

CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

March 1, 2022

Vice President Botwright called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St. Shoemakersville, PA at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Amy Botwright –Vice President, Michael Grim, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, Bradley Smith – Engineer – leaves at 7:16 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor – leaves at 7:16 p.m., Paul Gruber – Manager, Chad Zimmerman – Zoning/Public Works, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Chris Kline – President, Tara Kennedy-Kline

Vice President Botwright discusses the Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan, noting that the project took approximately 18 months to complete. The first public hearing took place at the Hamburg High School in November, with the second hearing taking place now. There are no questions or comments from the public or Council.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

Permits: A permit was issued to UGI for a gas line extension.

Enforcement: Two letters were issued last month for abandoned vehicles. One was granted a 30-day extension and the other is pending.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Pennvest Loan:** The next Pennvest conference call will take place on Wednesday. He anticipates that settlement on the loan will occur in approximately 2 months.
- **Vehicle Ordinance:** Solicitor Mooney and Mr. Zimmerman previously discussed the ordinance related to vehicle length restrictions for travel on W. Noble Ave.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize Solicitor Mooney to draft and advertise the ordinance amendment related to vehicle length restrictions for travel on W. Noble Ave. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act:** Notes that this should be incorporated into the zoning ordinance. **Mr. Wertz will forward the proposed zoning ordinance to Solicitor Mooney, who will integrate the small cell wireless information into the ordinance.**

Engineer’s Report – Engineer Smith

- **Headworks & Solids Handling Bidding & Construction:** The low bidder is Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc., with a bid of \$1,656,100. ARRO is reviewing the bid documents and recommends issuing a Notice of Intent, so that bonding, insurances and the signed agreement can be addressed.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize ARRO to issue the Notice of Intent to Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc. for the Solids Handling & Headworks project. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Paving Projects for 2022:** ARRO is posting the project on Pennbid and has advertised the project with a bid opening date of March 29, 2022. Mr. Gruber discusses the process for him to have the ability to see the progress of the bids in Pennbid. Engineer Smith will speak with the plan administrator and Pennbid to grant Mr. Gruber access.
- **Park Grant:** Vice President Botwright reports that DCED has approved all of the uploaded information, but has suggested minor changes to the RFP. **She will make the adjustments and forward the RFP to Engineer Smith for review, before uploading the information.**

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

Ms. Wagner requests to close the office on March 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

There are currently 14 applications for Hometown Heroes banners. Mayor Remp will forward the pictures to Vice President Botwright.

The February PA State Police report lists 57 calls in the borough.

Mayor Remp notes of the Neighborhood Watch meeting minutes that were forwarded to Council.

Mayor Remp reports that Mayor Holmes does not wish to hold a National Night Out celebration this year. Mayor Remp has spoken with Shilpa Moser, who has agreed to a NNO area at the Children's Fair. If banners are completed in time, he would like to hold the ceremony during the fair as well. He would like to commemorate NNO this year, but on a smaller scale, and welcomes any input from Council.

Operator's Report - Mr. Dietrich - no questions on the submitted report

Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber reports that the new wires for the camera install at the garage have been pulled.

The second round of additional testing for the NPDES renewal will take place on Wednesday.

Mr. Gruber states that the average FirstNet cell phone bill is \$270/month. He discusses the quote from AT&T. Monthly service would be \$168.75, not including taxes.

*A motion is made by Mr. Grim to approve the change for cell service from FirstNet to AT&T. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber discusses the quotes he obtained from Ehrlich and Orkin for pest control at the borough office.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to accept the quotes from Ehrlich, totaling \$890/year, for control inside and outside of the building. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber discusses the quotes received from Raser Industries: \$46,255.00, Blooming Glen: \$74,182.24, CHM Contracting: \$68,000.00 and Evoqua: \$78,813.26 for the aeration plate repair in VLR tank #1.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the \$46,255.00 quote from Raser Industries, dated January 17. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber and Solicitor Mooney discuss the LGUDA information needed for the Pennvest loan. Solicitor Mooney will review the information to be sure everything is in order.

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

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline

Mr. Wertz discusses the emergency repair work at well #3 and reports that the well is back online and fully functional. Mr. Gruber also reviews the work, with Mr. Wertz requesting that ratification of the work be added to the March 15 workshop agenda.

Mr. Wertz notes that since Mr. Gruber’s arrival in June 2021, wells 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been pulled.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the February 28 Rileighs quote for garland, wire and fixtures to update the holiday lights, at a cost of \$3,847.58. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Vice President Botwright notes that the cost is based on the discounted prices that were to expire on February 28 and may be adjusted if the additional supplies are needed. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright states that the theme for Children’s Fair is “Perfect Pairs.” A scibble tournament will be held at Ollie’s Tavern on March 25 at 7:00 p.m. The Gnome Hunt will occur in March as well.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz and Mr. Gruber will be meeting on Wednesday to discuss the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act and sign regulations to be included in the zoning ordinance.

Council and Mr. Zimmerman discuss the property use agreement between the borough and the owners of 120 Karen Ct., and the most recent updates.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to modify the agenda to include the property use agreement for 120 Karen Ct. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize the delivery of the property use agreement to the owners of 120 Karen Ct. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Relations – President Kline - nothing to report

Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the minutes for February 15, 2022. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the bills payable for March 1, 2022. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adopt Resolution 148-2022, approving & adopting the revised and updated Northern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan of 2022. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

Ms. Randazzo is drafting a letter to local business to generate advertising for the informational packets to be provided to new residents. She will forward this to the committee upon completion.

New Business

Public Comment

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Discusses the water main break that occurred in his area in February. Since not everyone has social media, he asks that the Code Red System be used to notify residents if they could potentially lose water during repair times, so that they are not inconvenienced as his family was. Vice President Botwright discusses the Code Red System, stating that unfortunately, the calls are not instantaneous and may not reach the same number of individuals as quickly as social media.

Mr. Paine states that while he was over the trash limit by 1 or 2 bags last week, the hauler only removed a total of 2 bags, carefully selecting which bags were taken. His fiancé took photos of other locations that had trash over the limit as well. Ms. Randazzo notes that she had issues with her trash removal the prior week as well. She did call the hauler and plans to speak with the driver if she is home when her trash is removed this week.

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks for the water report, with Ms. Wagner stating that she does not have the information for February.

Mr. Geschwindt asks when yard waste will begin to be picked up, with Ms. Wagner noting removal will begin on the first Wednesday in April.

Mr. Geschwindt asks what will happen with the old borough hall building, with Mr. Wertz stating that Mr. Gruber has recommended the building be sold at auction. Council is reviewing the steps required for sale of the property.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the subject matter of the 120 Karen Ct. agreement, with Mr. Wertz reviewing the matter, stating that there was a verbal agreement between prior Council and the previous property owners, for the resident to place a shed and raised beds on the borough owner land by their home. The agreement will allow the residents to utilize the area, provided they maintain the property. Mr. Geschwindt asks if the property was surveyed, with Mr. Wertz stating that the survey took place when the Washington St. subdivision was constructed. Mr. Gruber and Mr. Zimmerman also located pins at the property.

Mr. Geschwindt asks how much land is included, with Mr. Zimmerman stating that he will double check the amount. Mr. Geschwindt would like a copy of the agreement and requests the cost, with Ms. Wagner stating the fee is 50¢.

Old Business – nothing to report

There being no further business, a motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer