordan's effective date of resignation is December 22, 2024.

The Mayor asked how short of personnel the police department now is. The Chief replied that they are down four officers. The City Administrator added that they are currently hiring new officers. The Chief stated that the department received nine applications to date, of which three withdrew and six proceeded to written testing. Two of those were disqualified and four advanced to the physical test. The paperwork has been forwarded to Dr. Catino of the Police Commission and oral interviews will be scheduled next week.

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to accept the letter of resignation of Officer Derek Jenkins.

Second by: Kehler

Councilman Duganitz remarked that the City is losing a great asset in Officer Jenkins. He is wonderful with the youth of the area and the City will miss him.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, McLaughlin, Moyer, Kehler, Ulrich
Nays: None
Absent: None

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to accept the letter of resignation of Wesley Jordan effective December 22, 2024.

Second by: Kehler

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, McLaughlin, Moyer, Kehler, Ulrich
Nays: None
Absent: None

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

Dave Mrozowski spoke concerning a trash complaint and was asked to defer his questions to the latter part of the meeting as they do not reference an agenda item.

MINUTES:

MOTION BY: Duganitz to accept the minutes of the City of Shamokin Council Meeting of November 18, 2024 (Regular Meeting).

Second by: Moyer

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, McLaughlin, Moyer, Kehler, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: None

BILLS:

MOTION BY: Moyer to approve the bills from November 2024 as listed on the Bill List.

Second by: Duganitz

Councilman McLaughlin questioned two figures on the Bill List under the ARPA COVID fund with no description. The Administrative Accountant examined the Bill List and explained that these are not bills but possibly an account balance.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, McLaughlin, Moyer, Kehler, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: None

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Accounts & Finance

Councilwoman Moyer presented the Treasurer's report for the month of November. Total General Fund balance: \$812,429.78; total Motor License balance: \$229,474.97; total Library Balance: \$206,489.99; total Sinking Fund #1 balance: \$242,362.81; total Recreation balance: \$280,975.85; total Street Lighting balance: \$9,355.54; total American Legion balance: \$785.17; total Neighborhood Mitigation balance: \$26,452.26; total Code Department Credit Cards balance: \$5,494.00; total Police Department Credit Cards balance: \$2,476.26. Total balance in all accounts to December 1, 2024: \$1,816,296.63.

Parks and Public Buildings

Councilman Duganitz thanked Jeanne Shaffer for her efforts in presenting the parade and Christmas festival in cold weather. Councilman Duganitz had the opportunity to present awards on behalf of the City to local school sports teams and bands for their outstanding efforts this year. He added that he did not have a chance to recognize the varsity football team and would like to arrange a meeting with Council in the future. Councilman Duganitz remarked on the wonderful decorations throughout the City, thanked Justin Bainbridge and Councilman McLaughlin for their efforts, and wished everyone a merry Christmas.

Streets and Public Improvements

Councilman McLaughlin reported that the Street Department should be finished with their leaf cleanup this week. Some trucks are out for repair but should be back in service soon. A few Christmas decorations are

not working due to an issue with the receptacles on the light poles, but PPL has been notified. Equipment is ready to go, and supplies of salt and anti-skid should last the rest of the year.

Public Safety

The Code Department reported \$2,496.00 in revenue for the month of November and 123 complaints addressed.

Councilman McLaughlin asked for an explanation of the Zoning Hearing/Variance on the Code Department report. The Code Officer asked the Councilman to get back to him tomorrow.

The Fire Department reported 38 calls for the month of November.

Controller

The Controller thanked everyone on Council for their cooperation in preparing the budget, as this is always a stressful time. In particular he thanked the Solicitor, Administrative Accountant and City Administrator.

Treasurer

Treasurer Scandle commented to Councilman McLaughlin that the numbers in the ARPA COVID section of the Bill List do not represent the account balance. These are probably leftover numbers which were not deleted. She directed the Councilman to the financial report which shows the balance in every account. She also discussed the transfer of funds from ARPA COVID into the General Fund and explained that this reimburses the City for police wages. Councilman McLaughlin inquired whether this is the purpose of Item #18 on the agenda and asked for the dollar amount. The Treasurer suggested subtracting the car purchase from the balance. Betsy Kramer replied that we do not have an exact amount. The transfer must be completed by the end of the year, and we are not required to pay back the accrued interest.

The Solicitor commented that Council will need to approve the Treasurer salary for the next election cycle at the January meeting. This will set the salary for the next four years and must be done by February.

The Mayor asked the Treasurer whether she has all the information needed for closing 2024 and she replied that she does.

Chief of Police

The Police Department reported 1,334 calls for the month of November and 4,215 miles patrolled.

The Chief reported that he has spoken to Kevin regarding the acquisition of a metal container from army surplus for the evidence room, as they are running out of space. Councilman McLaughlin asked where the container would be placed. The Chief responded that he will have to consult with the Solicitor and suggested the department may obtain a secondary storage unit. The Solicitor stated that the location should not be disclosed.

The Chief reported that the new vehicle which was supposed to be delivered September 8th was totaled due to an incident in transport. A second new vehicle is still at the manufacturer. The dealer will take care of us for the inconvenience. Councilman McLaughlin asked whether there is a completion date on the contract. The Chief replied that there is normally a waitlist of 4-6 months due to the state bid process, but the dealership can get us about 3 months off. Keystone Communications has been notified and is storing the equipment until the vehicles arrive.

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Councilman McLaughlin asked if the Chief can provide Council a copy of the calls report. The Chief replied that he already provides the report to the Mayor, but can include it in the Council's packet.

SEDA-COG

Betsy Kramer reported that she has emailed the draft of the Comprehensive Plan to Council and will forward a copy to the Solicitor as well. Chapter 4 is still missing but will be provided mid-week. Several grants, such as the American Legion and fire truck grants, are still in progress and waiting on a response. An Independence Street Makeover first-look and Safe Streets for All meeting will be held January 30th from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at the library.

Councilman McLaughlin noted that the Comprehensive Plan contains inaccurate information such as names of board members. Ms. Kramer suggested that he mark up the draft and return it to her. In response to a question from Chief Siko, Ms. Kramer replied that she has not yet received a response on the police grant.

Justin Bainbridge reported that the new GoShamokin website is live, featuring a local business directory, events calendar and job postings. Every business in the Shamokin area can join for free. Anyone who needs help setting up their business on the site should reach out to Mr. Bainbridge.

Matt McMullen stated that the MORE grant final report was completed last week. The City has the option of going through the MORE loan program. The next step is to prepare a proposal for Council's review at the January workshop. The MORE final report highlights numerous suggested changes from purchasing new blinds to installing a new boiler.

Councilman Duganitz inquired about the bridge project. Ms. Kramer stated that the plan should be complete by April.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item #14 was removed from the agenda for further review.

MOTION BY: Moyer to approve Items #1-13 and #15-18, as listed on the agenda.

Second by: Ulrich

Councilman McLaughlin asked whether the calendar had been double-checked for conflicts. Justin Bainbridge replied in the affirmative. The Administrative Secretary stated that she does this before it goes to Council.

Councilman Duganitz asked whether Items #17-18 should be voted on separately. The City Administrator and Solicitor replied that a separate vote is not necessary. The City Administrator added that this is not new and agenda items are not always uniform.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, McLaughlin, Moyer, Kehler, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilman McLaughlin inquired about the status of the budget and his questions. The City Administrator replied that there will be an opportunity to address his questions when the budget is presented for a vote during a Special Meeting on December 30 at 11:00 A.M. Councilmen McLaughlin and Duganitz stated that they will try to be available.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

MOTION BY: Kehler to accept Items #1-3 as listed on the Solicitor's portion of the agenda.

Second by: McLaughlin

Councilman Duganitz advised the public that the trash ordinance amends the existing code. He reminded residents not to dispose of household trash in City containers and to tie trash bags for pickup.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, McLaughlin, Moyer, Kehler, Ulrich

Nays: None

Absent: None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Dave Mrozowski, manager of NAPA Auto Parts, spoke about the accumulation of neighbors' trash on his sidewalk and distributed pictures to Council. He commented that the new code amendment may help the situation and acknowledged that the Code Office has helped but that their hands are tied. Mr. Mrozowski added that he is concerned about the possibility of a trash fire as there are six apartments above the store. The trash is being placed on NAPA's property, but is not their trash. The City Administrator asked whether Mr. Mrozowski has spoken to Mr. Guarna. Mr. Mrozowski replied that Mr. Guarna does not own the property causing the problem. In response to a question from Solicitor Greco, he stated that it is neighbor disposing of their trash. The City Administrator stated that he would speak with Mr. Mrozowski and asked if Council could keep the pictures, to which Mr. Mrozowski agreed. The Chief remarked that it comes down to the ability to prove wrongdoing, but stated he will coordinate with the Code Officer. Councilman McLaughlin commented that placing trash receptacles on someone else's property is already prohibited by code and that if nothing else, they may be required to be moved for that reason. The Chief commented that he does not know where the house is positioned, but in some cases trash collectors require receptacles to be placed in a designated location.

The Controller discussed the status of the Home Rule Study. The group is currently going through the Third Class City Code and putting together a charter for the November ballot. There is a lot of detail to consider but the process is going well.

Councilman McLaughlin commented on the partial collapse of a "red X" property. He asked whether the City can place a lien to cover demolition costs on such properties in the future. Solicitor Greco replied that liens can only be used for costs actually incurred, not merely anticipated. If the City did pay to demolish or secure a property, it could then pursue a lien. Appropriate notice must be given and owners must have the opportunity to cure the issue before the City can take action on a property. Councilman Kehler asked how

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much time would be needed. The Solicitor replied that if the situation is hazardous, a 3-7 day notice is acceptable. Councilman McLaughlin remarked that there are frequent issues with “red X” properties. The Treasurer commented that there are funds in Neighborhood Mitigation for these situations. Councilman Kehler added that the property in question was slated for demolition but then purchased. The Solicitor added that employee liability is a concern, and contractors will be needed for any work performed. Councilman Kehler and the Solicitor discussed whether the City becomes responsible once we take action. The Solicitor stated that there should not be an issue as long as we do not make the property’s condition worse.

The Chief spoke about the trash accumulation, stating that he would have to check with Officer Busko but he believes the owners have already been cited by the Code Office and Police Department. The trash was cleared at that time. Councilman McLaughlin remarked that the trash accumulation has been going on for months. The Chief added that he believes the resident could place the trash for pickup in front of her own property. The resident can be cited under the accumulation of trash ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

Minutes taken by Val Mountjoy, Administrative Accountant