

The November 14, 2024 meeting of the Shillington Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President John W. Hoffert. Following a moment of silence and the oath of allegiance, roll call was taken. Mayor Andrew R. Hivner and Councilman Ronald R. Klee, Jr. were absent. Council members in attendance were: Elizabeth M. Bentz; Mark C. Grounard; John W. Hoffert; Michael A. Hoffert and Edward B. Michalik, Jr. Present in addition to the Council members were: Borough Manager Scott D. Brossman, Police Chief Brett A. Hivner, Solicitor Thomas L. Klonis, Fire Chief Robert Knouse, Secretary Jan M. Boyd and Administrative Assistant Tina Kasting. Kenneth Fulmer of Great Valley Consultants Deputy Fire Chief David M. Bentz were also in attendance along with the following residents and visitors:

Nicholas M. Bentz - 137 West Elm Street
Andrew Casey - representative, A.J. Blosenski, Inc.
Richard P. Almquist, Jr., Esquire - Hollenbaugh's
Trash & Recycling, LLC
Hugh R. Guard - representative, Hollenbaugh's
Trash & Recycling LLC
Albert DeGennaro, Esquire - representative, J.P.
Mascaro & Sons

As there were no objections, the minutes of the October 10, 2024, meeting were approved as forwarded to each member, on a motion by Dr. Michalik, seconded by Dr. Bentz and duly carried.

VACANT POSITION ON COUNCIL:

President Hoffert requested Solicitor Klonis present **Resolution No. 8-2024**, which appoints Nicholas M. Bentz to Borough Council to fill the position vacated by Michael D. Mountz. Dr. Michalik made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Bentz, and duly carried adopting the presented resolution.

Unfortunately, with the absence of Mayor Hivner, Mr. Bentz was unable to be sworn in for this meeting. Therefore, he was unable to vote on any action taken by Council.

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PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Due to the number of visitors in attendance regarding the refuse and recycling bids, President Hoffert decided to have the discussion about the bids at this time.

Solicitor Klonis advised that he had the opportunity to review the bids received. In his opinion, three of the four bids received have disqualifying deficiencies making them unacceptable. These bids were from A. J. Blosenski, Inc., Cogle Recycling, Inc. and Hollenbaugh's Trash & Recycling, LLC. J.P. Mascaro & Sons submitted the only qualifying bid. However, they are not the lowest bidder.

President Hoffert then allowed the representatives of each company to speak on behalf of their client and provide information as to why their bids should be considered and chosen.

Following a discussion on the information presented, President Hoffert called for a motion.

Mr. Michael Hoffert made a motion to accept the bid from the lowest bidder for once a week refuse collection and once a month bulk item collection. No second was received. Motion died.

Mr. Grounard then made a motion to reject all bids received. This motion was seconded by Dr. Michalik and duly carried. Roll Call - 5 ayes

Dr. Michalik then made a motion to, once again, rebid for the refuse and recycling contracts. This motion was seconded by Mr. Michael Hoffert and unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor - In the absence of Mayor Andrew Hivner, Police Chief Brett Hivner gave the Police Department's report for the month of October. During this month, the Department handled 257 incidents, with 31 arrests being made. All officers have completed training and recertification for taser, firearms and patrol rifle. Also during this month, 2,811 patrol miles were traveled.

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Chief Hivner provided an update on the new police candidates, Kyle Wood and Lucas Moyer. Both have successfully completed their physical and psychological examinations and have been enrolled in the Reading Police Academy. The Academy starts on Monday, January 13, 2025.

Police and Personnel - On a motion by Dr. Edward B. Michalik, chairman, seconded by Dr. Bentz, and duly carried, Council approved the payment of \$10,440.22 in overtime paid to the members of the Police Department during the month of October.

Dr. Michalik then made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Michael Hoffert, and duly carried, Council unanimously approved the hiring of Leonard E. Bilger, III, as Water Coordinator for the Borough, with an effective date of November 11, 2024 at an annual salary of \$90,000.

Administration-Law-Finance - On a motion by Dr. Elizabeth M. Bentz, vice chairman, seconded by Dr. Michalik, and unanimously approved, Council confirmed the payment of the bills associated with the October 31, 2024, Financial Statements, as follows:

General Fund - \$506,748.74
Water Fund - \$268,152.78
Sewer Fund - \$247,683.91
Recreation Board - \$20,714.53
Fire Fund - \$12,907.14
Streets Improvement Fund - \$1,268.19

Board and Commission Appointments:

A motion was made by Dr. Bentz, seconded by Dr. Michalik and duly carried, to appoint **Leonard E. Bilger, III** as a Borough representative to the **Western Berks Water Authority**, to fill the position vacated by **Michael D. Mountz**.

Solicitor Klonis presented the following Resolutions for appointments to the **Shillington Municipal Authority**:

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- °**No. 9-2024** - Appointing **Ronald R. Klee, Jr.** to complete the unfinished term of **Ronald C. Dunkelberger, Sr.** This resolution was adopted on a motion by Dr. Bentz, seconded by Dr. Michalik and unanimously carried.
- °**No.10-2024** - Appointing David M. Bentz to complete the vacated term of Michael D. Mountz. This resolution was adopted on a motion by Dr. Bentz, seconded by Dr. Michalik, and duly approved.

At this time, 8:34 p.m., Council went into Executive Session to discuss the acquisition of property. No action was taken.

Regular session was called back to order at 8:48 p.m.

Fire - Mr. Michael A. Hoffert, chairman, gave the Fire Chief's report for the month of October. The Department responded to a total of sixty-six (66) dispatches consisting of sixteen (16) calls in the Borough and fifty (50) assists to neighboring departments.

The members covered all one hundred eighty-four (184) hours of the available daytime staffing for the month.

Fire Chief Knouse presented Council with a framed picture of the Engine House, trucks and firefighters. This picture is a thank-you to the Borough for housing an engine at the Borough's Municipal Building while the painting of the Engine House was being completed.

Tree-Pole and Light - Mr. Mark C. Grounard, chairman, gave an update on the fall planting of the Tree Advisory Committee.

Streets-Sanitation-Water - Mr. John W. Hoffert, chairman, reviewed with Council the November Engineer's Report. He noted the following:

- °An invoice has been received from DMU Enterprises, Inc. (T/A as Hannahoe Painting, Inc. in the amount of \$51,695.00 for the new

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finish on the floor at the Engine House.
Action was taken on this invoice under the
Manager's report.

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

Recreation - Dr. Elizabeth M. Bentz, chairman, advised
that the Recreation Board meeting scheduled for
November 11, 2024 was cancelled.

Zoning and Codes - Mr. Michael A. Hoffert, vice-chairman,
gave the report from the Borough's Building Code Official,
Terrence Naugle, for the month of October. During this
time, Mr. Naugle issued eighteen (18) new permits and six
(6) certificates of use/occupancy thereby leaving ninety-
four (94) permits open.

Solicitor - By motion of Dr. Michalik, seconded by Mr.
Michael Hoffert, and unanimously approved, Solicitor
Klonis was authorized to file a lien on the following:

Paul B. and Joan N. Gruzig
772 Fairmont Avenue, Mohnton
For: 104 Princeton Avenue, Spring Township

Outstanding quarterly billings for
April 30, 2024 and July 31, 2024 \$154.04

Manager - Mr. Brossman distributed the 2025 Tentative
Budget to the Council members. On a motion by Dr.
Michalik, seconded by Dr. Bentz, and unanimously approved,
Council adopted the 2025 Tentative Budget, as presented,
and authorized it's advertising. The total budget is
\$14,593,900 and the General Fund is \$4,994,600. There is
no proposed tax increase and the millage rate will
remain at 7.14.

The Borough received \$56,372.59 on November 4,
2024, from the Berks Earned Income Tax Bureau representing
the Borough's share of the local earned income tax
processed from October 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024.

On November 13, 2024 the Borough received
\$21,442.10 from Comcast Cable representing the cable
franchise fees for the period of July 2024 through
September 2024.

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The Borough was approved for a grant in the amount of \$56,300 towards the purchase of a Valve Turning Trailer which costs \$63,965. Monies from the grant will be received in 2025. However, there is currently a manufacturing backlog of six to eight months to receive this equipment. Therefore, approval was given to purchase this equipment on a motion by Mr. Michael Hoffert, seconded by Dr. Michalik, and duly carried.

The Borough received a grant for \$250,000 to replace the sanitary sewer main on South Brobst Street. The grant does not require a match, but the project costs are estimated to exceed the grant funding provided by about \$215,920.50.

On the recommendation of the Borough's Engineers, approval was given to pay \$25,847.50 of the invoice from DMU Enterprises, Inc. for the resurfacing/finishing of the floor at the Engine House, on a motion by Mr. Michael Hoffert, seconded by Dr. Bentz, and duly carried. This amount represents fifty percent of the total amount due. The Borough's Engineers have recommended that the remaining balance be paid upon completion of the remedial work needed on the floor, which is slated to begin on November 18, 2024.

Approval was given to renew the Borough's membership with the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) for the year 2025, in the amount of \$1,137.00, on a motion by Dr. Michalik, seconded by Dr. Bentz and unanimously carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Dr. Michalik, and duly carried at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan M. Boyd
Borough Secretary

