

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough**

September 17, 2024

President Kline called the workshop 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 – arrived late Tara Kennedy-Kline, Dana Randazzo, Dana Smith, Joseph Wertz Jr., Paul Gruber – Manager & Codes, Gary Methax – Public Works Supervisor and Brandon Nabar – Junior Council Person.

Absent from the meeting: Michael Grim, Dustin Remp – Mayor & Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer

Fire Chief’s Report – Chief Wagner – nothing to report

Manager’s Report – Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber and Mr. Methax have interviewed Sandy Holbert and recommend that he be hired for the full-time borough public works employee position, at a rate of \$19.50/hr.

*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to hire Sandy Holbert as a full-time public works employee for \$19.50/hr. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber presents a quote received by Mr. Methax from SealMaster for yellow line painting equipment and paint for \$1,160.28.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the SealMaster rental quote dated 9/4/2024 of \$1,160.28 for line painting equipment and paint. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. The equipment will be delivered. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gruber continues to research information regarding bioaugmentation products and processes for the sewer plant.

Mr. Gruber reviews the findings of the LTAP report regarding truck restrictions for the areas at W. Noble Ave. and Water St. and E. Noble Ave. and Reber St. The report incorrectly noted that a single unit truck with an overall length of 40’ can make right turns onto Water St. without encroaching onto the opposing lane, which it cannot. Council and Mr. Gruber discuss the lengths of trucks and vehicles and their turning at the intersections. **Mr. Gruber and Mr. Methax will obtain pricing on signs for restricting vehicles over a specific length. Mr. Gruber will reach out to the LTAP representatives regarding speed tables.**

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith

The committee continues to review the list of proposed streets for oil & chip. Council briefly reviews the list.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline

Mr. Gruber reports that nothing has been heard from Master Meter regarding the meter for the library at 328 Apple Ln.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline – nothing to report

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 September 3, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve the bills payable for September 17, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adopt the 2025 MMO for the non-uniform pension plan for \$31,361. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adopt the 2025 MMO for the police pension plan at \$27,380. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adopt Resolution 168-2024 to apply for the LSA County Grant, as prepared by ARRO, and to name the borough signatories as the Council President and Borough Secretary. Seconded by Ms. Randazzo. This is an additional application for ADA upgrades to the borough office, with the application being forwarded to the county. Motion is amended to change the signatories to the Council Vice President and Borough Manager. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wertz reminds Council that budget input is to be forwarded to Vice President Botwright by October 11.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

The Community Yard Sale will be Saturday, September 21. Ms. Kennedy-Kline will forward Ms. Randazzo information on a property owner that will be participating in the sale, who is charging people for spaces on their property.

New Business

Public Comment

Dale Shade (711 Reber St.): His neighbors at 721 Reber St. have junk on their property and high weeds on the side of their home. **Mr. Gruber will look at the property.**

Mr. Shade notes of a sink hole in the area of Franklin & Noble Manor. Mr. Gruber reports that the area in question is on state owned road. Mr. Gruber states that UGI initially dug the hole and that they are to revisit the site to refill the hole. **Mr. Gruber will call UGI for an update.**

Mr. Shade voices his concern over the number of drivers that do not completely stop at the stop signs.

Mr. Wertz notes of an older UGI connection that is disintegrating in the south side of the 000 block of Franklin St.

Andrew Shedal (713 Main St.): Appreciates Council's leniency in not citing residents under the sign portion of the zoning ordinance, but feels that Council should not have the ability to say what he can or cannot have on his private property. He had thought of flying a Don't Tread on Me" flag. Mr. Wertz notes that the zoning ordinance specifically addresses official United States flags dating back to 1772.

Mr. Wertz further states that the updated zoning ordinance contains more liberal permissions that were never in place in the prior ordinance. He states that the most liberal Council members were in complete agreement to providing more utilization of an individual's own property.

Mr. Wertz discusses the history and purpose of zoning and land use regulations in the state. He reviews the sign and permit process of the zoning ordinance and notes of his support of the ordinance. He reports that if there is a flaw in the ordinance, Council will seek it out and rectify the issue. President Kline states that the sign portion of the zoning ordinance is relatively small compared to the overall length of the ordinance itself. Ms. Kennedy-Kline states the purpose of the temporary sign restrictions is to limit things that the borough has received complaints about for years; to limit signs that have been out too long, blowing away and becoming trash or becoming a hinderance or hazard, and not to limit what property owners can do with their own property. Mr. Shedal feels that there are more important matters to be addressed before signs and flags on private property.

Mr. Wertz and Mr. Shedal discuss the matter and the sign content in the newsletter article, which was written by Mr. Wertz. Ms. Kennedy-Kline apologizes if the sign regulations were worded in a way that appeared to attack certain individuals or parties, as that was not the intent. Mr. Shedal and Council further discuss signs, with Ms. Kennedy-Kline reporting that any regulations must remain content neutral.

President Kline states that the activity that ensued regarding signs was embarrassing. The majority of the drafters of the ordinance are present at the meeting. President Kline notes that the individual that wrote the article in the newsletter is present at the meeting. President Kline himself signed the ordinance. The other individual who signed the ordinance and spurred some of the antics is not present, and stated that he would not be at the meeting because no one comes to the workshops. Council thanks Mr. Shedal for his attendance at the workshop.

Janice Foreman has requested that the local Girl Scout Troop be permitted to Christmas carol in the borough on a Wednesday evening in December from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and to have use of the borough office to supply refreshments to the carolers. **Vice President Botwright will work with Ms. Foreman on scheduling access to the building.**

Old Business

Vice President Botwright asks if the soccer group will be given keys to the restrooms. Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that keys will not be given unless the group specifically requests access. Council discusses the soccer season. Mr. Methax states that the group did place a Porta John at the Babe Ruth field.

Vice President Botwright reports that the Park Steering Committee will be meeting next week to review the plan. There may be a park plan presentation and public comment section at the October 15 meeting, which will need to be advertised.

There being no further business, a motion is made by Ms. Randazzo to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer