

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

January 5, 2026

Mayor Kisha called the reorganization meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St. Shoemakersville, PA at 7:08 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – arrives at 7:35 p.m., Amy Botwright, Michael Grim, Mark Paine, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith – arrives at 7:14 p.m., Joseph Wertz, Jr., David Kisha – Mayor, Lowell Leaman – Engineer, Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Mayor Kisha calls for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Solicitor Mooney recommends making Mayor Kisha temporary chair of the meeting.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to have Mayor Kisha be temporary chair of the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

The floor is open for nominations for President and Vice President of Council.

*A motion is made by Mr. Paine to nominate Chris Kline for President of Council. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Paine to nominate Amy Botwright for Vice President of Council. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting is turned over to Vice President Botwright.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to appoint Dana Smith as President Pro Tem. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

Solicitor Mooney reports that today is the date and time set for the liquor license transfer hearing for Star City Diner & Pizza Parlor, Inc. to request the transfer of Liquor License No. R-13985/LID No. 101306 from Emily's Restaurant in Mohnton Borough to the Star City Diner at 600 Shoemaker Ave. in Shoemakersville. The notice was duly advertised, with the application being submitted. The application is Borough Exhibit 1 with the public notice being Borough Exhibit 2. The applicant will present evidence as to why Council should look favorably upon the request to transfer the liquor license into the borough. Afterwards, Council, then members of the public may ask questions of the applicant. Members of the public may then present evidence of why they are in favor or against the transfer. General statements may then be made in favor of or against the transfer.

Salvatore Folino (Brennan & Folino) and Calogero Sottosanti (Star City Diner): Attorney Folino represents Star City Diner & Pizza Parlor, Inc. in their pursuit to transfer the liquor license. The PLCB requires that the borough pass a resolution approving the license transfer. Mr. Sottosanti is owner of the business and leases the property. Business hours are Monday – Sunday, from 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. The business serves diner fair and pizza, having 100 seats available for guests.

Attorney Folino states that the business must maintain seating for 30 people and will need to have RAMP certified staff available from 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m. Mr. Sottosanti currently shares a liquor license for

Craft 2700, which is a restaurant in Muhlenberg. Star City Diner currently has security cameras and will obtain an ID scanner. The business will be subject to random state inspections if any issues arise.

Mr. Sottosanti states that there may be a guitar player for entertainment at various times, with Attorney Folino noting that a special entertainment license would be required to do so. The establishment will also sell six-packs of beer for take-out.

There are no questions from Council or the Public. For Public Comment, Rusty Wagner feels the license transfer would be beneficial, as this would give the business an opportunity to grow, when the town is fairly built out. Andrea Snyder, general manager for Star City feels the liquor would enhance the dining experience and is looking forward to supporting the community.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to close the hearing. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously. Hearing ends at 7:21 p.m.

Executive Session

Council recesses into executive session at 7:22 p.m. to discuss the liquor license transfer. Regular session reconvened at 7:24 p.m.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adopt Resolution 181-2026 approving the transfer of the liquor license and authorize the appropriate borough representative to execute the document. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to appoint Shilpa Moser, Jennifer Adams and David Lindenmuth to the Recreation Board for 5-year terms. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Code Enforcement and Permits – Mr. Gruber

The 2025 violations have been closed out. The resident at 112 E. Noble Ave. will be receiving a second letter regarding the odor created from the sewer back-up in the home carrying over to 110 E. Noble Ave. The borough lines are clear.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Mooney – nothing to report

Engineer's Report – Mr. Leaman

- **LSA Grant for Borough Hall ADA Improvements:** Seeking authorization to put the project out for bid.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize ARRO to place the ADA improvements project for the Borough Hall out for bid. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber will be reaching out to Mr. Kee to review some year-end items.

Fire Chief's Report – Chief Wagner

There were 746 calls in 2025. Last year 1,775 hours were spent training and 2,360 hours were utilized for work details and fundraisers.

Chief Wagner reports that the storage lot may be expanded, as it is performing well.

There is currently a Northern Berks EMS ambulance being housed in the engine house. As ambulance units are spread thin for coverage, the truck will be “staffed” by firefighters that have the appropriate training to respond to calls, in the event that Northern Berks and Hamburg are out of the area. Northern Berks employees may staff the truck if they become available. Mr. Wertz attests to the shortage, as he is aware of a motorcycle accident occurring in Hamburg on Christmas Eve that was responded to by Northern Berks EMS. Vice President Botwright and Chief Wagner discuss the new county-wide reporting system, which is still working through issues.

Secretary’s Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

Blue Mountain Wildlife has requested to attend either the February 3 or March 3 meeting to review their draft Master Plan for the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area. **Mr. Wertz asks Ms. Wagner to reach out to see if they could attend either the February or March workshop instead.**

Ms. Wagner requests to close the office at noon on January 12.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Kisha – nothing to report

Manager’s Report - Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber will forward a proposed permit fee schedule list, to be further reviewed at the January workshop.

Mr. Gruber reports that Mr. Bachman’s father passed away on Christmas Eve. Mr. Bachman is back to work.

New Business

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the minutes for December 2, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the bills for ratification for December 16, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the bills payable for January 5, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Grim discusses his recent visit with Mr. Methax and Mr. Mohn at the sewer plant, noting that he presented them with a card and gift certificate for their work with the utility water conversion. He notes there is positive morale amongst the staff and applauds their creativity with the zero-turn mower at the garage. The mower engine was believed to be broken and as such, staff striped the deck for parts. As the engine was later found to be in working order, a plow was fabricated for the front and is now being used for a new purpose. Staff is also repurposing old 55-gallon drums previously containing polymer, into trash and recycling containers.

A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer