

**CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Shoemakersville Borough**

**September 5, 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 7:01 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 7:26 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor – leaves at 8:45 p.m., Paul Gruber – Borough Manager & Codes, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

**Planning Commission:** Rescheduled to September 19 workshop.

**Code Enforcement – Mr. Gruber**

- **Permits & Notices:** Five notices were sent in August, with all planning to be resolved.

**Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney**

- **Garbage/Recycling Contracts:** Bids were received.
- **Tractor Supply:** Per email, the representatives noted they were unable to attend the meeting, but will review the engineer’s comments and resubmit their information.
- **PTMA Sewer & Water Agreements:** Solicitor Mooney and Council discuss amending the current agreements.

**Engineer’s Report – Mr. Kee**

- **Headworks & Solids Handling Construction:** ARRO recommends payment of application #12 for \$107,398.90. Council needs to approve Change Order #8, which deletes unused contingency items, resulting in a savings of \$15,422. Once the substantial completion form and change order #8 are returned to ARRO, the Pennvest loan can be closed out.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve Change Order #8 dated July 7, 2023, approve Payment Application #12 for \$107,398.90 to EECI and to authorize Mr. Gruber to sign the Certificate of Substantial Completion. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. President Kline asks the amount of the change order, with Mr. Kee noting a savings of \$15,422. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kee reports that administrative costs up to \$33,122.00, engineering fees up to \$118,700 and permit fees up to \$2,800 for the project can be tallied and included in the Pennvest funding.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize ARRO to collect and process the reimbursable expenses for the Pennvest loan. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

- **NPDES Permit:** Mr. Kee has not heard any update on the permit.

- **Local Share Account Grant:** Information on the grant has been forwarded to Vice President Botwright and Mr. Wertz. The grant has a deadline of November 30, 2023 and will require support from senators and house representatives.

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

Council briefly reviews the first round of electricity bids received. The current contract expires on December 31, 2023. Ms. Wagner requests to close the office at noon on October 3 and all day on October 9.

### **Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp**

Mayor Remp reviews the August PA State Police Report, highlighting incidents at 321 Park St. and 631 Water St.

Hometown Heroes banners are being printed. Council continues to review the banner relocation form.

Trick-or-Treat will be on October 30 & 31 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The Neighborhood Watch Program met two weeks ago and continues to walk the borough.

Mayor Remp extends his condolences to the family of Clark Zimmerman.

Mayor Remp reports that the Kwik Shoppe was robbed on September 4.

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

Mr. Gruber received the As-Builts from Sheetz and has forwarded the information to Mr. Kee for review. A final walk-through will take place on September 12 at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Methax is now the borough's point of contact for PA One Call.

Martin Paving will have the list of deficiencies with the road project addressed when they are on site for the PennDOT paving on Main St.

Folk Paving will contact Mr. Gruber when a date has been scheduled to fill the three potholes on Main St.

Mr. Nabar continues to make good progress with the ArcGIS.

Mr. Gruber reports that Mr. Methax, Mr. Mohn, Mr. Bachman, and Mr. Dissinger will be attending a free Met-Ed safety demo at the Ontelaunee Township office on September 27 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

The blockage in the mixed liquor pipe at the sewer plant has been cleared, with the plant being fully operational.

Renegade was at the water plant and will return on September 7 to continue with the valve issues with the 2<sup>nd</sup> filter.

Staff training with the Harmony water meter reading software took place on August 29 & 30.

Mr. Gruber will work with Mr. Mohn to complete a detailed process for closing and winterizing the pool.

### **Executive Session**

Council and Solicitor Mooney recess into executive session at 7:27 p.m. to discuss possible litigation and personnel. Regular session reconvened at 8:19 p.m.

