

THE CITY OF SHAMOKIN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, March 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 February 10, 2025
(Regular Council Meeting).*

BILLS:

Motion to approve the bills from February 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:

1. *Request a motion to authorize the formal submission of the draft City of Shamokin Comprehensive Plan to the Shamokin Planning Commission for their review and recommendation.*
2. *Request a motion to authorize AmeriCorps VISTA member Matt McMullen to pursue no-interest loan funding through the MORE Loan Program, in coordination with the City of Shamokin, in the amount not to exceed \$125,000, to be used for the purchase and installation of a new boiler at the American Legion Building.*
3. *Request a motion to authorize City of Shamokin Downtown Manager Justin Bainbridge to solicit a proposal from Keystone C.O.R.E. Services, Inc. for the development of a comprehensive blighted property inventory and remediation strategy for the city of Shamokin.*
4. *Request a motion to authorize SEDA-COG Community Revitalization Program Manager Betsy Kramer to submit a grant application to the DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation's Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) for the implementation of the Bridge for Claude Kehler Park and Volunteer Park.*
5. *Request a motion to authorize SEDA-COG Community Revitalization Program Manager Betsy Kramer to submit a grant application to the DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) to provide matching funds for the DCNR C2P2 grant.*
6. *Request a motion to authorize SEDA-COG Community Revitalization Program Manager Betsy Kramer to submit a grant application on behalf of the City of Shamokin for the Step Into Swim Program to support free swimming lessons at the Shamokin Community Pool for the summer of 2025.*

CDBG:

1. *Request a motion to approve revising \$25,900 from Street Reconstruction the FFY 2021 CDBG C000082261 to Downtown Streets Reconstruction – Liberty and Water.*
2. *Request a motion to approve revising \$124,682.13 from Street Reconstruction the FFY 2022 CDBG C000084351 to Downtown Streets Reconstruction – Liberty and Water.*
3. *Request a motion to approve revising \$178,039.40 from Downtown Streets Reconstruction – Liberty and Water FFY 2022 CDBG C000084351 to Street Reconstruction.*
4. *Request a motion to approve the demolition of 203 South 7th Street to the lowest bidder, Northeast Industrial Services, Corp., with a bid of \$21,309.00.*
5. *Request a motion to approve the demolition of 205 South 7th Street to the lowest bidder, Northeast Industrial Services, Corp., with a bid of \$23,270.00.*
6. *Request a motion to approve the demolition of 209, 211 and 213 South 7th Street to the lowest bidder, Northeast Industrial Services, Corp., with a bid of \$14,420.*
7. *Request a motion to approve the demolition of 203 South 7th Street to the lowest bidder, Northeast Industrial Services, Corp., with a bid of \$21,309.00.*
8. *Request a motion to approve the demolition of 216-218 East Cameron Street to the lowest bidder, Robert Gusick, with a bid of \$19,012.00.*
9. *Request a motion to approve the demolition of 245 S 6th Street to the lowest bidder, Robert Gusick, with a bid of \$10,415.00.*
10. *Request a motion to approve the demolition of 406 North Rock Street to the lowest bidder, Robert Gusick, with a bid of \$19,012.00.*
11. *Request a motion to approve (**or reject**) the demolition of 621 Bear Valley Avenue to the lowest bidder, Northeast Industrial Services, Corp., with a bid of \$68,429.00.*
12. *Request a motion to deny the demolition of 105 N Marshall Street to the lowest bidder, Robert Gusick, with a bid of \$25,012.00 due to omission of necessary work and approve (**or reject**) the bid of Northeast Industrial Services, Corp., with a bid of \$67,348.00.*

NEW BUSINESS:

1. *Request a motion to approve the 2025 Street Sweeper Schedule.*
2. *Request a motion to approve contractual pay for the Deputy Tax Collector for additional duties performed in the absence of the Treasurer, at the rate of \$20.00 per hour, not to exceed 10 hours per week.*
3. *Request a motion to authorize an advertisement to hire a full-time police officer in the City of Shamokin.*
4. *Request a motion to authorize the Treasurer to close the Shamokin RDA Rehab Fund bank account.*
5. *Request a motion to approve Mrs. Brown's Easter Egg Hunt on April 19, 2025 from 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M. at Volunteer Park.*
6. *Request a motion to approve Oliver's St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 15, 2025 from 9:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M. in front of Oliver's on Independence Street.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**

1. *Request a motion to reappoint William Allen to the Zoning Board for a five-year term effective January 1, 2025.*
2. *Request a motion to reappoint Steve Jeffrey to the Zoning Board for a five-year term effective January 1, 2025.*
3. *Request a motion to nominate a candidate to the Zoning Board vacancy previously occupied by Mr. Garancheskie.*
4. *Request a motion to nominate a candidate to the first Planning Commission vacancy for a four-year term effective January 1, 2025.*
5. *Request a motion to nominate a candidate to the second Planning Commission vacancy for a four-year-term effective January 1, 2025.*

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

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

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

The Regular Monthly Meeting of Shamokin City Council was held this evening with Mayor Richard Ulrich presiding.

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE TO FLAG:

PRAYER:

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

Council retired to executive session from 6:05 P.M. until 6:21 P.M.

PRESENTATIONS:

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

BIDS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

MINUTES:

MOTION BY: Duganitz to approve the minutes of the City of Shamokin Council Meeting of February 10, 2025 (Regular Council Meeting).

Second by: McLaughlin

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

BILLS:

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

Second by: Kehler

Councilman McLaughlin asked for clarification on the bill payments to Hourigan, Kluger and Quinn; Lexis Nexis; LTS Plumbing; and Omega Systems. The Deputy Administrator replied that Hourigan, Kluger and Quinn payments are solicitor fees for the City's labor attorney. Lexis Nexis is a service used by the tax office. LTS Plumbing on February 19 was likely boiler repair at City Hall. Omega Systems provides IT services and city emails.

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

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Accounts & Finance

Controller Kinder presented the Treasurer's report for the month of February. Total General Fund balance: \$783,768.44; total Motor License balance: \$139,733.88; total Library Balance: \$194,845.59; total Sinking Fund #1 balance: \$148,795.07; total Recreation balance: \$267,969.20; total Street Lighting balance: \$6,882.24; total American Legion balance: \$1,503.17; total Neighborhood Mitigation balance: \$31,804.93; total Code Department Credit Cards balance: \$3,412.50; total Police Department Credit Cards balance: \$578.26. Total balance in all accounts to March 1, 2025: \$1,579,293.28.

Parks and Public Buildings

Councilman Duganitz reported that Bucknell and high school students will be participating in a United Way Day of Action on April 25 to help clean up city parks and streets. The CSO food distribution event will be in town the same day at Claude Kehler Park. Volunteers are being sought to help fill 16,000 easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt next month.

Councilman Duganitz also discussed the ongoing issue of dog waste on Lincoln Street, Market Street and in front of the pool. One offender has been caught on camera. Dog waste stations are available in these areas and the councilman encouraged the public to make use of them. The Solicitor and Chief of Police discussed the individual who was caught on camera and ways to investigate the matter.

Councilwoman Moyer provided an update on Music in the Park. Coordinator David Spotts is still interested in managing the event this year but due to an illness, may present an abbreviated version of Music in the Park. Councilwoman Moyer stated that she would have further updates in a few weeks.

Streets and Public Improvements

Councilman McLaughlin reported that the 2025 sweeper schedule is being changed from previous years. Starting the week of April 14, warnings will be issued. Ticketing begins the following week. The sweeper will run every other week starting in May. The Chief of Police added that there have been major problems with the traditional second and fourth full week schedule, and there was a consensus in favor of switching to every other week.

Councilman McLaughlin reported that the street department has already begun sweeping, updated some signage in the city, and reopened the steps. Trash has been cleaned up from city parks, playgrounds, and Market Street. The Councilman also recognized Craig Schoch from Craig's Plumbing and Heating for donating 12 tons of salt to the Street Department.

Public Safety

The Code Department reported \$28,151.50 in revenue for the month of February and 114 complaints addressed. The Fire Department reported 35 calls for the month of February.

In response to a question from Councilman McLaughlin, the Deputy Administrator stated the abatement letter had been sent out.

Controller

The Controller had nothing to report.

Treasurer

The Treasurer reported that she is moving forward with closing the bank accounts listed under the RDA and that a new CDBG account will be opened. Taxes have started coming in.

Chief of Police

The Police Department reported 1,050 calls for the month of February and 3,151 miles patrolled. All Council received a copy of this report. Officer Minnig is listed under part-time officers to avoid skewing the statistics.

The Chief of Police reported that the old unmarked car has been stripped and will be ready for auction soon. Another vehicle will be going to the Code Department. Two new police hires will be attending the police academy in May and will undergo their agility test in two weeks.

Councilman McLaughlin asked what the unmarked vehicle is worth. The Chief replied that the vehicle has high mileage and a bad motor, and was previously used for police academy travel. It has been stripped of radios and equipment in anticipation of sale. The Chief stated he will try to get an estimate of the value. Councilman McLaughlin referenced the fire department's request for a vehicle, but the Chief advised against it due to the condition of the motor.

In response to a question from Councilman Kehler, the Chief stated we will no longer be using department vehicles for police academy travel on a regular basis.

SEDA-COG

Tonia Troup discussed the upcoming CDBG motions. In response to a question from Councilman Duganitz, Ms. Troup clarified that the first three motions are revising funds from 2023 and 2021 to different parts of the street reconstruction projects. Ms. Troup also discussed the demolition bid for Bear Valley Avenue, which is a higher figure due to the hand tear-down required. She recommended approving motions #1-11 and rejecting #12 as she believes it can be put back out for a lower bid. In response to a question from Councilman Kehler, Ms. Troup stated only one bid was received for Bear Valley Avenue. Council expressed a preference to reject #11 in order to explore other options such as purchasing the adjoining properties.

MOTION BY: Duganitz to approve items #1-6 as listed under "SEDA-COG" on the agenda.

Second by: Kehler

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

Nays: None

Absent:

CDBG:

MOTION BY: Moyer to approve items #1-3 and #5-12, as listed under "CDBG" on the agenda. Under Item #11, the motion rejects the bid of Northeast Industrial Corporation for the demolition of 621 Bear Valley Avenue. Under Item #12, the motion rejects both the bids of Robert Gusick and Northeast Industrial Corporation for the demolition of 105 N. Marshall St. Item #4 is a duplicate and is omitted.

Second by: Kehler

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

Councilman Duganitz thanked Matt McMullen for his work on the MORE grant.

NEW BUSINESS:

The City Administrator and Solicitor discussed the District Attorney's Northumberland County community service program as presented at the council work session. The Solicitor commented that the approval of the program does not involve any expenditure of funds and can be voted on under New Business as a single motion together with the other agenda items.

MOTION BY: Duganitz to approve items #1-6 as listed on the agenda under New Business, together with Item #7, a motion to approve an agreement with Northumberland County to participate in the county's community service program.

Second by: Kehler

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Council agreed to table items #1 and #2.

MOTION BY: Kehler to appoint Craig Schoch to the Zoning Board to replace Mr. Garancheskie; reappoint Jackie Valania to the Planning Commission; and appoint Sean McLaughlin to the Planning Commission.

Second by: Moyer

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

The Solicitor presented the list of restrictions on the upcoming sale of city properties, to wit: 1. No housing of farm animals, fowl or exotic animals of any kind; 2. No accumulation of trash, rubbish, demolition materials, appliances, furniture or scrap metal; 3. No motor homes, tractor trailers, dump trucks, shipping containers or commercial vehicles of any kind; 4. No accumulation of junk vehicles, abandoned vehicles, vehicle parts, unlicensed vehicles, inoperable vehicles, uninsured vehicles, salvaged vehicles, wrecked vehicles, burned out vehicles; 5. No tiny homes, camper usage or buildings used for

habitation which are not attached to a solid ground foundation/footer; 6. no trailer shall be kept or utilized for the accumulation of trash, garbage, rubbish, recycling or automobile parts.

The Solicitor proposed that the purchaser agree to retain the property for a period of time. Council agreed on a period of three years.

MOTION BY: Duganitz to approve deed restrictions #1-6 on city properties; together with #7, an agreement of sale stipulation against the sale or conveyance of the property for a period of three years.

Second by: McLaughlin

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Councilman Duganitz asked whether this would be advertised. The Solicitor replied that the sale of properties has already been advertised in the newspaper.

Councilman McLaughlin asked the Solicitor about amending the landlord/tenant ordinance to include trash as the landlord's responsibility.

MOTION BY: McLaughlin to authorize the Solicitor to draft an amendment to the landlord/tenant ordinance in reference the landlord's responsibility for trash pickup.

Second by: Kehler

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Jesse Storm asked Council to reach out to the Home Rule Study Commission as he believes they are proposing restrictive covenants such as requiring 150 signatures in the office on petitions. Mr. Storm also stated that it has been found in other areas that a municipality cannot restrict who pays for trash when it is a third-party service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting ended at 7:08 P.M.

Minutes taken by Valentine Mountjoy, Administrative Accountant