

CHAMBER OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
Shoemakersville Borough

September 6, 2022

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, Joseph Wertz, Jr., Dustin Remp – Mayor, Bradley Smith – Engineer – leaves at 7:23 p.m., Keith Mooney – Solicitor – leaves at 7:23 p.m., Paul Gruber – Manager, Chad Zimmerman – Zoning/Public Works, and Melissa Wagner – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent from the meeting: Dana Smith

Code Enforcement – Mr. Zimmerman

- **Permits:** One permit for a shed was issued in August
- **Notices:** Eight notices were sent last month, mainly for shrubbery overhanging the sidewalk and sewer leaking into the alley. There has not been any major sewer leakage, just wet spots, that Mr. Zimmerman is monitoring. This property previously had similar issues

The matter regarding an abandoned vehicle was sent to the District Justice’s office. The Dept. of Aging is assisting with 436 Pine St., as the owner is unable to maintain the grass and weeds on her property, as well as give proper care to her cats.

President Kline requests an update on the crumbling bricks at 331 Main St., with Mr. Zimmerman stating that the property owner has several ongoing projects and is working on the brick repair.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Mooney

- **Sale of 115 E. 9th St.:** Closing will take place remotely, next week. President Kline will need to sign associated documents.
- **Headworks & Solids Handling Project:** President Kline and Vice President Botwright discuss having a separate bank account vs. a general ledger line item for the funds, with Solicitor Mooney stating that a line item is sufficient.

Engineer’s Report – Engineer Smith

- **Headworks & Solids Handling, Bidding & Construction:** The top section of the top unit of the headworks structure was cast with a key and is approximately 9” higher than designed. Engineer Smith and Council discuss the option to cut off the extra top section, which was recommended by the contractor. They discuss whether or not the rebar is at the proper height. Engineer Smith is waiting for further information from the contractor regarding the rebar.

The ARRO project representative will perform weekly site visits. Engineer Smith thanks Mr. Gruber for his communication with ARRO and the contractors, as Mr. Gruber observes the construction on a daily basis. ARRO recommends approval of the EEC payment application #2 for \$281,835.00.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to approve payment application #2 for Eastern Environmental for \$281,835.00. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

- **MS4 Renewal & Waiver:** Engineer Smith reports that DEP has changed how they administer the program, with waivers now being processed at the local district offices. Engineer Smith and Council discuss the criteria for waivers; a borough of less than 1,000 people, and if any of the surface water the borough discharges to a TML, which the Schuylkill River has. Engineer Smith reports that while the borough may not meet the criteria, several larger communities have been granted a waiver. Council discusses the waiver.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to authorize ARRO to fill out the MS4 waiver, at a fee of \$600. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

- **MS4 Program Update Stormwater Ordinance:** A draft copy of the ordinance to update the stormwater management ordinance to comply with the MS4 program was forwarded.

*A motion is made by Mr. Wertz to advertise the updated stormwater ordinance. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Council discusses who will run the ad, approving Solicitor Mooney to prepare and run the advertisement. Motion carried unanimously.

Wellhead Protection Ordinance: Mr. Wertz reports that the information is being included in the zoning ordinance. **The wellhead area will require 3 zones, which will necessitate an overlay. ARRO has staff that will overlay a zone.** Solicitor Mooney recommends that Perry Township be asked to adopt a similar ordinance, taking out the zones that are located in the borough. All the zones located in Perry Township should be in their ordinance as being protected.

- **Floodplain Ordinance:** Mr. Wertz did not change floodplain in the zoning draft and asks what the borough can do to promote developing in floodways. Engineer Smith requests a copy of the standalone floodplain ordinance for review.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence – Ms. Wagner

The borough office will be closing at noon on September 20 & 27. Council has no issue with Ms. Wagner's request to open the office at 9:00 a.m. on September 9.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Remp

Mayor Remp thanks the road crew for hanging the 16 Hometown Heroes banners, noting that 1 banner will be held for next year's ceremony. He will soon open round #4 for banner applications. **Mr. Gruber will be drafting the form for banners to be relocated.**

The next Neighborhood Watch Meeting will occur on September 10 at 9:00 a.m. Future meetings will take place at 10:00 a.m. on October 15 and November 12. Mayor Remp discusses the 68 incidents listed on the PA State Police report for August. Any information he received regarding the break in was forward to the State Police. He will be meeting with Sgt. Mengel the week of September 17.

Mayor Remp received several calls regarding missed trash. He and Council discuss the possibilities for the misses. Ms. Randazzo called the hauler directly when her trash was missed.

Mr. Grim would like to see directional signs for the park throughout the borough, in an effort to reduce any slow moving, potentially suspicious vehicles that may be looking for the park. **Mr. Zimmerman will obtain pricing for the sign, estimating a size of 30", at a cost of \$60/sign.**

Operator/Manager's Report - Mr. Gruber

Mr. Gruber asks Mayor Remp to pass on any missed trash pickups to him.

Mr. Gruber reports that he and Mr. Zimmerman continue to have their weekly drives around the borough, to keep track of any deficiencies.

Mr. Gruber has scheduled the first "Meet the Manager" event for Saturday, October 1, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the borough office.

Mr. Gruber reports that Mr. Zimmerman received an updated quote for the water plant valves from Exeter Supply. The data plate information is required for the permit. A quote had also been received from Yeager Supply, who is not on the Costars list. President Kline had previously received a quote from LB Water, which was similar to Exeter Supply.

Mr. Grim thanks Mr. Gruber for coordinating a tour of the borough with Mr. Zimmerman.

Property/Streets/Sanitation – Mr. Smith:

Ms. Kennedy-Kline thanks Mr. Gruber for continuing to inform Met-Ed of any street light issues.

Sewer – Mr. Wertz – nothing to report

Water – President Kline

President Kline and Ms. Wagner discuss delinquent water accounts. There has been no update from T-Mobile.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Kennedy-Kline

The pool is closed for the season, with Ms. Kennedy-Kline thanking Vice President Botwright for her work at the pool this year. Vice President Botwright reports that Doggie Dip Day will be September 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with gifts for the dogs being provided by TK's Toy Box. Owners of dogs in attendance have been asked to have proof of vaccinations for the animals, in the event of a dog bite.

Law/Planning/Zoning – Mr. Wertz:

Mr. Wertz has forwarded the updated zoning ordinance draft, noting that he has removed the animal count and the small wireless information, and has added the wellhead overlay district. A revised zoning map is needed before the ordinance can be reviewed by the borough solicitor and the Berks County Planning Commission.

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 August 16, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the bills payable for September 6, 2022. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy-Kline. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the 2022 MMO for the non-uniform pension plan for \$29,135. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

*A motion is made by Vice President Botwright to approve the 2022 MMO for the police pension plan, for \$27,558. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Botwright will soon begin preliminary work on the 2023 budget.

Community Outreach – Ms. Randazzo

The community yard sale will be on September 10 from 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. There are currently 24 homes listed on the sale map. The map has been shared on the Shoey Gang Facebook page. As the Hamburg Community Yard Sale is also occurring on the same day, Ms. Randazzo is working with the Hamburg coordinator, whereby both sales will promote the other group's event as well. Vice President Botwright will place the sale on the Shoemakersville Community Facebook page.

New Business

Public Comment

Mark Paine (25 Main St.): Notes of the home in the 100 block of Main St. that has numerous items piled on the front porch. Mr. Zimmerman notes that while the rental property is not in violation of any ordinance, he will contact the property owner regarding the disarray.

Mr. Paine reports on the pedestrian crossing sign that was hit near his home, commending the State Trooper that responded to the call. The driver was located and contacted the office.

Mr. Paine asks how the funds from the sale of 115 E. 9th St. will be used, with Council stating that the monies will be discussed during the upcoming budget workshops.

Richard Geschwindt (603 Reber St): Asks about the title company being used for the sale of 115 E. 9th St. Mr. Geschwindt has requested a copy of the settlement sheet.

Mr. Geschwindt asks why Tractor Supply attended the August meeting, with President Kline reporting that a representative from the attorney's office for the property owner was present to discuss whether or not the zoning for the building met Tractor Supply's requirements, which they do. No plans were submitted. The owner of the Perry Commercial Center also owns the Shoemakersville Shopping Center. There has been no update on the Perry Commercial Center or the proposed traffic light.

Mr. Geschwindt asks if the borough is updating the dog ordinance, with Vice President Botwright reporting that Council will be updating the park rules to match the signage that is posted.

Mayor Remp asks if all properties are governed by the same sidewalk regulations, noting of a motorcycle parked on the sidewalk on E. Noble Ave. Mr. Zimmerman and Vice President Botwright discuss the ADA regulations for sidewalks, noting that a motorcycle may be parked on a sidewalk, provided the sidewalk remains wheelchair accessible.

Mr. Geschwindt requests the water test results, with Ms. Wagner reporting that Suburban tested the water on August 3 at the sewer plant and the Kwik Shoppe and that all results met the necessary requirements.

A motion is made by Mr. Grim to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wertz. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Wagner - Secretary/Treasurer