

THE CITY OF SHAMOKIN COUNCIL MEETING

April 14, 2025

6PM

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE TO FLAG:

PRAYER:

ROLL CALL:

PRESENTATIONS:

BIDS:

1. *Motion to accept the bid of Mark Biedzrycki for 13 S. 8th St. in the amount of \$1,501.00*
2. *Motion to accept the bid of David VanDoren for 929-931 Oneida St. in the amount of \$1,000.00*
3. *Motion to accept the bid of Steven Garancheskie for 10 S. Rock St, 12 S. Rock St, and 14 S. Rock St. in the amount of \$1,500.00*

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. *Motion to accept the letter of resignation of Mayor Ulrich, effective April 14, 2025.*

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

MINUTES:

Motion to accept the minutes of the Shamokin City Council Meeting of March 10, 2025 (Regular Council Meeting).

BILLS:

Motion to approve the bills from March 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
Downtown Manager
Americorps Vista
CDBG*

NEW BUSINESS:

1. *Request a motion to approve the Shamokin Car Cruise on April 19, 2025 from 6pm-10pm at Downtown Shamokin with a rain date of April 26, 2025.*
2. *Request a motion to approve the Shamokin Car Cruise on May 17, 2025 from 6pm-10pm at Downtown Shamokin with a rain date of May 24, 2025.*
3. *Request a motion to approve the Shamokin Car Cruise on June 14, 2025 from 6pm-10pm at Downtown Shamokin with a rain date of June 21, 2025.*
4. *Request a motion to approve the Shamokin Car Cruise on July 19, 2025 from 6pm-10pm at Downtown Shamokin with a rain date of July 26, 2025.*
5. *Request a motion to approve the Shamokin Car Cruise on August 16, 2025 from 6pm-10pm at Downtown Shamokin with a rain date of August 23, 2025.*
6. *Request a motion to approve the Shamokin Car Cruise on September 13, 2025 from 6pm-10pm at Downtown Shamokin with a rain date of September 20, 2025.*
7. *Request a motion to approve the Shamokin Car Cruise on October 4, 2025 from 6pm-10pm at Downtown Shamokin with a rain date of October 18, 2025.*
8. *Request a motion to approve the Heritage 5K Race on May 24, 2025 from 9am-10am. The race will begin and end at the front of the Independence Fire Company located on 100 N. Market St. and E. Arch St.*
9. *Request a motion to approve the Metal Recycling Event on May 3, 2025 from 10am-2pm at the Municipal Parking Lot on Rock St. and Independence St.*
10. *Request a motion to approve the Chestnut Street Italian Festival on October 4, 2025 from 11am-8pm at 516 N. Chestnut St.*
11. *Request a motion to approve the Annual Memorial Day March & Service on May 26, 2025 from 9:30am-11am, this will take place at the Price of Freedom Memorial between North Market St. and 8th St.*
12. *Motion to authorize SEDA-COG's Betsy Kramer to apply for a DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) grant for the Independence Street Streetscape project in the amount of \$1,500.00.*
13. *Motion to authorize Downtown Manager, Justin Bainbridge, to apply for a T-Mobile grant through the Main Street America program for phase 2 of the Volunteer Park, not to exceed the maximum grant amount of \$50,000.*
14. *Motion to approve Resolution 25-02, providing signature authorization for the Claude Kehler Park Bridge Implementation project grant from DCNR.*
15. *Motion to approve Resolution 25-03, providing signature authorization for the DCED Multi-Modal Transportation Fund grant.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

1. *Motion to approve Resolution 25-04 amending the International Property Maintenance Code violations section.*
2. *Motion to ratify the filing of objections to the 2025 Northumberland County Judicial Upset Sale.*

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

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

City of Shamokin Regular Council Meeting
Monday, April 14, 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, Moyer, Kehler, Ulrich
Absent:

PRESENTATIONS:

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mayor Ulrich presented his letter of resignation to Council. The Mayor expressed his regret and explained that he is tendering his resignation effective immediately due to health reasons. The Mayor then presented City Administrator Slaby with a key to the city.

City Administrator Slaby commented that today is his 11th anniversary of working for the city. With the resignation of the Mayor, it is a sad day and Mr. Ulrich will be missed.

The Mayor gave permission for Joe Leschinskie to deliver remarks. Mr. Leschinskie urged the public to be respectful of the Mayor's decision and shared memories of the mayoral campaign, recognizing the Mayor's past service as an Army veteran, county coroner and chair of the Republican Committee. As Mayor, Mr. Ulrich created the Blight Task Force and doubled the city's police force. Mr. Leschinskie thanked the Mayor for keeping the community safe and praised him as a great friend, family man, and a person of character, patience, and understanding.

MOTION BY: Duganitz to accept the letter of resignation of Mayor Ulrich, effective April 14, 2025.

Second by: Moyer

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Solicitor explained the mayoral transition process. When there is a mayoral vacancy, council has 30 days to appoint a successor. According to the Third Class City Code, in the absence of the mayor, the

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vice president of council serves as acting mayor. Since the vice president of council is the Director of Finance, Councilwoman Moyer will now serve as the acting mayor until the next meeting.

Councilman Duganitz inquired as to the possibility of appointing a member of council, referencing the fact that Councilman McLaughlin is currently running for mayor unopposed. Acting Mayor Moyer stated that interested parties will be able to submit a letter of interest and Council will fill the vacancy within 30 days. If the appointment created a council vacancy, another 30-day period would follow in which the council vacancy would be filled. The Solicitor clarified that the Third Class City code does not mandate the submission of letters of interest, but that we have solicited them in the past. Councilman Kehler asked whether Councilwoman Moyer's position would also have to be advertised. The Solicitor replied that we only need letters of interest for the mayoral position. They will need to be submitted by the workshop and an appointment will be approved at the following council meeting. In response to a question from Betsy Kramer, the Solicitor stated that Councilwoman Moyer can sign grant applications in her role as acting mayor as she will assume any and all responsibilities of the Mayor. The City Administrator and Solicitor agreed that Council should introduce a motion to advertise.

MOTION BY: Kehler to advertise for letters of interest for the position of interim mayor for the term ending December 31, 2025.

Second by: McLaughlin

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Acting Mayor Moyer commented that it has been a pleasure to know Mayor Ulrich and praised his leadership. She expressed hope that the City will now go forward in the established process of appointing a replacement per the city code.

BIDS:

Council retired to executive session from 6:29 P.M. until 6:41 P.M.

MOTION BY: Duganitz to table items #1, #2, and #3 on the agenda under Bids until the next meeting.

Second by: Kehler

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

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

Joe Leschinskie spoke regarding the mayoral vacancy and asked whether council could appoint a replacement today should a member make the motion. The Solicitor replied that this is possible. Mr. Leschinskie stated that the process should not drag out as he believes the choice is obvious. He expressed his hope that the majority would support that decision.

MINUTES:

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

Second by: Kehler

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

BILLS:

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

Second by: Duganitz

Councilman McLaughlin questioned the M&T bill, which was explained by the Deputy Administrator to consist of miscellaneous City expenses on the City's credit card. Councilman Duganitz inquired as to the cell phone bill, to which the City Administrator and Deputy Administrator replied that employees pay for their personal lines via payroll deductions.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Duganitz, McLaughlin, Moyer

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstention: Kehler

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Accounts & Finance

Acting Mayor Moyer presented the Treasurer's report for the month of March. Total General Fund balance: \$1,066,507.68; total Motor License balance: \$322,477.73; total Library Balance: \$192,846.49; total Sinking Fund #1 balance: \$179,067.48; total Recreation balance: \$299,802.86; total Street Lighting balance: \$18,050.38; total American Legion balance: \$2,015.37; total Neighborhood Mitigation balance: \$40,940.96; total Code Department Credit Cards balance: \$4,327.00; total Police Department Credit Cards balance: \$422.26. Total balance in all accounts to April 1, 2025: \$2,126,458.21.

Parks and Public Buildings

Councilman Duganitz reported that Mrs. Brown's annual easter egg hunt will take place at Volunteer Park this Saturday at 1:00 P.M. and thanked volunteers who filled 16,000 eggs. The Shamokin Warms My Heart event will take place the same day from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at Claude Kehler Park. The United Way Day of Action on April 25 will bring students and adults together to help clean up the city, meeting at Claude Kehler Park at 9:00 A.M. Thanks to City Administrator Slaby, the CSO food pantry is back in Shamokin and will hold a distribution also on April 25 at Claude Kehler Park. The event will take place on one or two Fridays each month. The City Administrator encouraged anyone in need to take advantage of the program, which provides quality food to eligible families at no cost.

Councilman Duganitz also announced that Rosalind Kane Day will be observed the following day, April 26th, at 1:00 P.M. in Claude Kehler Park. Metal Mania is on May 3rd in the Municipal Parking Lot from

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10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., and all proceeds benefit Shamokin Fire Police. The pool has begun the process of opening for the season, hopefully ready by Memorial Day.

Streets and Public Improvements

Councilman McLaughlin reported that the street sweeper is currently running. Warnings are being issued this week and residents should remember to move their vehicles. All fire extinguishers located in municipal buildings have been recertified. The swimming pool is waiting for water to be turned on and the locker room floors have been repainted. The Claude Kehler Park restrooms will be opened soon. Equipment for cutting grass in the city is ready to go.

Public Safety

The Code Department reported \$11,547.50 in revenue for the month of March and 131 complaints addressed. The Fire Department reported 43 calls for the month of March.

Councilman Kehler reported that the code department will soon be addressing grass complaints.

Controller

The Controller provided an update on the Home Rule study. It has been one year since the commission was elected. The Controller commented that he is appreciative of all members and has a positive attitude about the progress of the study. He also thanked Council for their support.

Treasurer

The Treasurer reported that she is sending the Quickbooks data to the auditor to begin the 2024 audit. She is also sending 1st Quarter 2025 data to Klacik for their review. The Liquid Fuels audit will soon be underway. The pool is adopting new software to help track time and inventory, and will be getting a dedicated credit card for pool expenses this season to make accounting more efficient. The City currently has only one credit card and must split expenses.

Chief of Police

The Police Department reported 1,348 calls for the month of March and 4,033 miles patrolled.

SEDA-COG

Betsy Kramer reported that a Hydraulic & Hydrologic Study presentation will take place May 1st from 3:00-4:00 P.M. and 6:00-7:00 P.M. at the library to inform the public about the findings of the study and the new Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The 3PM and 6PM sessions are identical. The study should be completed by the end of the year. While some residents may see flood insurance rate increases, rates will not be quadrupled as was previously reported. There will be a page on the City website with additional information

Ms. Kramer also reported on the \$500,000 Congressional appropriations for the American Legion building. An environmental review is underway and a SHPO review will need to be completed as well. Ms. Kramer has reached out to HUD for confirmation before sending out requests for proposals (RFPs) to contractors. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Duganitz, Ms. Kramer stated that work cannot begin until all environmental reviews are complete.

Ms. Kramer informed Council that she is applying for two grants for the Claude Kehler Park bridge implementation project. The City will need to match part of the grant but may be able to use Ms. Kramer's time as in-kind funding. She explained some of the resolutions on the agenda tonight which provide signature authorization for grants.

The 10-year Comprehensive Plan, drafted by Gannett Fleming, is currently being reviewed by the City Planning Commission. Once they approve the plan, it will be provided to Council for adoption. A public meeting will be needed. Councilman Duganitz inquired as to whether the Zoning Board would be involved, to which Ms. Kramer replied that the Zoning Board is reviewing the zoning book rewrite portion of the project.

The Independence Street Downtown Makeover is in its first phase. We will begin looking for contractors by the end of the year. The LSA funding for the fire truck has been approved but has not yet been received. The Safe Streets for All project is nearing its completion and a draft plan has been provided to Council.

Councilman McLaughlin asked when Council will have an opportunity to meet with the engineers before the Downtown Makeover project is put out for bid. Ms. Kramer replied that she can reach out to them but believes the engineers are currently working with LATS to address some of Council's concerns about traffic issues. Councilman Duganitz also questioned whether they had reached out to the Chief of Police regarding the cameras, but it is not known whether they have done so yet.

Ms. Kramer reported that the pool will be pursuing the Step Into Swim Grant again this year to help fund free swimming lessons.

Downtown Manager Bainbridge explained that Council will be voting tonight on his application for the T-Mobile Main Street America grant, which if successful will fund an ADA-accessible playground at Volunteer Park. Mr. Bainbridge added that he is working with Matt Spade to organize a film festival at Illumination Station. SEDA-COG will hold a meeting from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. May 8th at the library to explore possibilities for an electric vehicle charging station downtown. A SABER meet and greet event will take place May 15th from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the Springfield Banquet Hall. In response to a question from Councilman Duganitz, Mr. Bainbridge stated that Representative Culver will not be attending this event.

Ms. Kramer added that she and Mr. Bainbridge recently attended the Main Street Now Conference in Philadelphia. Acting Mayor Moyer asked the Downtown Manager to provide regular reports on his current projects.

Matt McMullen of AmeriCorps Vista reported that he has been facilitating a discussion between Stromberg/Garrigan and LATS concerning the bumpouts in the Downtown Makeover area. Mr. McMullen stated he is also researching opportunities for solar panel installation at the pool bathhouse. There are no active grants to fund the project but there may be other financial offsets. Mr. McMullen is meeting with Envinity and Street Department Foreman Kevin Richardson on Thursday to discuss the MORE improvements.

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NEW BUSINESS:

The City Administrator noted that a new event request from Oliver's for a Kentucky Derby celebration was not received in time to be included on the agenda. This event has been approved in the past. Council agreed to add this item to the agenda as item #16. Councilman Duganitz asked whether an open container suspension will be granted for the event, to which the Chief of Police responded in the affirmative as this was done before and there have never been any issues.

MOTION BY: Kehler to approve items #1-15 on the agenda, together with item #16, a motion to approve Oliver's Kentucky Derby Event on May 3, 2025 from 1:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. in front of Oliver's.

Second by: McLaughlin

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Councilman McLaughlin asked whether it would be possible for the City's various boards to provide copies of their meeting minutes. The Solicitor mentioned that the boards can provide their minutes but they may be a month behind due to their approval process. The Controller mentioned that it was a policy for the boards to provide their minutes in the past. Councilman McLaughlin also asked the City Administrator for a list of all board members.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

MOTION BY: Duganitz to approve Resolution 25-04 amending the International Property Maintenance Code violations section.

Second by: Kehler

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Solicitor explained that he is working on objections to the sale of certain properties in the Northumberland County Judicial Upset Sale. The Shamokin EDA or RDA may be interested in purchasing some of these properties. Councilman Duganitz expressed his appreciation for these organizations' efforts to put properties back into the city.

MOTION BY: Duganitz to ratify the filing of objections to the 2025 Northumberland County Judicial Upset Sale.

Second by: Kehler

McLaughlin asked if the properties fall back on the City if the RDA or EDA choose not to purchase them. The Solicitor responded that the properties would go back on the upset sale.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mark Biedzrycki asked why the bids were tabled. The Solicitor replied that Council needs to verify some aspects of the sale and review the appraisals. The bids will be addressed on next month's agenda.

Jesse Storm thanked the City code officers for their work. He also urged the City to clarify the definition of a property manager with regard to rental properties. Mr. Storm stated that under Pennsylvania state law, a property manager must be a licensed real estate agent. If the agency owns three or more units, the property manager can be hired as a W-2 employee of the rental agency, not an independent contractor. He referenced a local property with a foundation issue which went unaddressed because the property manager failed to notified the owner. Mr. Storm further counseled against the employment of non-insured, non-licensed individuals collecting payments from the owner as a property manager and not paying taxes.

Joe Leschinskie spoke on Airbnbs in the city, including one which just opened downtown, and asked about permit requirements for these establishments. The Solicitor stated that we are reviewing other municipalities' ordinances on the subject. Mr. Leschinskie asked whether the building inspector is required to inspect these types of lodging, to which Councilman McLaughlin replied that this is an option. The Treasurer pointed out that these businesses also need to pay business privilege tax.

Councilman Kehler asked whether Council would consider appointing Councilman McLaughlin to the position of interim mayor immediately. Councilman McLaughlin expressed his appreciation but stated he would prefer to follow the process so that everyone is comfortable. Councilman Kehler stated he did not wish to appoint another person and then replace them following the election. The Controller pointed out that the Home Rule charter will be implementing this same process in the interests of transparency.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting ended at 7:53 P.M.

Minutes taken by Valentine Mountjoy, Administrative Accountant