

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

August 20, 2024

President Kline called the workshop of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St., Shoemakersville, PA at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz Jr., Paul Gruber – Manager & Codes, Gary Methax – Public Works Supervisor and Brandon Nabar – Junior Council Person.

Absent from the meeting: Dana Randazzo, Dustin Remp – Mayor & Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer

Manager’s Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber discusses the scaling that has closed off the pipes at well 6. With Mr. Methax’s knowledge of pipes, he and Mr. Gruber feel that staff can replace the line from the discharge line of the wellhead to the wellhouse, replacing the existing pipe with C900 with sleeves and mega-lugs from Exeter Supply for \$917.52. A backhoe would be rented from Kuzan’s for \$265. Mr. Methax and Mr. Smith both obtained prices for the Rigid pipe de-scaler. A chain knocker, which knocks scale off the pipe, would be needed for the area from the borough discharge pipe to close to the well. No permits from DEP are required. No warranties would be voided by performing the work in-house.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the purchase of the C900 pipe with mechanical attachments from Exeter Supply, a 1-day backhoe rental from Kuzan’s and the Rigid pipe de-scaler for a cost not to exceed \$2,800. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Mr. Gruber reports that the \$2,800 would be adequate and includes the cost of the de-scaler. President Kline confirms that the Exeter Supply quote listed the available options. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber discussed part-time seasonal employees with staff, with all parties feeling that a full-time entry level employee would be better suited for the position. **He will forward a draft job description to the employee relations committee for review.** Vice President Botwright requests a full job description, as well as a short list of duties for advertising purposes. Mr. Gruber and Council discuss possible payrates of \$18-\$20/hr., depending upon experience.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to authorize the advertisement for a full-time employee for the borough with a job description to be approved by the employee relations committee, with a pay rate starting at \$18/hr. commensurate with experience. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to purchase the Hach digital pH sensor for an amount not to exceed \$1,550. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion made unanimously.

Fire Chief’s Report – Chief Wagner

Chief Wagner asks when Doggie Dip Day will be held at the pool, with Vice President Botwright noting Saturday, September 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. As the fire company requires a pool for a water rescue class that same day from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Chief Wagner will check with the Schuylkill Valley pool for their availability.

Chief Wagner reports that Franklin & Noble Manor will be installing an FD connection on the side of their building.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

A meeting was held at the borough garage with ARRO to go over possible roof repairs for the building. ARRO will follow up with a report.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz notes of Mr. Gruber's email regarding the headworks, with Mr. Gruber reporting that the lift station is stuck. Mr. Gruber describes the issue and feels that once the grit and grease is cleaned out the unit will be operational. A fine-screen catch may be needed if available. **President Kline asks Mr. Gruber to review the O & M manual for a PM schedule for the equipment.**

Water – President Kline – nothing to report

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Doggie Dip Day will be held on Saturday, September 7.

Vice President Botwright reports on bees in the building at the pool. Mr. Bachman sealed holes by an old electrical panel on the front of the building, however new bees were found inside the building. President Kline recommends contacting Ehrlich.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz reports that Tractor Supply is requesting a 60-day time extension for their temporary certificate of occupancy.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to grant Tractor Supply a 60-day time extension for their temporary certificate of occupancy. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wertz reports that staff reviewed the zoning ordinance and notes that odor is included in the ordinance. Council reviews the nuisance ordinance. Vice President Botwright reports that Section 602 (2)vii (2) of the zoning ordinance notes that the keeping of domestic pets should not create a serious nuisance, including noise and odor. The property in question was previously cited under the nuisance ordinance. **Mr. Gruber will draft a citation for the property under the zoning ordinance.** He continues to cite the same property for grass and weeds.

Mr. Wertz notes that the sign section of Camp Hill's zoning ordinance was declared unconstitutional. He agreed with the case law opinion analogy that Christmas decorations are a personal expression, as are political signs and that they cannot be restricted unequally. Mr. Wertz notes that while the borough's ordinance does not mention sign content, there are exemptions made, based somewhat on content. As such, he forwarded the research to Solicitor Mooney. Council discusses the sign portion of the borough's zoning ordinance. Discussion on removing Section i from the sign portion of the zoning ordinance is noted. **Mr. Wertz will forward the topic to Solicitor Mooney for review.** Awareness letters will not be sent until after Solicitor Mooney's review of the Camp Hill ruling.

Mr. Gruber discusses the selling of flags/signs in the parking lot at 600 Shoemaker Ave. Initially the matter was thought to be covered in the zoning ordinance. As such, the seller filled out a zoning permit application

and paid the \$25 fee. He spoke with Solicitor Mooney regarding any requirements that may be needed, with Solicitor Mooney noting that Ordinance 433-2013 references temporary sales as a definition under Section 201 of the zoning ordinance. However, this definition was not part of the updated zoning ordinance adopted in 2023. As such, Solicitor Mooney recommended that the soliciting/peddler ordinances 152 & 245 be followed. Mr. Gruber reports that Ordinance 152 notes that sellers may not set up at one particular area. Streets and alleys would cover all borough areas. He further notes that the solicitor's permit application requires a signature granting permission for the borough to conduct a background check for each person selling, noting that each seller needs their own permit.

Vice President Botwright reports that the current zoning ordinance states temporary sales are only a use permitted by right in a C-2 district if the sales take place inside the building. The zoning ordinance may need to be amended to include temporary sales. **Mr. Gruber will contact the property owner to note that sales outside of the building may not take place and must occur inside the structure.** If outside sales stop and no sales are made inside of the building, the \$25 paid for the zoning permit will be refunded. The soliciting/peddler ordinances do not apply.

Employee Relations – President Kline

Mr. Mohn will receive his sewer plant operator's license document once he sends the required paperwork to the state.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for August 6, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for August 20, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright reports that the draft budget and last 3 years of expenses will be forwarded the week of September 3. Input should be provided to her by October 11.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes that the Community Yard Sale will be September 21.

New Business – nothing to report

Old Business

Council discusses the water meter/damage that occurred at 328 Apple Ln. Vice President Botwright reports that the borough's insurance deductible is \$0. The only reference made to ownership of the water meter was located in Ordinance 74 as "All piping shall be so arranged that the Borough's meter can be set..." Council discusses the list submitted and requested reimbursement made by Mrs. Noecker. Mr. Gruber spoke with John Diefenderfer from Exeter Supply and asked if Exeter Supply could reach out to MasterMeter and request that they reimburse Mrs. Noecker for \$2,894.83. If MasterMeter would not reimburse for the full amount, Mr. Gruber would like Exeter Supply to pay the balance. Exeter Supply has the meter which they will forward to MasterMeter for review and comment. Mr. Wertz and President Kline discuss insurance deductibles and actual cash value for a claim. Mr. Wertz recommends that the borough's insurance information be provided to Mrs. Noecker in order for her to file a claim.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Grim to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted - Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer