

CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

May 2, 2023

President Kline called the monthly meeting of the Shoemakersville Borough Council to order in the Shoemakersville Borough Office, 846 Main St. Shoemakersville, PA at 7:04 p.m.

In attendance: Chris Kline – President, Amy Botwright – Vice President, Michael Grim, Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, Bradley Smith – Engineer – leaves at 8:08 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor – leaves at 8:08 p.m., Paul Gruber – Manager, Chad Zimmerman – Zoning/Public Works, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

- **Permits & Notices:** One zoning permit was issued in April for a shed. Two building permits were issued last month, for a deck and a fire/security system. Three notices were sent last month, with 2 still pending.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Quick Start Agreement:** A draft Quick Start Agreement with Home Elite, Ltd. and Shoemakersville Plaza, L.P. is presented. Solicitor Mooney, Council, and Engineer Smith discuss the agreement, which would allow the tenant to begin work on the building at their own risk, while the sketch plan for record, which has not yet been submitted, would be reviewed by the borough. Solicitor Mooney notes that the applicant would submit a \$5,000 security for the borough engineer to perform inspections as the work is completed.

Mr. Wertz states that while a zoning permit was issued, no building or sketch plans have been submitted. It appears that the property owner, tenant and their engineer may be working with multiple sets of plans. Council, Solicitor Mooney, and Engineer Smith discuss impervious surface, the stone area by the building, and the retention pond, and how these are affected by lot size. No paving can take place until a plan for land development review is submitted. **Solicitor Mooney will contact Mark Koch to discuss the conflicting plans.**

- **Amendment to General Obligation Note with Customer’s Bank:** Solicitor Mooney reports that the borough’s 2015 loan was set with a fixed rate for 10 years and would then become a variable rate note. As LIBOR is being phased out June 30, 2023, Customer’s Bank would like to use SOFR for the new index. Solicitor Mooney would work with Customer’s Bank solicitor, Doug Rauch, to draft and advertise an ordinance for the changes. Solicitor Rauch’s cost would be \$5,000. Solicitor Mooney and Council discuss the rates and the wording in the contract. Vice President Botwright notes of the 4.5% interest cap on the loan. She and Mr. Wertz will review the contract documents and the 2015 note package. **Ms. Kennedy-Kline will reach out to Doug Rauch to discuss the language in the existing contract.**
- **Garbage/Recycling Contracts:** Solicitor Mooney, Mr. Gruber, and Ms. Wagner had a Zoom call to review the bid specs. Solicitor Mooney will have specs for recycling, trash pick-up for (4) 35-gallon containers, and unlimited trash pick-up, available for the May workshop.

Engineer's Report – Engineer Smith

- **Headworks & Solids Handling Construction:** ARRO recommends payment of application #10 for \$57,436.05. Retainage work of \$147,075 remains.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve EECI payment application #10 for \$57,436.05. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer Smith submits change order #6, to allow for the contractor and PW Tech to continue working on optimization of the sludge press output, which extends the contract for 32 days.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve EECI change order #6, extending the contract time per Engineer Smith's letter, at no cost. Seconded by Mr. Grim. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Tractor Supply:** Engineer Smith discusses his review letter for the berm construction documents submitted by Gilmore & Associates. As no official submission has been made to the borough, the time clock for SALDO has not yet begun.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The borough office will be closed May 3-5. Council has no issue with Ms. Wagner's request to close the office from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on May 10 and to close the office on May 19.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline asks if there have been recent requests for information on water bills, with Ms. Wagner noting that a few residents have called regarding high water bills. Mr. Zimmerman has tested several water meters and adjustments have been made as warranted.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

Mayor Remp reports that there are 8 applications for Hometown Heroes banners for the current cycle. **He will contact Rileigh's to begin the banner process.**

Mayor Remp submits a list of the Neighborhood Watch members and discusses their goals for 2023, as noted on his report. He would like the group to participate in borough functions such as the Children's Fair and NNO. They will be providing traffic control for Trick-or-Treat. President Kline notes that as the Watch was formed by ordinance, any reports completed during the members' patrols could be subject to the Sunshine Act, with copies to be submitted to the borough. Tpr. Brownback will be a guest speaker for the May 20 meeting.

Mayor Remp and Mr. Grim briefly review the PA State Police report for April.

Operator/Manager's Report - Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber continues to work with PW Tech on optimization of the new sludge press. He has also met with Dean Miller and Fleetwood's Director of Public Works on ways to optimize operation of the press. A rate of 1.8% has been obtained. Mr. Gruber was notified that 2% is not required to make good sludge. He and Mr. Wertz discuss the operation of the press. Mr. Wertz reports that the standards in the contract have not yet been met in the new equipment operation and are at 25%-30% under the contractual obligation. He states that everyone has been working together to resolve the issue and that the time extension will allow for the process to continue.

Mr. Gruber and Mr. Zimmerman reviewed the applications received for the full-time public works position, with Mr. Gruber recommending Ryan Rollman be hired. He discusses Mr. Rollman's qualifications.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to hire Ryan Rollman as a full-time road crew employee at a rate of \$18/hr. Seconded by Mr. Smith. President Kline will forward Mr. Gruber an offer letter to give to Mr. Rollman. President Kline amends the motion to include a start date of May 8, contingent upon passing any required pre-employment testing. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith reports that the street project has been advertised.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz

Mr. Wertz reports that to protect the borough's interests, he has made a claim under general Conditions Article 10.05 – Claims, of the contract. This gives Engineer Smith 60 days to review the claim. Engineering recommendations will be submitted.

Water – President Kline – nothing to report

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

Ms. Kennedy-Kline discusses the Children's Fair parade route, noting that it will be shorter this year and will end at the park on 9th St. Mayor Remp approves the revised route.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to hire summer pool staff for 2023; Kady Ells at \$9/hr for the gate, Jonah Jozefick, Sadie Haines, and William Marchiano at \$9/hr for the gate, but raised to \$11/hr after the 3 receive their lifeguard certification, Hannah Ortiz at \$12/hr for lifeguard and Ty Jozefick at \$13/hr for lifeguard. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright has forwarded the RFP for the Park Master Plan to DCNR for their approval.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to advertise the Park Master Plan RFP, pending DCNR approval. Seconded by Mr. Grim. President Kline asks how long the approval process takes, with Vice President Botwright being uncertain. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright mentions the yard signs for Children's Fair are \$15 and will be available at the borough office.

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 Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for April 18, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for May 2, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

Ms. Randazzo reports on the May 13 Community Yard Sale, noting that 23 homes have been noted on the map, which has been posted on Facebook.

Ms. Randazzo met with Jillian Hyde to further discuss the cat colonies in the borough. Ms. Randazzo believes the ARL option would work best for the borough, as 4 TNR procedures could be completed each

day, for no additional cost. If the borough contracted with the ARL, then Code Blue notifications could be enforced in the borough.

New Business

Public Comment

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Reports of the continued speeding in the borough, noting of a Dodge truck that revs up when passing his home. He did contact the State Police regarding a speeding white Ford F250 pulling a trailer. Mr. Paine is unable to obtain license plate information, as the vehicles pass too quickly. He is extremely concerned for the safety of his young daughter. Mayor Remp can contact the State Police, asking them to keep a watch for vehicles if additional information is obtained.

Dustin Remp (924 Main St.): Discusses the parking letter received by his neighbor at 925 Apple Ln. He notes that tenants for that home have been parking on Apple Ln. for the last 40 years and asks why a letter was sent now. Ms. Kennedy-Kline and Mr. Zimmerman report that the ordinance prohibiting parking on roadways less than 18' in width was discovered when researching information on a different complaint. No one specifically raised an issue with the vehicle in question. Mr. Remp feels that the matter could be personal. Ordinance violation notification is discussed, with Mr. Wertz noting that he, Mr. Gruber, and Mr. Zimmerman previously discussed possible solutions for the matter. Mr. Remp feels having the tenant park in the yard would devalue the property. Council and Mr. Remp further discuss the cartway width and driveway, with the potential to amend the ordinance to reduce the roadway width. Mr. Remp brings up the matter as ½ of his driveway is affected by the right-of-way. The property owner was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Remp will continue to work with the tenant and property owner to arrive at a resolution.

Mr. Remp would like more notice when borough vehicles and delivery trucks park at the water plant, so that access to the rear of his property is not blocked. Mr. Gruber notes that the chemical companies do not always provide advance notice. He will speak to borough staff regarding Mr. Remp's concern on borough vehicles, trailers, etc. being parked in the cartway behind his home.

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.): Asks for the results of the water test, with Ms. Wagner stating that Suburban tested the water on April 4 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant and that all results met the necessary requirements.

Mr. Geschwindt asks when the ordinance regarding parking on roadways less than 18' in width was passed, with Vice President Botwright noting in 1970. Mr. Geschwindt and Council discuss the ordinance.

Old Business

President Kline reviews the upcoming borough events listed on the agenda.

A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer