

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

June 21, 2022

President Kline called the workshop 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., and Paul Gruber – Manager.

Absent from the meeting: Dustin Remp - Mayor

Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber interviewed 6 candidates for the full-time position and recommends hiring Uriah Hertzog at a rate of \$18/hr.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to offer employment to Uriah Hertzog for the full-time streets position for a rate of \$18/hr. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber discusses quotes he received for tree trimming. The fee will be \$3,600 to trim 3 trees, remove 3 trees around the pavilion, trim trees around the power line, and remove branches and thin several trees in the park, and \$3,600 to remove 9 dead Ash trees at the end of Lincoln St.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the quote from Picture Perfect Landscaping for tree work at a cost not to exceed \$7,500. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. President Kline recommends tabling the motion, as approval for the quote was not listed on the agenda. Motion not carried, by a vote of 1 yes to 6 no, with Mr. Wertz voting yes.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to add to the agenda the approval of the quote for tree trimming at the park and the end of Lincoln St. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried by a vote of 6 yes to 1 no, with Mr. Wertz voting no.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the quote from Picture Perfect Landscaping for tree work at the park and on Lincoln St., at a cost not to exceed \$7,500. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber reports that the sewer plant is running well. He notes that staff training was effective and thanks Mr. Wertz for his assistance with the process. Mr. Gruber has asked staff to send him pictures of the daily task sheets during his week off, to determine whether or not they should waste. Digester #1 is almost empty and digesters #2 and #3 should be low, as sludge was made Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Gruber and President Kline discuss the processor fault on the belt filter press.

Mr. Grim notes that while the potholes at CVS have been filled, the grate has not yet been welded. Mr. Gruber has contacted Lance Adam to find out if Perry Township has a storm grate that can be placed over the existing area until the original grate is repaired by the property owner. Mr. Gruber and Council discuss other options to cover the gap in the broken grate.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith reports that the sale of 115 E. 9th St. has been changed to July 28.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline

President Kline reports that the water plant is operating well. He briefly discusses the electric work at well #1.

President Kline has not heard back from T-Mobile regarding their proposed welding onto the tank.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to hire a new gate coverage employee who applied to work at the pool, at a rate of \$8/hr. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Vice President Botwright notes that the application is on file at the borough office. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to hire Emily Zimmerman as a park leader at a rate of \$11/hr. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright reports that the additional park leader is needed as 120 kids signed up for the park program, with a daily average attendance of 80, whereas in the past only 60 children attended per day.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz continues to review the zoning ordinance and plans to distribute his next set of revisions in a few days. He will also be reviewing the wellhead protection information.

Employee Relations – President Kline

President Kline reports that the employee health insurance renews on August 1. He summarizes the quotes received, noting that the existing plan cost increased by \$1,800 for the year.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to add to the agenda, the consideration of approval of a potential full-time employee, should the offer be declined by the initial selection. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the hiring of Kenneth Zuber as a full-time road crew employee, at a rate of \$19/hr., should the first candidate decline the position. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. President Kline asks why the hourly rate is different from the first candidate, with Mr. Gruber stating that Mr. Zuber has more experience. Motion carried unanimously.

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for June 7, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for June 21, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried by a vote of 6 yes to 1 abstain, with Vice President Botwright abstaining.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt Ordinance 460-2022 regulating parking on E. Noble Ave. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Ms. Kennedy-Kline notes that there would be no parking on E. Noble Ave., from Park St. west towards Main St. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo – nothing to report

New Business

Public Comment

Jodi Parent (733 Washington St. – did not sign in): Ms. Parent asks if there is any signage that can be placed in the roadway at the intersections of 8th & Main Sts. and/or 9th & Main Sts. for the children crossing Main St. for the park program. Mr. Gruber will contact Mr. Zimmerman to have the appropriate signage put in place.

President Kline reports that the borough received an \$800 park donation from the Shoey Lion’s Club.

President Kline notes that the Children’s Fair went well and thanks Adam Moser for obtaining the bounce house at the last minute. Thanks are also given to Dustin Folk, who authorized Folk Paving to sponsor the rental fee for the bounce house.

Mr. Grim discusses borough ordinances and would like to be sure that all properties with junk in the side and back yards, that may not be visible from the front street, can still receive violation notices. Mr. Wertz and Vice President Botwright discuss the wording in the zoning and nuisance ordinances. President Kline states that if a neighbor can view a violation, whether or not it is from the front or side of the property, the applicable ordinance could be enforced. He further notes that while a borough ordinance may not cover specific cases, the matter may be able to be addressed through the Property Maintenance Code.

Mr. Grim voices his concerns regarding the noise created by residents working on their vehicles. Council discusses the matter, with President Kline suggesting Mr. Grim speak with Mr. Zimmerman regarding the noise disturbance times. Vice President Botwright notes that the Disturbing the Peace ordinance is on the borough’s website for additional reference. The ordinance would need to be amended to change the times. President Kline reads the portion of the ordinance relating to standing motor vehicles, noting that the vehicle or any auxiliary equipment attached to the vehicle while the vehicle is stationary, is not to be operated anywhere within 150 feet of any residence, so as to cause a noise disturbance across a residential property line. He suggests recording any violations, so there would be evidence of such.

Mr. Grim asks if regulations in the proposed zoning ordinance related to setbacks for carports and driveways would apply to pre-existing conditions, with Vice President Botwright stating that current carports and driveways would be grandfathered. Mr. Wertz asks Mr. Grim to review those proposed set-backs, as well as for accessory structures, and to contact him if there is anything contradictory. Setbacks should be reviewed, as there has been new development in the borough since the passing of the current ordinance.

Mr. Grim asks who will enforce the new zoning ordinance. He also asks if Solicitor Mooney has been contacted regarding information on family dwellings, as was noted in the draft. Council notes that Mr. Zimmerman will enforce the zoning ordinance. Vice President Botwright reports that Solicitor Mooney will perform a final legal review, before the ordinance is forwarded to the Berks County Planning Commission for their review.

Vice President Botwright will contact John Zupancic, to let him know that 5 standard versions of Office 365 will be needed for the borough’s new email platform. She discusses her experience with the Office 365.

She further notes that the remaining borough emails not covered under Office 365 could be synced via Microsoft Exchange.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer