

The July 13, 2023 meeting of the Shillington Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President John W. Hoffert. Following the invocation by Mayor Hivner and the oath of allegiance, roll call was taken. Council member Elizabeth M. Bentz was absent. Council members in attendance were: John W. Hoffert; Michael A. Hoffert; Ronald R. Klee, Jr.; Edward B. Michalik and Conrad Vanino. Council member Alec M. Ernst participated by telephone. Present in addition to the Council members were: Mayor Andrew R. Hivner, Borough Manager Scott D. Brossman, Police Chief Brett A. Hivner, Fire Chief Robert Knouse, Solicitor Thomas Klonis and Secretary Jan M. Boyd. Kenneth Fulmer of Great Valley Consultants was also in attendance along with the following residents and visitors:

John Auman - 111 Franklin Street
Cole Golden - 106 Rose Court
Steven Hofmann - 416 Sherwood Street
Daniel Jensen - 116 North Brobst Street
Susan Haas - 307 Second Street
Kathleen Kline-Ross - 322 Holland Street
Jackie Kurtz - 449 Holland Street
Mari Madonna - 447 Holland Street
Alyssa Oxenreider - 136 Chestnut Street
Eric and Roxann Prock - 408 Mitti Road
Elizabeth Sekella - 102 Franklin Street
Kaitlynn Shingle - 342 South Sterley Street
Harold Stupp - 115 South Miller Street

Rachel Sebastian - Governor Mifflin School District
Elementary Librarian

As there were no objections, the minutes of the June 8, 2023, council meeting were approved as forwarded to each member, on a motion by Mr. Klee, seconded by Dr. Michalik, and duly carried.

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PUBLIC COMMENT:

The following residents expressed their concerns to Council regarding the inconsistency and, at times, the non-existence of the Borough's trash collection over the last several weeks:

Kathleen Kline-Ross
Steven Hofmann
Alyssa Oxenreider
Cole Golden
Kaitlynn Shingle
Roxann Prock

Council heard the residents' concerns and recommendations and advised that they will vote later in the meeting regarding imposing the penalties on Eagle Disposal in accordance with their contract with the Borough. President Hoffert noted that although the Borough was trying to work with Eagle Disposal, it was time to apply the penalties for them not picking up the trash, as contracted.

In light of the current situation that the Borough is experiencing, Solicitor Klonis is recommending that when a new contract is entered into, the penalty provisions be revisited.

Mr. Hofmann also requested that Council take care of the deer problem in the Slate Hill area of the Borough. He noted that there are approximately fifteen (15) deer in the area of his property, which he believes are destroying the quality of life for the residents in this area.

Mr. Brossman advised that the deer are coming into the Borough from the Wyomissing area. As such, Solicitor Klonis suggested that Mr. Hofmann take his concerns to the Wyomissing Borough Council.

Ms. Shingle also addressed her concern about the condition of many curbs and public sidewalks in the Borough. She uses a mobility scooter around the town and is often riding in the street due to the condition of the sidewalks.

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President Hoffert advised that the Borough has an ongoing program for street repair, which includes an inspection of the curbing along those streets scheduled for repair. Additionally, Borough-wide sidewalk inspections are conducted, as needed. Letters of violation are given to those residents whose sidewalks are not in compliance with the ordinance requirements.

Mrs. Haas questioned whether it is a property maintenance code violation to keep your trash containers in the front of your property. Mr. Brossman advised that in some areas the residents do not have easy access to the rear of the properties. Therefore, it is permissible to have your trash and/or recycling containers in the front yard of your property.

Mrs. Haas also questioned about the plowing of the alley in the rear of her property. Many years ago she was told that the alley would only be plowed if it was named.

Solicitor Klonis agreed that this is true, as a non-dedicated and therefore, unnamed, alley reverts back to the property owner if it is not dedicated within twenty-one (21) years. Although the Borough does not plow the alleys, it will patch any potholes in the alley.

Ms. Sekella's concern was regarding the lack of handicapped ramps in her neighborhood. Her daughter is in a wheelchair and without the curbs being accessible, she is limited to how far she is able to get around her neighborhood.

President Hoffert advised that the handicapped ramps are installed when the streets are upgraded.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor - Mayor Hivner gave the Police Department's report for the month of June. During this month, the Department handled 235 incidents, with 87 arrests being made. Also during this month, 3,002 patrol miles were traveled.

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Police and Personnel - On a motion by Mr. Ronald R. Klee, Jr., chairman, seconded by Dr. Michalik, and duly carried, Council approved the payment of \$8,017.17 in overtime paid to the members of the Police Department during the month of June.

By motion of Mr. Klee, seconded by Mr. Michael Hoffert, and duly carried, Council took the following action on the Handicapped Parking Space applications that were received and presented:

- a. Approved **NEW** permit:
 - 1) 122 Reading Avenue - Betty L. Schlott
 - 2) 212 North Waverly Street - April Lynn Bromhead
 - 3) 26 Pennsylvania Avenue - Quang Vinh Tran

- b. Rescinded the following permit:
 - 1) 102 Philadelphia Avenue - Julia Olivera - applicant moved
 - 2) 122 North Sterley Street - Joan Roth - applicant moved

- c. Authorized the preparation and advertising of the ordinance for the above.

Mr. Klee advised that the Civil Service Commission has started the promotional testing for the Police Department's corporal position. The procedures for the promotional testing allow Council to have the option to allow the Civil Service Commission to only conduct the written exam and the oral exam and waive the remainder of the testing procedures. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Vanino made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Michalik, and unanimously carried to waive the additional testing (i.e., physical agility, polygraph, psychological examination and medical examination) for the promotional testing.

Administration-Law-Finance - Dr. Edward B. Michalik, chairman, made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klee,

Fire

Tree-Pole and Light

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Streets-Sanitation-Water

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President Hoffert then gave the report of the Public Works Department for work done during the month of June.

On a motion by Mr. Vanino, seconded by Dr. Michalik, and duly carried, Council authorized the preparation and advertising of an ordinance to restrict parking on both sides of South Waverly Street between East Lancaster Avenue and South Brobst Street.

Mr. Vanino then made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klee, and unanimously approved, to accept the recommendation of the Streets-Sanitation-Water Committee to impose penalties on Eagle Disposal in accordance with the terms of the contract for refuse collection. These penalties would be for days (in their entirety) that the refuse was not picked up in the Borough.

Recreation - Mr. Ernst, vice chairman, reported that the Recreation Board did not hold its monthly meeting on July 10, 2023 due to a lack of a quorum.

Zoning and Codes - Mr. Conrad Vanino, chairman, gave the report from the Borough's Building Code Official, Terrence Naugle, for the month of June. During this time, Mr. Naugle issued fifteen (15) new permits and zero (0) certificates of use/occupancy thereby leaving thirty-five (35) permits open.

Manager - Mr. Brossman reported that on July 5, 2023, the Borough received \$48,122.19 from the Berks Earned Income Tax Bureau representing the Borough's share of the local earned income tax processed from June 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

Permission was given to update the Borough's computer system (hardware & software), as budgeted, at a CoStars price of \$36,529, on a motion by Dr. Michalik, seconded by Mr. Klee, and duly carried.

Council authorized the payment of the Request for Payment No. 1 from Cumru Township in the amount of \$78,998.33 which is for the Borough's portion of the Reed

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Street Water Main Project, on a motion by Mr. Vanino, seconded by Mr. Michael Hoffert and unanimously approved.

Mr. Brossman advised that a request was received from the Governor Mifflin School District to hold a "Storywalk" in the Park from August 1 through August 14, 2023, with a Family Night to kick off the event on August 1, 2023. Council approved this request on a motion by Mr. Vanino, seconded by Dr. Michalik, and duly approved.

Mr. Brossman reported that the Borough received a Recycling grant in the amount of \$117,000 to cover the cost of a new leaf collector, recycling containers and recycling education pamphlets.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Mr. Hofmann questioned the timing of the traffic signals along West Lancaster Avenue. He believes that the timing of the signals, particularly at Museum Road and at Wyomissing Avenue, appears to be off.

Mr. Brossman advised that the timing issue is from an accident that occurred at West Lancaster Avenue and Museum Road, which knocked the traffic signal down. This signal has just been repaired to working order, but the timing has not yet been corrected. He further advised that the Borough has received a grant to upgrade the entire Lancaster Avenue corridor, hopefully within the year.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Hoffert read the note from the Shillington Memorial Day Parade Committee thanking the Borough and its staff for their efforts in honoring the veterans.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Vanino and duly carried at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan M. Boyd
Borough Secretary