\*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to increase the borough secretary's hourly rate from \$25.75 to \$26.50, to begin with the next pay period. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

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

\*A motion is made by Mr. Smith to authorize the solicitor to draft a Notice of Intent for option 1 for recycling and option 2 for yard waste & solid waste removal to BFI, operating as Republic Services. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Water – President Kline** – nothing to report

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

Ms. Kennedy-Kline reports that Trunk-or-Treat will be held in the park on October 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Doggie Dip Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 9 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at a cost of \$10/pet.

**Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz**

Mr. Wertz, President Kline and Solicitor Mooney discuss the Quick Start Agreement for the Tractor Supply property. The details of the agreement, the approved building permit and the land development application process are discussed.

\*A motion is made by Ms. Kennedy-Kline to authorize the Council President to sign the Quick Start Agreement with Home Elite. Seconded by Vice President Botwright. Roll call vote taken with President Kline, Ms. Randazzo, Ms. Kennedy-Kline and Mr. Grim voting yes and Vice President Botwright, Mr. Wertz and Mr. Smith voting no. Motion carried by a vote of 4 yes to 3 no.

Vice President Botwright reviews the updated Junior Councilperson resolution, which will allow for Perry Township applicants.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve Resolution 158-2023, updating the Junior Councilperson Program resolution. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

**Employee Relations – President Kline**

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to hire Bonnie Correll as a full-time crossing guard and Cindy McGowan as a back-up guard, at a rate of \$15/hr. 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 15, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for September 5, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wertz reports that Mr. Gruber signed the Wolfe Textiles, Inc. final plans, which grants the borough an easement across re-subdivided Wolfe owned land.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to adopt the 2024 MMO for the non-uniform pension plan at \$27,525. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

\*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright adopt the 2024 MMO for the police pension plat at \$27,380. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright discusses the 2024 budget, with drafts being forwarded to Council in September. Feedback should be returned to her by October 3, so that comments can be discussed at the October 17 & 23 budget workshops.

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

Ms. Randazzo reports that the community yard sale will take place on September 16.

### **New Business**

#### **Public Comment**

**Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St.):** Confirms that trash pick-up for the week will be Friday.

Mr. Geschwindt asks for the results of the water test, with Ms. Wagner noting that Suburban tested the water on August 1 at the Kwik Shoppe and the sewer plant and that all results met the necessary requirements.

**Mark Paine (25 Main St.):** Asks what can be done about his new neighbor parking in front of the fire hydrant on Saturdays and Sundays. He called the PA State Police, who requested the license plate number, which Mr. Paine did not provide. President Kline and Mr. Paine discuss the vehicle. Mr. Gruber asks Mr. Paine to contact him with the license plate information, which he will forward to the police.

Mr. Paine notes of continue fireworks use in the area of the garage. He is asked to notify the state police.

Mr. Paine and Council discuss the noise ordinance, which notes that incidents occurring between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. during daylight savings time, would be considered violations. Documentation of the occurrences is required for ordinance enforcement.

As Mr. Paine notes that there are high weeds at 214 Church Ave. near the railroad tracks, Mr. Gruber will send a violation notice.

**Chief Wagner (Shoemakersville Fire Co.):** Reports that the hovercraft and 5-ton truck are back in service. Chief Wagner is granted approval to utilize the borough pool for training after Doggie Dip Day.

Chief Wagner will be meeting with Mr. Murphy and the contractor at TSC tomorrow morning for the fire suppression testing. TSC would like to begin stocking shelves on Friday. Chief Wagner and Mr. Wertz discuss the fire lane access to the nearest hydrant. Chief Wagner states that while it appears the trucks will not have 360° access around the building, as the propane tank is located at the corner of the property, the trucks will be able to access the front by driving behind the building and around the front of CVS. The other point of access would be to close Route 61. The closest hydrant is at 9<sup>th</sup> & Reber Sts.

The second hydrant is located at 9<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Sts. Chief Wagner can confer with PA State Police Fire Marshal Trooper Jansen to review the state fire codes.

### **Old Business**

President Kline notes of the Community Yard Sale on September 16 and the Lion's Club Carnival, which was rescheduled to September 29 & 30.

A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer