

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

March 4, 2025

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 7:01 p.m.

In attendance: Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, David Kee – Engineer, Chip Haws – Solicitor, Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

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

Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber

- **Permits & Notices:** A permit was issued to install solar panels last month.

As both Mr. Gruber and Mr. Murphy have completed the required inspections for the tobacco shop at 1048 Shoemaker Ave., Mr. Gruber recommends that Council approve the Certificate of Occupancy.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to sign & issue Certificate of Occupancy #329 for 1048 Shoemaker Ave. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber reports that the March 4 hearing for a code violation has been rescheduled to March 25.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Haws

- **Meeting Attendance:** Solicitor Haws will now be attending the meetings.
- **PTMA Water Agreement:** Mr. Wertz has received an email from PTMA Solicitor Mark Koch and requests that Solicitor Haws reach out to Solicitor Koch regarding the status of the third amendment to the water agreement.

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee

- **Tractor Supply:** A meeting is being scheduled to review the outstanding concerns.
- **LSA Grant for Borough Hall ADA Improvements:** ARRO has received a copy of the survey and has begun working on the plans.
- **Public Works Building:** Roof repairs were completed this day, with approximately 10% of the sheeting being replaced. Mr. Kee and Mr. Gruber review the work completed. Mr. Gruber will post photos of the work taken by Mr. Methax on the ShareFile.
- **Brecknock Builders Improvements:** The site appears to require land development or a waiver of land development, as well as the potential need for stormwater permitting. Mr. Wertz will reach out to Mr. Kee regarding an email from Mark Faulkner.

Fire Chief’s Report - Chief Wagner

There are no questions regarding the 69 incidents on the February call report.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The auditors have completed their field work for the 2024 audit and will be finalizing the report in the upcoming weeks.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

Mayor Remp reviews the 49 PA State Police calls noted on the February report.

All Hometown Heroes banners have been hung. Round 6 to accept new banner applications is now open.

The next Neighborhood Watch Program meeting will be on April 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the borough office.

Operator/Manager's Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber will forward copies of 3 revised quotes from Kinley Ford for a new truck and utility body.

Mr. Gruber reports that staff placed a cone by the curb line at 635 Lincoln St. as there is a large depression in the roadway.

Three quotes for new fire hydrants are presented. Mr. Gruber reports that one rebuilt hydrant for 5th & Franklin Sts. is ready to be installed. He will provide a list with the order of hydrants to be replaced. Mr. Gruber and Mr. Smith discuss backflushing the hydrants.

Mr. Gruber discusses the availability of radon test kits from DEP. The information will be included in the next newsletter.

Mr. Gruber presents a quote of \$1,641.37 from Mountain View Supply for pool paint.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to purchase pool paint from Mountain View Supply for \$1,641.37. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Junior Council Person's Report – Mr. Nabar – nothing to report

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

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline

Mr. Wertz reports that Suburban Testing Labs tested the water in February at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant and all requirements were met.

Mr. Gruber reviews his energy consumption report for the plants & wells and discusses ideas for reducing energy usage. While the average usage at the sewer plant for 2024 was higher than 2023, the usage is decreasing. The blowers had been turned on at night during the cold spell. He and Mr. Mohn have discussed a schedule to produce sludge twice a week. They will also turn back the disc aerators by 5 Hz.

Mr. Gruber has asked staff to keep heat in the buildings no higher than 64°.

While water plant electric usage for 2024 was higher than 2023, Mr. Gruber sites different plant operators as a contributing factor. His main concern for the plant is chlorine levels dropping too low, as there is no mixer in the tank at the plant. The decision has been made to now backwash only once per month.

Wells #1 & #3 ran more, as they feed the tower directly on the 4-log system. While usage for wells #4 & #5 is increasing, the energy usage for wells #1, #3, #4 and #5 for January 2025 is lower than January 2023.

Mr. Gruber, Mr. Wertz and Vice President Botwright discuss usage, energy costs and the apparent patterns of energy usage for the wells, noting of an increase during winter. Mr. Gruber and Council review factors affecting usage, such as the use of electric heaters, the non-insulated buildings and the potential use of heat tape on the pipes, which is later rejected.

Mr. Gruber reports that when the water plant was built, the thought of increased usage from Perry Township was taken into consideration. As increased water consumption from the township has not occurred, he feels the plant is overproducing water and is researching the potential of eliminating some operations at the plant.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Vice President Botwright reports that the Gnome Hunt will begin on March 10.

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 Mr. Wertz to approve the minutes for February 18, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the bills payable for March 4, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo – nothing to report

New Business

Public Comment

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks for additional information regarding the previously mentioned code violation, with Mr. Gruber noting that while he cannot provide the name and location, the matter involves vehicles without registration and inspection that are on a property.

Mr. Geschwindt requests an update on the strip mall and traffic light, with Mr. Grim believing that the developer is seeking additional funding for the project.

David Kisha (111 Karen Ct.): Previously spoke with Mr. Gruber regarding the two lights that are out on Washington St. Mr. Gruber spoke with a Met-Ed representative, who noted that Met-Ed is actually responsible for the lights. He will reach out to Met-Ed regarding the two street lights in question.

A motion is made by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer