

THE CITY OF SHAMOKIN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, February 10, 2025
6:00 PM

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 The City of Shamokin Council Meeting of January 13, 2025 (Regular Council Meeting).

BILLS:

Motion to approve the bills from January 2025, 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:

AMERICORPS VISTA:

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Request a motion to authorize the Treasurer to open a checking account, "Shamokin City LSA - Fire Truck," for funds related to the LSA fire truck grant.*
- 2. Request a motion to authorize the Treasurer to open a checking account, "Shamokin City Police Shop with a Cop Christmas," for funds related to the "Shop with a Cop" charitable event.*

3. *Request a motion to approve the demolition and/or clearance of 203, 205, 209, 211 and 213 S. 7th St. with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.*
4. *Request a motion to approve the 5th year Anniversary of business for Breaker Cigars on June 14, 2025 from 2pm-11pm.*
5. *Request a motion to approve the Covered Bridge Saint Patty Party on March 08, 2025 from 12pm-10pm.*
6. *Request a motion to approve the Covered Bridge Spring Event on April 26, 2025 from 12pm-10pm.*
7. *Request a motion to approve the Covered Bridge Toga Party on May 31, 2025 from 12pm-10pm.*
8. *Request a motion to approve the Covered Bridge 10th year Anniversary of business on June 13, 2025 from 12pm-10pm. (in conjunction with Breaker Cigars 5th yr anniversary on June 14th)*
9. *Request a motion to approve the Covered Bridge July 5th Event on July 5, 2025 from 12pm-10pm.*
10. *Request a motion to approve the Covered Bridge Tiki Time on August 8, 2025 from 12pm-10pm.*
11. *Request a motion to approve the Covered Bridge Flannel Fest on September 27, 2025 from 12pm-10pm.*
12. *Request a motion to approve the Covered Bridge Octoberfest on October 10, 2025 from 12pm-10pm.*
13. *Request a motion to approve the Artisan Alley Rosalind Kane Day on April 26, 2025 from 1pm-2pm.*
14. *Request a motion to approve the Krazy Riderz 3rd Annual Easter Giveaway on April 20, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park starting at 12pm while supplies last.*
15. *Request a motion to approve SABER's Shamokin Warms My Heart event on April 19th, 2025 at Claude Kehler Park from 11am-5pm with a rain date of April 26th, 2025.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. *Request a motion to establish an annual City Treasurer salary for the term beginning January 1, 2026.*

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

1. *Request a motion to reappoint Bill Allen to the Zoning Board for a five-year term beginning January 1, 2025.*
2. *Request a motion to appoint Kathy Jeremiah to the Shamokin EDA Board vacancy created by the resignation of Pat Mack effective February 1, 2025.*
3. *Request a motion to reappoint Andrew Twigg to the Shamokin EDA Board.*

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

1. *Request a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 25-01, Establishing Regulations Related to Vagrancy and Homelessness Within the City of Shamokin.*
2. *Request a motion to approve the advertisement of the sale of unused property within the City of Shamokin.*

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

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

City of Shamokin Regular Council Meeting
Monday, February 10, 2025
Minutes
6:00 PM

The Regular Monthly Meeting of Shamokin City Council was held this evening with Councilman Michael Duganitz presiding.

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE TO FLAG:

PRAYER:

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

Councilwoman Moyer was present via telephone.

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to appoint Michael Duganitz temporary chairman in the absence of Mayor Ulrich.

Second by: Kehler

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Swearing in of Benjamin Busko as Detective in the Shamokin Police Department.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

BIDS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Bob Sandri spoke in opposition to Ordinance 25-01, Establishing Rules and Regulations Related to Vagrancy and Homelessness in the City of Shamokin. Mr. Sandri stated that the ordinance reads as if it were copied from a guide for a sanctuary city. According to his interpretation, this ordinance obligates the city to provide services to non-residents, and he stated that Section 4A actually mentions accommodations provided by the City. Mr. Sandri added that compassion is not the responsibility of government. He pointed out that the City cannot afford such a financial burden and encouraged Council to table the ordinance for further review.

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The Solicitor thanked Mr. Sandri for his comments and clarified that Council asked him to draft this ordinance primarily to prohibit encampments, sleeping on sidewalks or in vehicles, and other issues that plague many cities. The prior ordinance concerning vagrancy was more than 50 years old. Without an adequate ordinance that prohibits these activities, we cannot cite offenses. The City also wishes to encourage more involvement from community organizations to provide opportunities such as Code Blue.

Councilman McLaughlin commented that the Section 4A referenced by Mr. Sandri does not state that the City will provide emergency shelter or temporary housing, only that the regulations set forth in the ordinance do not apply to individuals sheltering in such appropriate facilities. The Solicitor stated that this is correct and the City is not taking responsibility for these individuals.

Mr. Sandri commented that he is not an attorney but that he believes Council is proposing to legislate compassion, and that the ordinance could be read as obligating the City to provide services. He urged Council not to place this financial burden on the City. Councilman McLaughlin agreed with the sentiment but stated that this is not the meaning of the ordinance as he reads it. The Solicitor added that the ordinance was not drafted to compel the City to take any action, open a shelter, or use any tax dollars. This is neither the intent nor the written meaning of the ordinance.

Brenda Walsh asked to comment on a restricted parking matter and was advised by Council to reserve her comments for the end of the meeting, as they do not relate to an item on the agenda.

Jesse Storm commented on Ordinance 25-01 and asked who decides if individuals are homeless and whether hikers qualify as homeless. The Solicitor stated the definitions provided in the ordinance are broad but do not criminalize homelessness. Someone passing through the city will not be penalized. Mr. Storm expressed concern that the verbal warnings for individuals sleeping outside will drive homeless persons into vacant homes, causing further issues.

Joe Leschinskie commented on the Treasurer salary. He asked if a number had been proposed yet and whether, if approved, the Treasurer would receive a double salary. The Treasurer replied that other cities do this and the job is a lot of work. She added that she has lost income due to the decision not to allow her to keep duplicate bill and tax certification fees.

The Solicitor stated that a figure has not yet been established but will be discussed tonight. Mr. Leschinskie questioned adding another salary to the budget when the outcome of Home Rule is uncertain. He asked where the money would come from should Home Rule fail. The Treasurer commented that someone else's pay would have to be cut. Mr. Leschinskie remarked that there always seems to be money found when it is needed. The City Administrator replied that if someone believes there is additional money, let them show it. The Treasurer stated that there are new GASB standards in place this year, allowing the City to use the Debt Service fund for certain purchases instead of the General Fund.

Jesse Storm attempted to speak again on behalf of his companies. The Solicitor advised him that he is speaking as an individual citizen and already had an opportunity to comment. Mr. Storm asked if the Treasurer position is part-time and the Treasurer responded that it is not. Mr. Storm asked how one person can do two full-time jobs. The Treasurer stated that she has done this for eighteen years.

MINUTES:

MOTION BY: Kehler to approve the minutes of the City of Shamokin Council Meeting of January 13, 2025 (Regular Council Meeting).

Second by: McLaughlin

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

Nays: None

Absent: Ulrich

BILLS:

MOTION BY: Moyer to approve the bills from January 2025, as listed on the Bill List.

Second by: Kehler

In response to inquiries from Councilman McLaughlin on three bills, the City Administrator stated that Lavery Law is a fee related to a lawsuit, after our insurance deductible. The Secretary clarified that the parking permit refund is a refund of a parking permit that was issued to a business employee who was then terminated. McLaughlin asked whether this has been done before and the City Administrator replied that it has. The Deputy Administrator/Accountant stated that the payment to Univest is for preparation of the GASB-68 report.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, McLaughlin, Moyer

Nays: None

Absent: Ulrich

Abstention: Kehler

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Accounts & Finance

Councilwoman Moyer asked the Treasurer to present the financial report for ease of communication. The Treasurer presented the financial report for the month of January. Total General Fund balance: \$878,238.51; total Motor License balance: \$162,306.65; total Library Balance: \$205,442.63; total Sinking Fund #1 balance: \$125,965.92; total Recreation balance: \$266,063.76; total Street Lighting balance: \$7,931.38; total American Legion balance: \$1,537.37; total Neighborhood Mitigation balance: \$31,804.93; total Code Department Credit Cards balance: \$8,268.00; total Police Department Credit Cards balance: \$1,915.26. Total balance in all accounts to February 1, 2025: \$1,689,474.41.

Councilwoman Moyer thanked the Treasurer and had nothing further to report.

Parks and Public Buildings

Councilman Duganitz thanked the firefighters for their efforts on Shamokin Street, recognizing both volunteers and firefighters. He added that the fire departments need funding and encouraged the public to support our volunteers.

Streets and Public Improvements

Councilman McLaughlin agreed with Councilman Duganitz on the fire departments and encouraged them to bring their needs to Council's attention. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the Street Department

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received three loads of salt today and more will be coming this month. The ice storm posed difficulties but was handled as well as possible with the available manpower and equipment.

Public Safety

The Code Department reported \$43,639.00 in revenue for the month of January and 134 complaints addressed. The Fire Department reported 55 calls for the month of January.

Councilman Kehler thanked the police and fire departments for their efforts with the fire on Lincoln Street. Councilman McLaughlin asked what the “good intent” category on the report refers to and the Chief of Police stated that it is public service.

Controller

The Controller stated that the 2023 audit has been completed and thanked the Treasurer, Administrator, Deputy Administrator/Accountant, and anyone else who participated in the audit.

Treasurer

The Treasurer had nothing to report.

Chief of Police

The Police Department reported 1,071 calls for the month of January and 3,583 miles patrolled.

The Chief of Police thanked the Mayor and City Administrator for the well-deserved promotion of Officer, now Detective, Busko. The Chief added that the last detective the department had is present at the meeting today.

The Chief thanked volunteers, the Code Department, and the Rescue Hose Department for their help with a recent fire investigation.

The Chief announced that Council will need to accept the resignation of Travis Minnig effective February 18. Officer Minnig has been a phenomenal member of the department and will be missed. His new career path will be in law enforcement and the Chief commented that he is proud of a member of our department moving to this position. Council agreed that this can be voted on under the new business section.

The Chief thanked Kevin and the Street Department for salting the ice in the police department parking lot. Councilman McLaughlin asked who is responsible for parking lot maintenance, and the City Administrator stated that he believes it is the RDA. The Chief added that the department has always maintained their own parking lot but occasionally needs help from the Street Department. McLaughlin asked if parking lot maintenance is in the lease. If it is the responsibility of the RDA, it should not fall back on the police or Street Department. The Solicitor read the lease and stated that the RDA is responsible for snow removal and shall reimburse any expenses for snow removal. Councilman McLaughlin commented that we will need to draft a letter to clarify this. The police need to be able to get in and out of the facility.

SEDA-COG

Betsy Kramer advised Council that none of the current grant projects are affected by the possible federal funding pause. The LSA grant for the fire truck has been approved and the opening of the new bank account is on the agenda tonight. HUD contracts are still being waited on. Ms. Kramer thanked everyone who attended the Safe Streets for All/Independence Street Makeover meeting. Phase 1 of the Independence Street Makeover will be out for bid by August. Ms. Kramer has applied for funding for Phase 2 and will be applying for Phase 3 in the next few months. The Safe Streets for All plan should be available next month. The Comprehensive Plan is now in the hands of the steering committee and will be going to Council for review, then to the Planning Commission.

Matt McMullen of AmeriCorps Vista reported that he is working with Ms. Kramer to explore grant possibilities for the energy improvements.

Downtown Manager Bainbridge reported that the Claude Kehler/Volunteer Park Bridge Feasibility plan is nearly complete and a draft will be available for review by the committee this month. He is currently working on plans for the July 4th celebration. Mr. Bainbridge also congratulated Detective Busko on his promotion.

Tonia Troup provided an overview of CDBG projects and their current funding. Revisions to funding allocations are in progress. \$5,000 is available for the code enforcement program. Funding will need to be revised from Removal of Blighted Structures Phase 2 into Phase 1 to fund the planned demolitions. A breakdown of the demolition estimates was provided with her report.

Councilman Duganitz asked whether CDBG funding could be used toward more hours or help for the Code Department. Ms. Troup replied that funding is available but requires very specific paperwork, including timecards and a record of specific properties. This is doable and has been done in other communities, but Ms. Troup recommended moving additional funds into this category. In response to a question from Ms. Kramer, Ms. Troup stated that funding could be reallocated from any project into code enforcement. Currently thirty percent has been allocated to demolitions and seventy percent to street reconstruction, so funds would need to be taken from one of these categories.

The Treasurer inquired about the demolition prices. Ms. Troup explained that the high cost is due to the challenging position of row homes which will need to be taken down by hand. Machinery cannot be used without risking the adjoining homes. The Solicitor asked whether funds could be used to acquire adjoining homes in the event the owners would be interested in selling, thus reducing the demolition cost by using equipment instead of the hand tear-down. Ms. Troup replied that this is possible. Councilman Duganitz referenced three other properties which are significantly less expensive to demolish, and Ms. Troup clarified that those sites mostly require removal of debris rather than demolition.

Councilman McLaughlin remarked that some solution will have to be found as the demolition prices are too high. Ms. Troup pointed out that these figures are estimates and the bids could potentially come in lower. The City can accept or deny bids for any of the properties.

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NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to approve Item #1 on the agenda.

Second by: Kehler

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

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to approve Item #2 on the agenda.

Second by: Kehler

The City Administrator commented that this is being done for better accountability.

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

MOTION BY: Kehler to approve Item #3 on the agenda.

Second by: Duganitz

Councilman McLaughlin asked what exactly is being approved. Ms. Troup replied that the other properties were approved in May. One property was removed from the list and these were added. They will be included in the bid. The Solicitor asked whether the properties should be advertised first, and if the vote should authorize the bid, not the demolition. Ms. Troup replied that they need the authorization to demolish before bidding. She added that she is not sure why DCED requires this. The Deputy Administrator/Accountant pointed out that this is the same language that was used last time and suggested that it is effectively slating the properties for demolition. Ms. Kramer clarified that the City still has a right to accept or reject any bids.

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

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to approve Items #4-12 on the agenda.

Second by: Kehler

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

MOTION BY: Kehler to approve Item #13 on the agenda.

Second by: McLaughlin

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

MOTION BY: Moyer to approve Item #14 on the agenda.

Second by: Kehler

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

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to approve Item #15 on the agenda.

Second by: Duganitz

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

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to approve the resignation of Officer Minnig effective February 18, 2025.

Second by: Duganitz

Councilman Duganitz commented that Officer Minnig has been an asset to the department and will be missed.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council discussed establishing the salary for the Treasurer effective January 1, 2026. Councilman McLaughlin and Councilwoman Moyer asked whether there is a job description for the position. The Treasurer remarked that Mayor and Council have known about this issue for a year but no one approached her to discuss it. The City Administrator interposed to defend Council but Councilman Duganitz called the meeting to order. The Treasurer stated that she invited Council to meet with her, but few did so.

The Treasurer stated that the Treasurer position is full-time, 35 hours per week, and includes benefits. She described the duties of the Treasurer, including preparation of federal and state reports, bank

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reconciliation, serving the public, proficiency in Microsoft Office, ability to communicate and to meet deadlines, and working closely with the county and other tax collectors. She stated that the minimum education requirement is an associate's degree in accounting. The Controller agreed that the position requires a trained accountant. The Treasurer added that the Treasurer must be bonded by the City, county and school district.

Councilwoman Moyer asked the Solicitor whether he has any concerns about the Council requesting a job description before moving forward. The Treasurer replied that the salary must be established before Friday and therefore must be voted on today.

The Solicitor clarified that this new salary is necessary for the next election and does not affect Ms. Scandle. The third class city code does state that the Treasurer shall receive a salary, but does not state what that salary must be.

The Treasurer stated that there is a large balance in the debt service. It cannot be used to pay an employee, but millage can be reallocated from one fund to another. All of the City's debts are paid until June. The Solicitor clarified that the third class city code caps our millage and there are limits on certain taxes.

The Controller pointed out that millages can be moved, but General Fund cannot. The Deputy Administrator/Accountant agreed that the General Fund cannot be increased as it is already at its maximum. Therefore this does not affect the salary question, as salaries are paid out of the General Fund.

The Deputy Administrator/Accountant advised Council that under the third class city code, the Treasurer also fulfills the role of the tax collector. The tax collector is currently paid a full-time salary from three sources. This is a dual role performed by the same person. Therefore, it may not be necessary to consider the Treasurer a separate position that requires a full-time salary. We do have to set an amount, but it could be a supplemental salary in addition to the pay received by the tax collector.

The Treasurer rejected the suggestion, saying that she will provide a job description and will tell everyone exactly what is involved in the job. She stated that it is like doing the Deputy Administrator/Accountant's job as well as doing the tax collector's job, and questioned the Deputy Administrator as to whether she does not think that should be paid. The Deputy Administrator replied that it should be paid, but that the question is how much and can the City afford to double an existing salary. She added that the budget cannot accommodate this increase.

The Treasurer stated that the budget can be adjusted; for example, by reallocating vehicle expenses to the Liquid Fuels fund. Councilman McLaughlin stated that he understands but is trying to justify the large increase. The Treasurer compared the City to other municipalities where the Treasurer receives a full-time salary. She stated that she did not ask for a Treasurer salary for many years as she was allowed to keep duplicate bill and tax certification fees. A court decision reversed this practice, although the Treasurer stated she believes other municipalities allow them. She believes third class cities do not allow the Treasurer to keep the additional fees because they are compensated with a Treasurer's salary.

Councilman McLaughlin asked whether the tax collector is appointed. The Treasurer confirmed that whoever is elected Treasurer is automatically appointed tax collector. In response to McLaughlin's question, the Treasurer stated that the tax collector receives a salary of \$35,000.

The Controller stated that there is no line item for the Treasurer's salary in the budget, so it will be an additional cost to the General Fund.

Councilman Duganitz questioned whether another meeting would be necessary to adopt a salary. The Solicitor replied that a number can be proposed and voted on tonight. Councilman Duganitz remarked that he thinks \$35,000 is only about twelve dollars an hour and Councilman McLaughlin agreed that it may be difficult to attract anyone with an associate's degree at that wage.

The Deputy Administrator/Accountant reminded Council that the salary established tonight will be paid in addition to the tax collector's salary. Therefore, the Treasurer/Tax Collector will be compensated at least \$35,000. Councilman McLaughlin questioned whether the other tax office personnel are paid separately and the Deputy Administrator/Accountant confirmed this. The Controller also confirmed that the Deputy Tax Collector receives his own salary. He added that we cannot set the Treasurer salary too low or we will not get a qualified person. The Solicitor pointed out the additional expenses such as FICA and pension. Councilman McLaughlin asked what the total figure would be. The Deputy Administrator/Accountant replied that FICA is 6.75% and an employee who earns about \$40,000 receives a pension contribution of approximately \$11,000, minus any state aid.

The Deputy Administrator/Accountant stated that if Council sets the Treasurer salary at \$10,000, that one individual would then be earning \$45,000, a reasonable salary for the City. The Treasurer remarked that it is not a reasonable salary. The Deputy Administrator clarified that she is only comparing this to other wages in the City. The Treasurer commented that she is looking out for the next person who is elected to the office. Councilman McLaughlin stated that it is necessary to look at the total compensation, as it is not just the Treasurer salary, but the Treasurer/Tax Collector salary. The Treasurer advised McLaughlin to consider other cities, to which McLaughlin replied that this is the only city he is concerned with and the only one that he is responsible for.

The Treasurer remarked that Home Rule is suggesting two separate positions for the Treasurer and tax collector. The Deputy Administrator clarified that regardless of whether Home Rule passes, there will be an elected Treasurer for four years and that person will also still serve as the tax collector. Councilman Duganitz urged the Treasurer not to take it personally, but added that it is difficult to justify the increase to taxpayers.

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to set the Treasurer salary at \$20,000 effective January 1, 2026.

Second by: Kehler

The City Administrator asked whether McLaughlin believes this money is in the budget and pointed out that Council also wanted additional code enforcement. Councilman McLaughlin replied that he understands, but setting a salary for the Treasurer is a requirement. He believes \$35,000 is too generous but that we can find \$20,000 in the 2026 budget.

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The Controller stated that with this new salary, the total budget for the Treasurer/Tax Collector will be around \$33,000. The Deputy Administrator clarified that this is the total cost to the City, not the total compensation to the individual.

The Treasurer also stated that in the event the current City Administrator leaves, the City can start a replacement at a lower salary.

Councilwoman Moyer asked whether this can be adjusted in the future. The Solicitor replied that we cannot, as this salary is being established for the next four years and cannot be changed mid-term. Councilwoman Moyer clarified that if Home Rule passes, the position may be appointed rather than elected. The Solicitor agreed.

The Treasurer stated that there is \$120,000 in the debt service fund and our debt has been paid. Councilman McLaughlin reiterated that he understands and is comfortable with \$20,000 but no further.

The Deputy Administrator commented that she is not implying that any individual is not worth the expense. We have a realistic budget which is not comparable to other municipalities.

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

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

MOTION BY: Moyer to reappoint Bill Allen to the Zoning Board for a five-year term beginning January 1, 2025.

Councilman Kehler asked whether this item could be tabled. The Solicitor replied that if a motion has already been made, a subsidiary motion could be introduced requesting the item be tabled. Councilman McLaughlin asked if there were reservations. Mr. Kehler replied that he wanted to double-check the matter. McLaughlin and the Solicitor clarified the rules of order and asked whether there is a second. If the motion fails due to lack of a second, it can be brought up at another time.

There being no second, the motion failed.

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to appoint Kathy Jeremiah to the Shamokin EDA Board vacancy created by the resignation of Pat Mack, effective February 1, 2025.

Second by: Kehler

Councilman Duganitz remarked that this appointment is already in effect retroactively.

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

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to reappoint Andrew Twigg to the Shamokin EDA Board.

Councilman Duganitz asked if this is a five-year term and Council replied that it is. The reappointment takes effect whenever his term was up. Councilman McLaughlin agreed that Andrew Twigg is taking a full term whereas Kathy Jeremiah is filling a vacancy.

Second by: Duganitz

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

Nays: None

Absent: Ulrich

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to approve the second reading of Ordinance 25-01, Establishing Regulations Related to Vagrancy and Homelessness Within the City of Shamokin.

Second by: Duganitz

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

Nays: None

Absent: Ulrich

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to approve the advertisement of the sale of unused property within the City of Shamokin

The Solicitor explained that the City has received appraisals for seventeen properties within the City of Shamokin. He recommended drafting a list of deed restrictions and a plot showing the location of the properties. Councilman McLaughlin suggested consulting with the Code Officer and Chief of Police. The Solicitor added that the City has decided to accept sealed bids rather than hire an auctioneer.

Second by: Kehler

Councilman Duganitz thanked the City Administrator and Solicitor, as well as the RDA for covering the appraisal fee.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Ulrich

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Robert John spoke concerning the benefit amount of his City life insurance policy, stating that the City Administrator had not returned his calls. The City Administrator stated that he received the message Mr. John left this afternoon and was planning on responding. Mr. John stated that he believes the police contract allows retirees to receive the same life insurance benefit to which they were entitled while on

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active duty, as long as premiums are paid. No one informed him that his life insurance benefit would be decreased from \$50,000 to \$10,000. He was told DCED or the labor solicitor would have to be contacted, but he never received an answer.

The Treasurer commented that the yearly cost to retirees is approximately \$81. Mr. John asked what policy amount this pays for. Councilman McLaughlin suggested the \$81 annual cost may only be for the \$10,000 policy, but Mr. John stated it is for the \$50,000 policy referenced in the contract. He added that he raised this question at the time of the passing of Officer Mrowka. The Treasurer stated that no retiree has ever paid more than the \$81.60 per year. Councilman McLaughlin commented that Mr. John should receive whatever he is entitled to per the contract.

The City Administrator stated that he will speak with the labor attorney tomorrow morning. There is a possibility other former police officers may be affected.

The Solicitor questioned whether Mr. John was covered under a different contract from the patrolman contract. The Chief and Mr. John replied that Mr. John would have been covered under the regular Shamokin Police Officers Association contract.

Brenda Walsh shared concerns about her restricted parking space near the West End Fire Company, stating that there is an individual who uses a decoy car and parks on her white line within twenty feet of a stop sign. It takes her almost twenty minutes to parallel park her vehicle. Another resident has difficulty parking behind her. She stated the people parking in front of her have confronted her at her house and in Tharptown. She stated that she contacted the Shamokin police three times and no one showed up. The Chief of Police asked her to provide the dates and times she called. She stated she did not call the Coal Township police with regard to the incident in Tharptown.

The Chief asked whether the person is parking within her space. Ms. Walsh replied that the hitch of the truck is on the white line. The Chief stated this does not constitute parking in a restricted area and that Kevin would have to do a measurement. Ms. Walsh interposed to state that she previously asked Kevin to accommodate her. The City Administrator reminded Ms. Walsh to keep her remarks to three minutes.

The Chief advised Ms. Walsh to provide the dates and times of the police calls so that he can research them. A proper measurement of the parking grid will need to be completed by the Street Department. The space between white lines is considered an adequate measurement of a parking space and a vehicle must be physically within those lines to be deemed parked in a restricted area. The Chief stated he would visit the location after seven o'clock tomorrow.

In defense of the Parking Committee, the City Administrator stated that the Parking Committee under former Chief Tobias had been at that location on more than one occasion. Ms. Walsh replied that it was only one occasion.

Christine Feese spoke in support of Brenda Walsh, stating that Ms. Walsh is a handicapped person who has had multiple surgeries. Ms. Walsh should not have to struggle to get in and out of her parking space. Councilman McLaughlin agreed and stated that the Chief would look at the location, but City regulations must be followed.

Jesse Storm spoke on the subject of landlord-tenant registration and distributed a packet to Council. He stated that his application was refused due to missing tenant IDs. Mr. Storm believes he cannot provide this information because he is required to destroy tenant's identification information after verifying, and that should he retain the information, he would be committing identity theft. Mr. Storm further stated that he contacted PennDOT to ask whether a landlord could retain copies of tenants' IDs and was told this was not allowed, and that PennDOT would be conducting an inspection of his real estate office to ensure he was not retaining this information.

Mr. Storm also commented on the rental property insurance requirement and stated that the City does not have a right to set an insurance amount because they are not an insurance adjuster. He spoke to several insurance adjusters who stated that an insurance claim would not be awarded for an amount higher than the property's fair market value. He questioned whether the City would refund citizens for the lost revenue spent on additional insurance that could never be pursued.

Councilman McLaughlin stated that he believes the City has a legal right to set limits, but agreed that if a property is worth below that amount, we may have to address that differently. He does not see why we cannot accept a check for a landlord-tenant registration and work on any issues.

The Solicitor stated that the landlord must certify the identity of the tenants so that the Code and Police Departments know who is living in the property. Mr. Storm asked where the information on one of his long-time tenants is, since it was provided years ago to the City. The City Administrator advised Mr. Storm that his time had expired. Councilman McLaughlin and the Solicitor reiterated that Mr. Storm does not need to provide the IDs but must certify the identities of the residents. The Chief added that should the information be found inaccurate, that certification would then be considered a false document.

Councilman McLaughlin commented that the insurance requirement notifications were rushed at the end of the year. We were not prepared for that and it could have been handled better. Mr. Storm referenced the packet he distributed and stated he has asked Council to review it and draft something similar at least eight times, but nothing has been done. Council advised Mr. Storm that he has spoken for nine minutes, to which Mr. Storm stated that he was told he can continue to speak if Council is responding to his questions. Mr. Storm then stepped down.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting ended at 8:45 P.M.

Minutes taken by Valentine Mountjoy, Administrative Accountant