

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Shoemakersville Borough**

**September 3, 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 7:02 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 – leaves at 7:30 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor, Brandon Nabar – Junior Council Person, Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer

**Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber**

- **Permits & Notices:** Mr. Gruber will be providing Ms. Wagner with several new addresses that are to receive notices.

Mr. Gruber reports that he will be moving forward with the odor issue at 436 Pine St.

Mr. Gruber notes that several of the notices for last month have been resolved.

Mr. Grim and Mr. Gruber discuss the PennDOT Agility Program, focusing on the note of “Partner receives seal coating of local roads in exchange for winer services.” Mr. Gruber reports that the borough maintains slightly less than 1 mile of state-owned road. He is waiting to hear back from the representatives for the local area, but will provide additional information as it becomes available.

**Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney**

- **Tractor Supply:** Mr. Wertz reports that TSC made and were granted a 60-day extension until November 11, 2024 and that they appear to be attempting to comply by that deadline.

**Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee**

- **LSA Grant:** There has been no word on the statewide LSA Grant application that was submitted last year. The borough does have the option to apply for the grant at the county level, with applications being due at the end of September. Mr. Kee reports that in the past, ARRO performed work on an LSA Grant and was permitted to roll those funds into another similarly related project. Mr. Wertz asks if the borough were awarded both the state and county LSA grant, if the funds from the second award could be transferred to a different project, with Mr. Kee replying that the borough may potentially be permitted to do so.

As such, Mr. Wertz asks ARRO to apply for the LSA Grant at the county level for the ADA updates to the borough office building. Mr. Kee will forward the associated resolution to be adopted at the September workshop.

- **DRBC Docket:** The information will be completed and submitted by the September 16 deadline. The fee has increased and is now based upon the borough’s mgd water allocation.
- **Meeting at the Borough Garage:** ARRO will be preparing the structural report for 242 Main St.

### **Fire Chief's Report – Chief Wagner**

Chief Wagner reports that the fire company was awarded \$101,000 through the 2023 Regional AFG Grant, which will be used for new firehose and nozzles. All but the company's 2" hoses are out of date. Hose becomes out of date after 10 years.

### **Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner**

Ms. Wagner thanks Mr. Gruber and Council for their assistance in completing the meeting agenda and paperwork in her absence last week. Council has no issue with her request to close the office on September 5.

### **Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp**

There were 64 calls on the PA State Police report for August.

The September Neighborhood Watch Program meeting will change from September 10 to September 26.

Mayor Remp reports that the 16 Hometown Heroes banners that are faded/damaged are all banners from Round 2. Vice President Botwright recommends contacting Kutztown Borough, as they also have several banners from the same round that deteriorated faster than other rounds. Mayor Remp will be speaking with Brian Arnold from Rileigh's regarding the banners. He further notes that the banners are under a 2-year warranty, with the banners typically being good for 3-5 years. The banners in question are from 2021.

Mayor Remp and Council discuss ownership of land near Dr. Kushmider's office. Mr. Wertz notes that the borough abandoned the lot. Solicitor Mooney states that Dr. Kushmider owns the land by operation of law, but in order to claim the land, Dr. Kushmider would need to file a quick claim deed if he wishes to purchase the parcel. President Kline suggests that Dr. Kushmider contact the Record of Deeds office.

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

Mr. Gruber has informed the owner of 600 Shoemaker Ave. of the requirements for having someone sell products on her property. All outdoor parking lot sales have ceased.

Mr. Gruber supplied a list of proposed streets for oil & chip.

Mr. Gruber and President Kline discuss PennDOT's Agility Program and the borough's current winter maintenance agreement for state owned roads that the borough maintains.

Mr. Nabar is digitally entering the yellow curb/signage documentation.

Mr. Gruber has conducted two interviews for the open public works position.

Mr. Gruber and the sewer committee will be discussing grease remediation, as there is an unusual amount of grease entering the plant.

Mr. Gruber and President Kline discuss the breakdown of the Duperon headworks at the sewer plant. Mr. Gruber reports that one of the emergency shut off control boxes had water inside. The water was removed and the control box was sealed. Mr. Gruber was informed by Joe Dietrich with Eastern Environmental that while the box was designed to be explosion proof, it is not water tight. President Kline and Mr. Gruber discuss the emergency shut off, with President Kline and Mr. Wertz further discussing an explosion proof box.

Mr. Gruber is waiting to hear from Exeter Supply regarding the failed water meter at the Noecker property. Mr. Wertz and Vice President Botwright discuss the borough's ordinance, as well as any information that

may be provided to the borough from Exeter Supply or Master Meter. Mr. Wertz recommends providing the borough's insurance information to the Noeckers.

Mr. Gruber reports that the pH probe has failed. A new probe will be overnighted to the borough. Tech support noted that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> case the company has received on failed probes.

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

**Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith**

Mr. Smith asks Council to review the list of streets proposed for oil & chip for discussion at the workshop.

Mr. Smith reports that trash pickup will begin one hour early on Wednesday.

**Sewer – Mr. Wertz** – nothing to report

**Water – President Kline**

Suburban Testing Labs tested the water on August 6 at the Kwik Shoppe and the wastewater plant and all requirements were met.

President Kline and Mr. Gruber discuss the repairs made to the valves at the plant. Mr. Gruber reports that the repairs have been made and that the backwash valve is currently in manual operation on filter #1. Two circuit boards have been located, which will hopefully fix the issue, so that a new actuator will not be needed.

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

The pool is closed for the season. Doggie Dip Day is September 7 from 10-3.

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that Hamburg United Soccer no longer has use of the Hamburg Borough Park fields and has requested use of the Shoemakerville fields at the playground from September 8 to November 3. Ms. Wagner is to review the schedule for standing park rentals. As the organization supports community children, Ms. Kennedy-Kline recommends that their use of the fields be at no cost.

**Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz**

Mr. Wertz notes of the sign portion of the zoning ordinance. Solicitor Mooney reports that anyone challenging the ordinance would appeal to the District Justice, who has no right to rule on the constitutional validity of an ordinance. The DJ would then make a ruling on any ordinance violation. The issue could be appealed to the Court of Common Pleas, with the judge to make a determination. The borough did not regulate content in any way, however commercial and sale signs are regulated. All other signs were made temporary signs, with the signs in question falling under temporary signs. The question will become is the borough regulating content by treating temporary signs different from commercial & sale signs?

**Employee Relations – President Kline**

**Executive Session**

Council and Solicitor Mooney recess into executive session at 7:37 p.m. for personnel. Regular session reconvened at 7:49 p.m.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to suspend Donald Hinkley without pay until further notice. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approvals/Finance/Pension – Vice President Botwright**

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the minutes for August 20, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for September 3, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright reports that the draft budget will be forwarded to Council next week. Input should be supplied to her by October 11, for further discussion at the budget workshop on October 15.

### **Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo**

The Community Yard Sale will be held on September 21.

### **New Business**

#### **Public Comment**

**Heather Hanna (Candidate for PA House District 5):** She has volunteered at the Children’s Fair and the fire company dinners and is happy to see the number of visitors that attend the monthly Council meetings. She feels that Council should be proud of the borough. President Kline invites her to attend the Rec Board’s Trunk-or-Treat event on October 25 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Vernie & Robert Noecker (1043 Water St.):** Asks if there is any update regarding the water damage to their library. Ms. Wagner will supply the Noeckers with the borough’s insurance carrier information.

**Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.):** Asks if there was a conviction with the Yocum hearing. Solicitor Mooney reports that as no conviction occurred, Mr. Yocum will continue to collect his pension.

**Clifford Weinhold (504 Main St.):** Notes that the intersection at Ollie’s Tavern at Main St. & Noble Ave. is quite busy and that a large portion of drivers do not come to a full stop. This often occurs during the hours that school is not in session, with the majority of speeders being community members. He notes that the Folk Paving trucks always stop. He has spoken with Mr. Methax to note that there are “all way” signs under 3 of the 4 stops signs at the intersection, with no notation on the stop sign heading south on Main St. Mr. Gruber has ordered and received the sign, which will be installed on Wednesday.

Mr. Weinhold spoke with Mr. Methax about adding “strictly enforced” signs below the stop signs at the intersection and was told that the additional signage may not be permissible. As Mr. Weinhold has seen such signage in other PA counties, he is asked to reach out to those municipalities for further information.

Mr. Weinhold had unpleasant phone conversations with the PA State Police dispatcher regarding speeding at the intersection, with the dispatcher being extremely rude to him. Mr. Weinhold had requested that a trooper be at the intersection when the children are crossing, in order to witness the traffic flow.

Ms. Noecker can attest to witnessing tractor trailers not coming to complete stops at the intersection.

Mr. Weinhold is a former crossing guard and is passionate about the position, as a former classmate was killed while crossing traffic. President Kline asks Mr. Weinhold if he is interested in being a borough crossing guard, with Mr. Weinhold replying that he would be able to be a guard in late October, once he has recovered from a medical procedure.

A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer