

CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

August 2, 2023

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St. Shoemakersville, PA at 7:04 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, David Kee – Engineer – leaves at 8:30 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor – leaves at 8:30 p.m., Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber

- **Permits & Notices:** The issue with the car parking in Apple Ln. has been resolved. A permit for a shed on Reber St. was issued today. A CDL training school will be occupying the former Bell Trucking property.
- **Shoemakersville Plaza:** Mark Koch apologizes for the lack of communication between the property owner, the borough, and Tractor Supply. Since February, they have been working on consolidating the development between the township and the borough, and the Chapter 105 permit wetlands issues. They have no control over what Tractor Supply is doing at the location and were unaware that access from Reber St. to the CVS property has been blocked. Mr. Gruber reports that the contractor’s fence, to be in place for another 30-60 days, was installed for safety issues relating to the equipment on site. Mr. Homel states that the footprint approved was for the garden center and a sign variance. They are not involved with the actual construction or the closing of Reber St.

Attorney Koch, Mr. Homel and Mr. Wertz discuss the waivers. While Mr. Homel reports that the filling tank and the 10’8” fire lane was granted through the zoning hearing board, Council notes that with the cement pad and the proposed placement of the propane filling station, there is only an approximate 3’ width for the fire lane. While a stop work order was not issued, Mr. Wertz made a request, which was followed, that any outside work on the project be placed on hold.

Mr. Wertz views outstanding project issues to include obtaining a permit for the propane fill tank, approval of the fire lane by the fire chief, storm water concerns/revisions being added with the pervious surface for the path, and the piping on the south side. Mr. Homel and Council discuss the French drains being installed by Tractor Supply. Solicitor Mooney states that if any utilities are being installed, they need to be shown on the land development plan. Mr. Gruber notes that the tank placement is different on the 2 sets of plans that were previously presented. Mr. Kutz worked on the drainage issues on one set of plans, while Mr. Blue worked on the land development plans.

Ben Kutz discusses the stormwater drainage issues at the rear of the building that were raised by a communication from Brad Smith in February. Ponding is occurring by the two inlets in the northwest corner during rain storms. He reviews their results, which show sections of stormwater pipe off of the property that have a guy wire anchor through the line, as well as crushed areas of the pipe. There are downstream issues that are not Mr. Homel’s responsibility. The water is being collected in the inlets, with the ponding not coming from Mr. Homel’s property. Solicitor Mooney recommends that the sheet be recorded and a stormwater management agreement be drafted as part of land development. The plan should be retitled as a minor subdivision & land development plan. Mr. Homel reiterates that there is to be no paving behind the building.

Council and Robert Blue review the waivers from subsections 304.C and 308.A. The emergency spillway discharges on the Perry Township side. There is further discussion on naturalized infiltration and evapotranspiration of the runoff. Mr. Blue & Mr. Kee discuss the differences between raingardens and detention ponds. If the waiver were not granted, Mr. Blue states that they would need to perform additional grading and raise the elevation of the berm. Mr. Kutz and Attorney Koch note that the property is subject to NPDES permitting, which has not yet been finalized.

Mr. Homel states that the Tractor Supply plans with underground information will be placed on Mr. Kutz's plans, which will become part of Mr. Blue's plans. The plans from both Mr. Kutz and Mr. Blue will be reviewed as one submission. Solicitor Mooney suggests that Attorney Koch send a time extension letter for the review. Mr. Kee can review the plans and provide feedback to Council, who can further discuss the matter at the September monthly meeting. A revised Quick Start Agreement and 1 set of the plans set will be forwarded to Council for discussion and review at the August workshop. A planning commission meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. before the September monthly meeting.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Garbage/Recycling Contracts:** The specs have been advertised, with bids being due by August 28. Solicitor Mooney recommends sending the current hauler notice regarding the various defaults and note that if they would be the low bidder, the borough would not accept the contract.
- **Meeting Decorum Resolution:** While visitors to meetings would not need to announce that they are recording the meeting, Council can restrict where visitors can be in the room during the meeting.

Engineer's Report – Mr. Kee

- **2023 Road Maintenance Project:** Fog seal was completed on Tuesday. A punch list of items to be completed will be reviewed with the contractor.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The borough office will be closed from August 11-18.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

Once the 8 banner proofs are reviewed and approved, a ceremony will be scheduled at the park.

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be on August 26 at 9:00 a.m.

The National Night Out event at Schuylkill Valley High School was well attended.

Mayor Remp reviews the 85 calls on the July PA State Police report.

Mayor Remp thanks the visitors that have attended the meeting. Gary Methax, the new public works supervisor is present to introduce himself. Mayor Remp also thanks the Shoemakersville Fire Company for their work at the apartment fire on Main St.

Operator/Manager's Report - Mr. Gruber

New employee Gary Methax is introduced to Council.

Mr. Gruber has discussed the fog seal deficiencies with Mr. Kee, who will communicate the findings to Martin Paving.

An interview for the open public works position is scheduled for Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Axiom is able to store the blower and motor for a short period of time.

Renegade will be onsite at the water plant on Thursday. All of the valves have been installed on filter #1. Issues regarding two of the valves not opening will be further investigated.

Mr. Gruber notes that borough staff has stepped up to fill in the gaps during the employee shortage.

Captain Clog was unable to clear the blockage in the 12" mixed liquor pipe between VLR #2 and clarifier #2. Mr. Gruber is waiting to hear when R. D. Contracting will be able to excavate and investigate the clog. Mr. Methax will aid in the process.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith reports on the vendors that picked up specs for the trash & recycling contracts. Council discusses the current haulers. Mr. Smith notes of the professional manner in which Mr. Gruber and Ms. Wagner have dealt with the residents and haulers regarding the missed trash pickups.

Vice President Botwright discusses the trash complaints submitted over the past two weeks. Council reviews the complaints, confirming 3 misses for July 15 and 3 for July 21, that were not addressed by the hauler. Mr. Grim presents a report on single residential pricing for various haulers.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline – nothing to report

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to appoint Seth Breon to the Shoemakersville Recreation Board. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Mayor Remp cites various reasons why he does not feel Mr. Breon should be appointed to the board. He and Ms. Kennedy-Kline discuss Mr. Breon. Motion carried by a vote of 6 yes to 1 abstain, with Mr. Grim abstaining.

Vice President Botwright is waiting on DCNR's final approval of the Barry Isett & Associates contract for the Park Master Plan.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Vice President Botwright briefly discusses a resolution for meeting decorum, which will be further reviewed at the August workshop.

Employee Relations – President Kline – nothing to report

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for July 18, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for August 2, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion amended to note that there will be a deduct of \$600 from the next payment to Eagle Disposal. Motion carried by a vote of 6 yes to 1 abstain.

Vice President Botwright discusses the 2024 budget, with drafts being forwarded to Council in September. Feedback should be returned to her by October 3, so that comments can be discussed at the October 17 & 23 budget workshops.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

Vice President Botwright discusses a 1-page newsletter supplement that could be drafted to communicate information to residents in between the periods when newsletters are delivered. She and Mr. Grim discuss providing the information via email or mailing. Vice President Botwright calculated the cost of mailing the typical quarterly newsletter to all borough residents to be \$500 each time.

Ms. Randazzo reports that due to staffing and volunteer issues, the ARL will not be accepting any new contracts for the remainder of 2023. She will reach out to them in October or November for 2024 options for limited animal control service to the borough. The voucher system will be discussed at the August workshop.

New Business

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks if any additional road work will be taking place on Reber St., with Mr. Gruber noting that no oil and chip will occur on that roadway.

Mr. Geschwindt reports that truck tire marks are visible on the handicap ramp at Noble Ave. & Reber St.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the results of the water test, with Ms. Wagner noting that Suburban tested the water on July 5 at the water plant and New Era Logistics and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mr. Geschwindt asks what prompted the meeting decorum resolution, with Vice President Botwright reporting that Council had previously discussed meeting length and the review of topics that had already been answered. The resolution could also include the advertisement of meetings, Roberts Rules of Order and public & Council participation at meetings.

Gary Billman (730 Main St. – did not sign in): One of the wheels on the dumpster at his apartment is broken, making it difficult to move when the hauler does not properly replace the dumpster on the cement pad.

Old Business

President Kline notes of the Community Yard Sale on September 16 and the Lion's Club Carnival, which was rescheduled to September 29 & 30.

A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted - Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer