

**SHAMOKIN DAM BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Shamokin Dam Borough Council was held on Monday, November 6, 2023, in the municipal building located at 42 West 8th Avenue, Shamokin Dam beginning at 7:00 P.M. President Musser presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Sauers, Shawn Bingaman, Maria Brandt, Karen Roberts, Mark Benner, Paige Visneski, and Donald Musser were present.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Secretary LaDawn Leitzel, Mayor Joseph McGranaghan, Manager Edward Hovenstine, Solicitor Robert Slivinski, Diana Bickhart, Elaine Herbert, June Stark, David Bobb, and Dr. Michael Dunigan were present.

The meeting was opened with the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Bingaman to approve the Council minutes of October 2, 2023, Workshop minutes of October 19, 2023, and Special meeting minutes of October 23, 2023, as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Brandt, and approved by all.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Proposed 2024 Meeting Nights – President Musser discussed that two Council meeting nights in January and September would be held on Tuesday, due to holiday, instead of the first Monday of the month. A motion was made by Councilwoman Roberts to approve and advertise the proposed meeting nights of 2024 as presented, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

2023 Christmas Party – Council agreed to hold the Borough Christmas party on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at the Shamokin Dam Fire Company.

2024 Budget-Tentative Adoption – Proposed 2024 Budget –The 2024 General Fund Budget and the Water/Sewer Fund Budget were presented for tentative adoption and advertising. The 2024 General Fund budget is proposed at \$1,264,907.00. President Musser suggested increasing the contributions by ten percent of year 2023. The 2024 Water/Sewer Fund Budget is proposed at \$1,105,894.00 with no increase to the water/sewer rates in 2024. A motion was made by Vice President Sauers to tentatively adopt and advertise the proposed 2024 Budgets as amended, seconded by Councilwoman Roberts, and roll call vote called: Shawn Bingaman-Yes, David Sauers-Yes, Donald Musser-Yes, Mark Benner-Yes, Maria Brandt-Yes, Paige Visneski-Yes, Karen Roberts-Yes. 7-Yes 0-No

The Manager will advertise the 2024 Budgets for adoption on Monday, December 4, 2023.

Winter Newsletter – Secretary Leitzel presented the Winter Newsletter and will distribute it to Borough residents. President Musser questioned who receives the newsletter. Mayor McGranaghan mentioned that some Borough residents did not receive the Summer Newsletter. The Secretary answered that a newsletter is mailed to every address in Shamokin Dam unless a newsletter is returned with a message (vacant, not deliverable as addressed, no mail receptacle), then the next mailing it may be omitted depending on the circumstance.

Zoning Hearing Vacancy – A member of the Zoning Hearing Board, Derrick Backer resigned due to moving out of the Borough. Manager Hovenstine recommended appointing Bruce Marion to the Zoning Hearing Board in January along with the other Boards and Commissions appointments. Manager Hovenstine suggested that Council consider an alternate position on the Zoning Hearing Board. Solicitor Slivinski stated that the alternate position can attend the meeting, but however cannot vote.

Spooks in the Park – Councilman Bingaman presented an update on the Spooks in the Park event that was held on Saturday, October 28, 2023, between the hours of 6:00PM – 9:00PM and requested a change to the donation letter and a reimbursement of \$319.86 that were expenses paid out of pocket. Councilman Bingaman requested that the Spooks in the Park event be established for Saturday, October 26, 2024, between the hours of 6:00PM – 9:00PM and have the donation letter available in September. President Musser suggested that Trick or Treat Night be set for Thursday, October 31, 2024, between the hours of 6:00PM – 8:00PM. A motion was made by Councilman Benner to reimburse Councilman Bingaman in the amount of \$319.86 for the out-of-pocket expenses for the 2023 Spooks in the Park event, seconded by Councilwoman Visneski, and approved by all. A motion was made by Councilwoman Brandt to establish the dates for the Spooks in the Park on Saturday, October 26, 2024, between the hours of 6:00PM – 9:00PM and Trick or Treat Night on Thursday, October 31, 2024, between the hours of 6:00PM – 8:00PM, seconded by Councilwoman Roberts, and approved by all. A motion was made by President Musser to commend Councilman Bingaman and other Council members on a job well done for the Spooks in the Park event, seconded by Vice President Sauers, and approved by all.

MAYORS REPORT:

Property Issues – Mayor McGranaghan discussed the feral cat issue related to feeding them without a container to avoid a violation of the quality-of-life ordinance. The Mayor will research a solution to this issue of feeding the feral cats. The Mayor also discussed the issue of no parking on Center Street. President Musser recommended fixing the no parking ordinance on Center Street. Manager Hovenstine recommended changing the no parking signs to no parking on this side of the street and updating the no parking ordinance for the entire Borough. A motion was made by Vice President Sauers to direct the Solicitor to amend the no parking ordinance to prohibit parking on the west side instead of the east side of Center Street, seconded by Councilman Benner, and approved by all.

Sunset Rink – Mayor McGranaghan reviewed a notification of a possible incident at a party at the Sunset Rink. The Mayor authorized overtime for the police department to have a presence at the establishment from the beginning to the end of the event.

Police Report –The police department participated in tactical training, and target training. The Police Chief will distribute to Council the October police report via email.

MANAGERS REPORT:

President Musser and Manager Hovenstine attended the Central Keystone COG annual meeting on Thursday, October 12, 2023, the 2024 budget was approved. There was discussion regarding the staff conceal carry of a firearm, with permit. The COG is looking for individual municipality input to come up with a final solution. President Musser expressed that Council would defer to Central Keystone COG’s legal counsel and their recommendation.

Manager Hovenstine reported that the basketball court at Jack Treas Park was postponed until next spring due to scheduling and possibility of lower temperatures. The 2023 streets program was completed, the final invoice is included in the November bills. 2024 Streets program will be the completion of Baldwin Blvd. after two valves are installed on the water main. Queen Avenue should be considered, however UGI is planning another gas line replacement in that area and could tear up the street. Councilman Benner questioned whether the inlets, utility lines, manholes, etc. could be flush with the newly constructed roads. The Manager noted that the Borough doesn’t want to hit those items with a snowplow either. New Enterprise put risers on those items on Baldwin Blvd. The Manager explained that the difference would be how the slope was added to the road.

Manager Hovenstine reviewed the healthcare renewal for December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2024. The plan is Capital Blue, partial self-insured type plan, with a proposed premium increase of 5.7%, and there will be a credit towards next year’s plan due to a low amount of claims in 2023. A motion was made by Councilwoman Roberts to renew the 2023-2024 healthcare with Capital Blue as stated, seconded by Councilman Bingaman, and approved by all.

A Water/Sewer CD in the amount of \$200,000.00 will be due for renewal this month, the Manager suggested reinvesting in another CD for a 42-month term either with Edward Jones or PLGIT.

Borough Crew Position – Benjamin Hummel will be starting on Monday, November 13, 2023, at a rate of \$22.00 per hour. Manager Hovenstine requested patience with leaf collection because the Borough is a little shorthanded and contacted the probation office for assistance.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

The Solicitor reported that the annexation of the property located at 111 West 11th Avenue has been completed and will take effect January 1, 2024, and proceed with the subdivision of the property. The Solicitor requested a copy of the proof of publication for the annexation, which the Secretary will forward to the Solicitor.

The Borough received a bankruptcy notice that was originally sent to the City of Shamokin for Yvonne and Thomas Lenhard, 3285 North Old Trail, Shamokin Dam. The Solicitor sent correspondence and will update on the status of the water/sewer balance.

Secretary Leitzel requested assistance from the Solicitor for a Right To Know request for documentation on the annexation of the property located at 111 West 11th Avenue. Solicitor Slivinski sent this information to the requester.

The Solicitor questioned whether the Manager completed the PENNDOT traffic signal agreement. Manager Hovenstine answered that the agreement has been executed.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

A Planning Commission meeting will not be held in November.

WORKSHOP:

A Workshop meeting was held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 7:00 PM to present the proposed ordinance for annexation of property located at 111 West Eleventh Avenue and to discuss the proposed 2024 Budget.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

General Fund bills in the amount of \$70,089.29, Water and Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$29,959.73, Fire Protection Tax Fund in the amount of \$1,863.31, Local Service Fund in the amount of \$18,220.13, and Liquid Fuels Fund in the amount of \$55,900.00 were presented for payment. A motion was made by Vice President Sauers to approve payment of the bills as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Visneski, and approved by all.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council adjourned to executive session at 8:15 PM, to discuss personnel issue; reconvened at 8:45 PM. No action was taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaDawn D. Leitzel
Borough Secretary