

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Shoemakersville Borough**

**June 4, 2024**

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, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, David Kee – Engineer – leaves at 7:12 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor – leaves at 7:12 p.m., Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Tara Kennedy-Kline, Brandon Nabar – Junior Council Person

**Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber**

- **Permits & Notices:** The POD at 706 Reber St. is to be removed this week. Vice President Botwright asks for an update on the sewage issue from the home on Main St., with Mr. Gruber reporting that Seth Breon volunteered to clean out the trap. He discovered a broken trap in the line, which was discussed between the homeowner and the contractor. Mr. Gruber has not seen any issues since that time.

The blue Traverse has not been seen parking on the sidewalk at the south end of Main St. since Mr. Gruber sent a second notice regarding the matter. President Kline and Solicitor Mooney discuss vehicles parking on the sidewalk and blocking access. Under Title 75 the state prohibits parking on sidewalks. Solicitor Mooney notes that as there is no borough police department, the PA State Police would be responsible to enforce the state statute. The borough does not currently have an ordinance in place to allow for the towing of vehicles.

**Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney**

- **Snow Emergency Ordinance:** The ordinance has been advertised and is ready for adoption.
- **Home Elite License Agreement:** Solicitor Mooney discusses the changes made to the draft agreement, which would in part, address the borough bleachers on the Home Elite property, that he made several months ago. **Council will review the document.**

**Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee**

- **Bell Warehouse Land Development:** Mr. Wertz reports that at the May 21 workshop, Council made a motion for conditional denial of the plan. The developer has until June 17 to submit a time extension letter. No letter has been received to date.
- **Tractor Supply:** Solicitor Mooney spoke with Mark Koch, who noted they are willing to accept the continuation and will work with the borough to resolve the issues in the letter. Upon Council’s approval of the extension, Solicitor Mooney will send the May 20 review letter to Attorney Koch.
- **Public Works Building:** Mr. Wertz received a verbal quote from ARRO in the event Council had any in-depth structural concerns on the building. Mr. Grim asks for an update on the roof repairs, with President Kline noting that the manager’s report covers the project. ARRO is not part of the roof repair process.

### **Fire Chief's Report – Deputy Chief Tobias & Chief Wagner**

There are no questions to the submitted reports for May.

### **Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner**

Ms. Wagner requests to close the office on Thursday, July 11.

President Kline has reviewed the secretary's reconciliation of time spreadsheet on SharePoint. **Mr. Wertz is asked to review the worksheet and provide comments.**

### **Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp**

Mayor Remp reviews the May PA State Police Report noting of 84 calls.

Mayor Remp will forward the minutes for the May 15 Neighborhood Watch Program meeting. The members will be meeting at the borough office on June 8 at 8:00 a.m. to walk around the borough and inventory the condition of the banners. He will reach out to any former applicants of deteriorated banners to see if they wish to order a replacement. There are currently 9 members in the program; Jim Koller and Darrin Dietrich have joined the program, while Mr. Grim has stepped down.

Mayor Remp will be speaking with the owner of 702 Main St., as he received a complaint of a juvenile with a flashlight mowing the lawn at 1:00 a.m.

Mayor Remp reports that the preliminary hearing for Ronald Yocum is scheduled for June 24.

Mayor Remp asks if the borough has a fireworks ordinance in place. Vice President Botwright believes the state law prohibits the use of fireworks within 150' of a structure. Mr. Grim discusses the need for evidence when reporting any violators of the fireworks regulations to the PA State Police.

### **Operator/Manager's Report - Mr. Gruber**

Mr. Gruber signed and will return the engagement letter to Dan Cohen for the cable consortium. Mr. Cohen has agreed to honor the \$6,320 fee that was discussed at the May 21 Council workshop. President Kline notes that the \$6,320 amount was assuming Cohen could receive the highest-level discount. The letter previously submitted for May 21 referenced the fee structure and not the \$6,320 amount.

Mr. Gruber is seeking approval to purchase a 275-gallon tote of MasterCat 4284 polymer from Process Masters. The cost is now less expensive per pound than what was previously charged. Process Masters will provide the necessary piping/feed system to supply polymer to the pump and the storage tote, at no additional cost.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to purchase a 275-gallon tote of MasterCat 4284 polymer from Process Masters at a cost not to exceed \$4,500. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. President Kline asks how long the polymer will last, with Mr. Gruber reporting anywhere from 6-10 months. President Kline and Mr. Gruber discuss polymer usage with the previous belt. Brian from Process Masters was onsite for a day. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber will be meeting with Jordan Martin from Martin Paving, and Mr. Methax to schedule the road program work.

Mr. Gruber has met with RAM Roofing and Bachman Roofing to provide quotes on the roof repairs for the borough garage. He will be meeting with Rainbow Roofing this week. Mr. Gruber was on the roof and notes of the need for temporary roof repairs, suggesting tucking tarping underneath some of the shingles. Mr. Methax and Mr. Bachman are scheduled to take the Core and Category 24 exam on June 6.

Pipe Data Services will begin conveyance line televising and manhole inspection on Monday, June 10.

Mr. Gruber picked up the Storz adapters for the fire hydrants. Mr. Gruber had an adjustment made to the invoice, as it previously noted a shipping cost, which has since been removed. **Mr. Gruber will provide a list of locations where the adapters will be installed to the fire company.**

Mr. Gruber and President Kline discuss Well #6, which is scheduled to be pulled and inspected on Monday July 22 – Tuesday, July 23. Borough staff will take photos.

Mr. Gruber reports that FreshLife made repairs on the two large ramps at the skate park. Mr. Gruber estimates an income of \$150-\$400 for the sale of scrap metal and has requested the funds be donated to FreshLife. The finance committee will review the matter.

#### **Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith**

Mr. Smith and Mr. Gruber discuss the meeting with Martin Paving, with Mr. Gruber reporting that they will discuss a timeframe for the project as well as alternative dates for the work. **Mr. Gruber will forward the schedule to Council upon completion.**

Mr. Gruber will be receiving quotes from RAM Roofing and Bachman Roofing for the garage roof repairs.

**Sewer – Mr. Wertz** – nothing to report

#### **Water – President Kline**

President Kline reports that Suburban tested the water at Bell Trucking and the water plant on May 7 and that all requirements were met.

Mr. Gruber has responded to Renegade's email regarding a wish list for the water plant. **President Kline will provide a list as well.**

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

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to hire Allyson Becker as a lifeguard at the rate of \$15/hr. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright reports that the pool had a busy opening day on Saturday, May 25.

Vice President Botwright and President Kline report that Children's Fair went well.

#### **Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz**

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the borough secretary to restore and then extend the temporary Certificate of Occupancy to Tractor Supply until September 3, 2024, to allow time for the developer and Tractor Supply to satisfactorily resolve any remaining fire code and land development issues. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright refers to the earlier discussion on fireworks, noting of the PA State Fireworks rule as follows: Fireworks cannot be ignited or discharged on public or private property without permission of the property owner. They can not be directed at another person, can not be discharged from or directed at a building or vehicle. Fireworks can not be discharged with 150' of a building or vehicle, regardless if the building or vehicle is owned by the user of the firework or occupied.

#### **Employee Relations – President Kline**

President Kline asks Council to review the email he sent late today.

### **Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright**

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for May 21, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for June 4, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt the Snow Emergency Ordinance 466-2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright and Council briefly discuss the license agreement with Home Elite, with Mr. Gruber noting that previous discussion on the agreement may have been noted as a “hold harmless” agreement.

Mr. Wertz reports that the borough’s present property/liability insurance has been renewed, subject to the changes that he and Samuel Harter, with Tompkins Insurance, discussed at their meeting and that will be further discussed at the June workshop. The underwriter made suggestions which substantially increased value, which will increase the premiums. Mr. Wertz notes of insurance values and premiums increasing across the board. He states that \$200/sq ft. is an accurate figure to use for home valuations.

### **Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo**

Ms. Randazzo reports that 20 residents will be participating in the Community Yard Sale on June 8. The event has been shared on social media and several yard sale sites.

### **New Business**

#### **Public Comment**

**Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.):** Asks if Juneteenth will affect trash pickup, with President Kline and Vice President Botwright noting that the holiday will not affect pickup.

Ms. Wagner notes of Shoey Stray’s request for additional TNR vouchers for Berks Animal Hospital. The contract with No Nonsense Neutering was for 10 vouchers, all of which have been distributed. There are 4 vouchers remaining for Berks Animal Hospital. \$600 was previously approved for vouchers, with the resident being responsible for a \$15 copay. Council discusses the vouchers and asks Ms. Wagner to submit a summary of the expenses to date.

#### **Old Business**

Mayor Remp asks Council to consider changing the August monthly meeting date to Wednesday, August 7 as National Night Out is Tuesday, August 6. Council discusses the date, with Vice President Botwright noting that she is unavailable on August 7. President Kline may be out of the area that day, as well as Ms. Kennedy-Kline. The meeting date will remain on August 6, with the potential for further discussion at a future meeting.

A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer