

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Shoemakersville Borough**

**December 2, 2025**

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St. Shoemakersville, PA at 7:02 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, and Chip Haws – Solicitor.

Absent from the meeting: Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer

**Code Enforcement, Zoning & Permits – Mr. Gruber**

- **Notices & Permits:** The monthly list of permits issued is included in the meeting packets.

**Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Haws**

- **Liquor License Transfer:** The application will be advertised, with the public hearing to be held at the January 5 reorganization meeting.

**Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee**

- **Borough Hall ADA Improvements:** Mr. Kee has included the comments he received into the specifications that are being prepared for the project.
- **LSA Grant for Park Stormwater Upgrades:** The application has been submitted.

**Fire Chief’s Report – Deputy Rubright** – nothing to report

**Secretary’s Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner**

The borough office will be closed from December 24 – January 2. The 2026 reorganization meeting will be on Monday, January 5.

**Mayor’s Report – Mayor Remp**

Mayor Remp reviews the 75 calls on the November monthly PA State Police report.

The current cycle for Hometown Heroes applications is closed. Three applications will be processed.

The next meeting of the Neighborhood Watch Program will be on December 15.

**Manager’s Report – Mr. Gruber**

President Kline reports that the Star City Diner has submitted an application for an intermunicipal liquor license transfer, with Solicitor Haws noting of the hearing date on January 5.

The zoning hearing board meeting for the Blankenbiller property will be on December 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the borough office.

Mr. Wessner sent letters of notice to Sheetz for their ADA doors not working properly, and to the owner of 398 Main St. regarding stormwater requirements.

Solicitor Mooney has drafted a letter to Tractor Supply, requesting payment for ARRO's engineering fees associated with reviewing the building/engineering plans that have already been paid by the borough. If payment is not received, their Certificate of Occupancy could be revoked.

A list of streetlights that are out or flickering has been reported to First Energy.

An effluent pump was replaced on filter #1 at the water plant.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to purchase Trac Vac parts, including shipping, per the November 25 quote, for \$2,777.72. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

**Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith** – nothing to report

**Sewer – Mr. Wertz**

Mr. Wertz references Mr. Gruber's e-mail noting that last year from November 8-30, 508,280 gallons of city water was used at the plant. During that same time period this year, city water usage reduced to 114,160 gallons, having a decrease of 77.53% from 2024.

**Water – President Kline**

Suburban Testing Labs tested the water on November 4 at Bell Trucking and the water plant, with all requirements being met.

Mr. Kee worked with Mr. Gruber to resolve issues with the CL17 unit.

Mr. Wertz reports that ARRO will be performing a preliminary analysis regarding water production, using approximately 10-12 hours of engineering time. Mr. Kee notes the analysis would involve evaluating the need for all borough wells and whether or not any of them could be taken offline. Mr. Kee and President Kline further discuss what would be included in the report.

**Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline**

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that Mr. Methax will be asking the mulch suppliers to hold their pricing until March, when the product will be put in place at the park. She recommends obtaining additional quotes for that time as well.

The park pavilion and bathrooms have been winterized. The Lion's Club Christmas event at the fire company will be on December 20.

**Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz** – nothing to report

**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 November 18, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for December 2, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the 2026 budget. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Ordinance 471-2025, setting the 2026 real estate tax at 8.5 mills. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Mr. Wertz was under the impression that the description for the 1 mil breakdown stating “Tax rate for purchase of fire equipment, fire apparatus, etc.” would be stated as “Emergency Services.” Ms. Kennedy-Kline also agrees. Vice President Botwright reports that based on what other municipalities utilize, the following options are available: ambulance, rescue, emergency services, fire, fire equipment, and fire houses. Ms. Kennedy-Kline feels the term emergency services would imply that the funds could also be distributed to the ambulance service, while her impression is that the funds were to be solely for the fire company. Council discusses fire equipment/apparatus/houses vs. emergency services and feels the current wording may be too specific on what can be purchased by the fire company with the funds. Solicitor Haws believes that anything that would fall under fire protection/services would be covered by the 1 mill tax. Fire protection/service may have been better wording. Ambulance service would have its own tax line. President Kline discusses how tangible assets and training would be categorized under the current wording. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Resolution 180-2025 setting employee contributions for the non-uniform pension plan at 0% for 2026. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright asks if the borough office building renovations would be completed in time to hold either the May 19 or November 3 election at the office. Mr. Kee reports that the majority of the work is exterior and could potentially be completed in time for the November election. Vice President Botwright recommends holding the November meeting on Wednesday, November 4. Solicitor Haws reports that the meeting could be advertised for both November 3 and 4, simply cancelling the meeting that is not needed.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to advertise the 2026 meeting list, with the addendum of a November 3 and a November 4 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

**Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo** – nothing to report

### **New Business**

Mr. Grim would like to reward the staff involved in the utility water conversion project at the wastewater plant. The plan devised to complete the work without the use of scaffolding resulted in a large savings in revenue. Vice President Botwright notes that individual Council members may contribute, however borough funds may not be utilized for gifts. President Kline and Solicitor Haws note that an employee luncheon would be permissible.

### **Public Comment**

**Mark Paine (25 Main St.):** Asks if there will be a sign-up list for the Christmas at the Fire Co event, with Vice President Botwright stating that it is a Lion’s Club event and will be run through them.

Mr. Paine thanks the fire company for their service, citing several calls that occurred in a single day.

**Dustin Remp (924 Main St.):** As this is his last meeting as Mayor, he wishes to thank everyone, including the residents that attend the meetings. It has been an honor for him to serve in his hometown.

\*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted - Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer