

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Shoemakersville Borough**

**October 1, 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 7:00 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, David Kee – Engineer, Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Brandon Nabar – Junior Council Person, Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer

**Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber**

- **Permits & Notices:** Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that the grass/gravel parking area for the apartments at 140 Main St. is now paved and asks if this was part of the plans that were submitted. Vice President Botwright notes that stormwater run-off is of concern. Solicitor Mooney feels that land development plans should possibly have been submitted. **Mr. Gruber will research the matter.**

**Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney** – nothing to report

**Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee**

- **LSA Grant:** ARRO prepared and submitted the County LSA Grant application.
- **Glen Gery Subdivision & Land Development:** Mr. Gruber and President Kline briefly discuss the warehouse plans submitted late this afternoon. Chief Wagner notes that the area in question is on the north side of Shoemakersville Rd., by Adams Hotel Rd.

**Fire Chief’s Report – Chief Wagner**

Chief Wagner submits copies of receipts for the fire company’s 2023 purchases.

President Kline asks for a description of the “citizen complaint” call type, with Chief Wagner reporting that this is typically a neighbor complaint regarding open burning.

**Secretary’s Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner**

Ms. Wagner requests to close the office at noon on Thursday, October 3. The office will be closed on October 11 & 14.

The deadline to submit content for the winter newsletter is October 10.

The November monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6.

**Mayor’s Report – Mayor Remp**

There were 63 calls on the PA State Police report for September.

Mayor Remp has been subpoenaed for an October 15 hearing at the District Justice office regarding the incident with a borough crossing guard that was noted at a prior meeting.

Mayor Remp reports that there are 16 damaged Hometown Heroes banners from Round 2 in 2021. Kutztown Borough and Fleetwood Borough also have damaged banners from the same year.

While the banners have a 2-year warranty, Raleigh's Outdoor Décor will give a \$15 discount to replace the banners, for a cost of \$110/banner. Mayor Remp has reached out to the purchasers of the affected banners regarding replacement. Any banners to be replaced, including the damaged Welcome to Shoemakersville banner, will be included in the next round of new banners.

The September Neighborhood Watch Program meeting was held on September 26. There are currently 8 members. Program members and fire police will be assisting to cross pedestrians on Trick-or-Treat nights. Vests supplied by David Rubright will be provided to the volunteers.

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

Mr. Gruber reviewed Ordinance 307 relating to ownership of the sewer lines. The borough is responsible from the sewer line to the trap and the property owner is responsible from the trap to the home.

Mr. Gruber has begun the process to become a certified floodplain administrator.

Mr. Methax, Mr. Bachman and Mr. Holbert will be using the borough pick up truck to participate in the Trunk-or-Treat event in the park.

While reviewing the emergency preparedness plans for the water system, Mr. Gruber contacted Aqua Duck to determine if they could provide bulk water if necessary. In turn, they asked if the borough would be interested in selling bulk water to them, should the need arise. Vice President Botwright suggests reaching out to EMC Jarrod Emes for information on the borough's Emergency Operations Plan.

Mr. Gruber, Vice President Botwright and President Kline discuss the sale of bulk water and the borough's current capacity, as well as how the water agreement and Bell Development contract, which is no longer viable, could affect the agreement. Warehouses are now proposed in place of the townhomes. Mr. Wertz discusses current production capacity and the lack of excess capacity for future development. Council discusses the PTMA agreement. Solicitor Mooney recommends adding a termination provision in the contract, in event the project occurred. He asks if the land was sold if the development no longer exists. Ownership of the Bell property is discussed.

Mr. Gruber and President Kline discuss the sewer line clog at the end of 9<sup>th</sup> St. A manhole had been buried for at least 40 years and was discovered alongside the homeowner's (President Kline & Ms. Kennedy-Kline) driveway. Years of buildup occurred in the line, which needed to be jetted. President Kline notes that borough staff worked hard to dig up the line and replace the affected section of pipe. Mr. Gruber reports that grease coagulated on the sides of the pipes and clogged the line. The manhole will be placed on the list for regular inspection. Mr. Gruber notes of the importance of televising and cleaning the lines.

Mr. Gruber spoke with Bryan Smith from Barry Issett regarding the uses, needs and future of the borough park as it relates to the Park Master Plan. Vice President Botwright explains that interviewing people is part of the process for the plan. She notes that while the park structures are in good condition, the electrical system needs to be upgraded.

Lance Adam is present and notes that ownership of the Bell property in question has not changed.

**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**

Suburban Testing Labs tested the water on September 3 at Bell Trucking and the water plant and all requirements were met.

President Kline attended an open house at Renegade Solutions and will be setting up a phone conference with a company he met there, between the firm, himself, Mr. Gruber and Mr. Mohn, to discuss remote access for SCADA services.

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

Trunk-or-Treat will be in the park on October 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline and Vice President Botwright report that there will be a public presentation of the Park Master Site Plan at the October 15 workshop at 7:00 p.m.

### **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 September 17, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for October 1, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright reports that the draft budget has been forwarded to Council. Input should be provided to her by October 14, for discussion at the budget workshop on October 15. She discusses a timeline for budget adoption.

President Kline has noted of the increase in electricity expenses for several locations. This may be due to peak demand, **although the matter will be researched.**

### **Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo** – nothing to report

### **New Business**

#### **Public Comment**

**Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.):** Asks when yard waste pick-up will end, with Vice President Botwright reporting that November 26 will be the last pick-up day.

Mr. Geschwindt asks if Trick-or-Treat is one night this year, with Vice President Botwright reporting that Trunk-or-Treat is October 25, but that Trick-or-Treat is October 30 & 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Gary Billman (730 Main St.):** Discusses issues he has had with his neighbor; In 2023 he was yelled at for walking in the alley by his home and had the police called on him for fireworks, at which time was not an issue as he had a bucket of water and a fire extinguisher nearby. The neighbor also told Mr. Billman's son that he could not park in front of this neighbor's home. This year he received a \$200 fine from the PA State Police for fireworks, when no officer was onsite and was yelled at by this neighbor when he was in his yard speaking to a friend. He feels that he is being singled out by this neighbor. Mayor Remp reports that a State Police citation can be appealed at the District Justice office. The matter between the neighbors is considered a public dispute with no borough involvement.

The neighbor, Mr. Dietrich, is present and begins to discuss the matter with Mr. Billman. President Kline notes that the borough subscribes to the state law regarding fireworks usage.

A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer