

SHICKSHINNY BOROUGH
GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 2, 2022
MINUTES

The General Meeting of the Borough of Shickshinny Council was held on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, in the Council room of the Shickshinny Municipal Building. President Jessica Bolles called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Per roll call, the following members of Council were present: Joe Buchalski, Jim Wido, and Jessica Bolles. Absent were Kevin Kruczek and Rosalie Whitebread.

President Bolles led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and then welcomed others in attendance.

Others in attendance: Mayor Jordan Madl, Attorney Bill Stephens, Larry Frace, Bobbi Titus, Barry Noss Sr., Holly Morris, Jeff Noss, Rickey Noss, Joe Selner, Kathy Llewellyn, Gary Moore Sr., Mike Shoemaker, Corey Davis, Josh Kolinowski, and Tyler Guskiewicz.

President Bolles asked if there were any comments from residents in attendance on the agenda items. There were no comments.

President's Report

President Bolles reported on the Borough's participation in the recent Talon Drill and the critical need to be compliant with FEMA/PEMA requirements. Further, she noted that Jay Smith was not present at the drill and has not returned calls. Additionally, she stated that Barry Noss, Sr. is interested in serving as the Borough Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Noss stated that Josh Gregory would be willing to serve as the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator.

Motion made by Jim Wido/seconded by Joe Buchalski to appoint Barry Noss, Sr. as the Emergency Management Coordinator and Joshua Gregory as the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido. Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried. A letter will be sent to Jay Smith on the new appointments.

Motion made by Joe Buchalski/seconded by Jim Wido to accept and approve the President's Report. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Madl reported that some residents had requested sheltered seating on the bandstand in Municipal Park. Council discussed building attached seating inside the perimeter of the bandstand in a U-shape. The work would be done by Jim Wido and Jordan, along with any other volunteers, so that the only cost would be necessary materials. Jordan also stated that a chain could be placed across the stairway as a safety measure.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Buchalski to build a bench inside the perimeter of the bandstand in a U-shape using volunteers for the labor and purchasing only necessary materials. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Bolles to approve the Renegades Half and Quarter Marathon at the Warrior Trail on August 13, 2022 from 8:00 AM - Noon. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Mayor Madl confirmed that the Borough will be sponsoring a Community Shred Event using Purple Paper Eaters as the vendor on August 20, 2022 from 9:00 AM – Noon at the Borough Building.

There was discussion about the lights above the picnic tables at Municipal Park not working. The Street Department will check into this as it is unclear whether they are not working because of the electrical work that is needed or because of needed bulb replacement.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Bolles to accept and approve the Mayor's Report. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Engineer's Report – No report provided.

Zoning/Code/Property Maintenance Officer's Report

Larry Frace provided the August report, including:

- four remaining vehicles on Borough property to be towed
- a notice will be sent to the owner of the campground at the end of Search Street regarding the need for permits
- Larry received a Right to Know request for 80 Grant Street and needs an extension to complete
- enforcement of parking ordinances on Baer/Grant Streets was discussed
- permission is needed to go to the Solicitor for guidance on some of the cases that need to be referred to Luzerne County Court
- 36 W. Union Street property must still be considered a firehouse by the State and Borough until the deed is transferred. Once the deed is transferred, the new owner will get the necessary permits.

Ordinance 2011-0308 states that the codes officer can ticket and tow for violations on Baer and Grant Streets after 10 days. There was discussion on adding Rockview and Search Streets to the Ordinance or adding all "No Parking Zones". Attorney Stephens noted that when the Ordinance is amended, the fines should be revised also.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Buchalski to amend Ordinance 2011-0308 to include all streets where there are established and marked "No Parking" areas. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Buchalski to accept and approve the Zoning/Code/Property Maintenance Officer's Report. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report - Attorney Bill Stephens provided the following report:

- Attorney Logsdon is still working with Erik Gotwalt on revisions to the maintenance agreement for the spring on Grant Street. He noted that the agreement is close to finalization.
- Attorney Stephens stated that there is still not enough information from John Ackerman on actual work performed to consider payment on his invoices. Attorney Stephens stated he would like to have a discussion with Mr. Ackerman.
- Attorney Logsdon is working on the paperwork to file the lien on the 125/127 W Union Street property as Council is not willing to pay any back taxes in order to transfer the deed into the Borough name.
- Attorney Stephens will verify the status of the Reinhard Subdivision Final Plan and will email Bobbi with his findings.
- The draft Short Term Rentals Ordinance has been forwarded to the Luzerne County Planning Commission for comments prior to advertisement and Council vote at the September meeting.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Buchalski to accept and approve the Solicitor's Report. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Bobbi Titus provided the July report.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Bolles to accept and approve the minutes of June 30, 2022. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido. Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Buchalski to accept and approve the minutes of July 5, 2022. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido. Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Bolles to accept the bank balances as of 7/28/22 and ratify the July 2022 bills paid. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido. Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Wido to accept and approve the Secretary/Treasurer's Report. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido. Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Street Department

President Bolles reported that garbage continues to be dumped at the salt shed. Bobbi reported that the culprit was identified today by Street Department workers. The State Police were called and will handle the investigation. Mayor Madl offered to donate a trail cam and mount it near the salt shed.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Wido to approve Mayor Madl's placement of a trail cam at the salt shed. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Bobbi reported that the Street Department requested the placement of a security camera for the side garage. She noted that there may be a camera already mounted that could be moved to cover the side garage and requested approval to contact ICU Surveillance to see if this was an option.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Wido to approve contacting ICU Surveillance to move a camera to cover the side garage. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Bolles to contact Stephenson Equipment to schedule routine servicing and backup alarm repair of the Skidsteer. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

An estimate from Thomas' Electrical Services in the amount of \$1,150.00 was presented for Council in response to the electrical work needed to move the garage circuit breaker junction box and replace the damaged conduit.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Buchalski to schedule the electrical work with Thomas' Electrical Services for \$1,150.00. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Buchalski to accept and approve the Street Department Report. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Correspondence Received

An email was received from the Hunlock Township Supervisors inviting Council to a special meeting to be held August 15, 2022 to discuss ambulance resources in the Township. Council members stated they were unable to attend. Bobbi informed Council that she had been in touch with Tina Remensnyder on the matter and Shickshinny Volunteer Ambulance Services is unable to attend the meeting, however had concerns regarding providing any additional support to Hunlock Township.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Buchalski to have Bobbi Titus prepare a response to Hunlock Township incorporating Shickshinny Volunteer Ambulance Services' concerns. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Buchalski to accept and approve the Correspondence. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Old or Unfinished Business

Dredging of the creek behind South Main Street – Larry Frace stated he was waiting for a return call from DEP approving the plan of where the removed debris would be placed in order to proceed with the permit.

Luzerne County CDBG Grant Application for 2023 – Deadline September 16, 2022 - Larry Frace provided Council with an updated Blighted Property List.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Wido to contact Reilly Engineering to proceed with the grant application for demotion of properties #1 (54/56 W. Union Street) and #2 (20 Search Street). Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Status of Crary Street Sink Hole Project – LSA Grant – \$44,916 Balance in Grant. Bobbi reported she will contact Don E. Bower on the project. Rickey Noss stated he was willing to sign an agreement allowing Borough vehicles to turn around on the property.

Tree Trimming – Chris Stoodley cannot do any more trimming for 25 Conyngham Street and cannot take down the rest of the tree. There was discussion regarding whether or not the remaining tree was alive or dead and still posed a concern. There was further discussion about the tree behind 38 N. Main Street. Jessica has attempted to contact the owner, but has been unsuccessful to date. After much discussion, Council will contact Chris Stoodley for any additional information he can provide.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Bolles to accept and approve the Old or Unfinished Business. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

New Business

LSA Grant – Street Department Vehicle

Bobbi provided the following updates on this grant:

- Reilly Engineering can provide assistance to the Borough if we need to change the scope of the grant.
- Because Hondru Ford is a COSTARS vendor, there is not a need to obtain bids prior to the purchase.
- Scot Reppert from Hondru Ford provided the original cost information for the purchase of a 2022 Ford Gas Truck. Bradco Supply Co. provided the original cost information for the dump body and related equipment. Both estimates were provided in September 2021 and prices have increased since that time. Per Mr. Reppert, Ford has stopped accepting orders for 2022 trucks and he expects to get both Ford and Dodge 2023 prices around October 2022. He also noted that Chevrolet has already closed orders for 2023 vehicles. He will provide the Borough with a revised estimate as soon as the 2023 prices are available. He will also contact Bradco Supply to provide a revised quotation as well.

There was discussion on whether or not the Borough can get through the upcoming winter plowing season with the equipment we have. Holly Morris suggested getting bids now for snow plow contractors in case we need to contract out plowing.

Jessica stated that the Borough can request a change in the scope of the grant, if necessary. After discussion, Council agreed to let things stand as they are for the present and wait for information on the 2023 prices. President Bolles asked that this be added to the next work session agenda.

Chris Goetz – PennDOT Liquid Fuels Roads – Creek Alley Speedbumps

Liquid Fuels will not reimburse miles for streets containing speedbumps and there are three speedbumps on Creek Alley. There was discussion on whether or not the Street Department could remove the speedbumps with their present equipment. Jim Wido will ask Alex to assess whether or not this is something he can do. Another option would be to get a price from Don E Bower to remove them. This will be placed on the next work session agenda.

Removal of Furnishings in New EMA Office

Bobbi stated that there are personal items in the new EMA office that need to be removed, i.e., couch, table, glassware. Bobbi will contact Rosalie to see if she still wants the items.

Handling of Outdated PCs/Electronics Equipment

Bobbi reported that there are several unused old PCs and miscellaneous electronics equipment in the building. She is concerned on whether or not there are files still contained on the PCs. She left a message for a return call from Koala Computers on prices. Rob's PC repair charges \$79.50 per PC to retrieve data and wipe clean. Online prices for the Geek Squad are quite high. Holly Morris will ask her son Kyle if this is something he would consider doing. This will be discussed further at the next work session.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Bolles to accept and approve the New Business. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Resident Comments

Holly Morris asked Council what is being done to recoup the money spent on the demolition of 125/127 W. Union Street. She noted that there were demolition costs and the repayment of a \$40,000 loan with interest to be considered. She addressed Attorney Stephens and stated that people need to be held responsible, the matter needs to be fixed, and taxpayers need to be aware. Attorney Stephens stated that Attorney Logsdon has been working on the matter of placing a lien versus transferring ownership of the property and an assessment of how the Borough can recover as much as possible. Attorney Stephens stated that perceptions of wrong-doing must be able to be proven. President Bolles stated that the current Council is working to address many past concerns raised, but it takes time to resolve these matters.

Rickey Noss raised an issue with garbage at the property of 72 Grant Street. Larry Frace noted that was on his report.

Rickey Noss asked about the status of Councilman Kevin Kruczek. Attorney Stephens has gathered some additional information and will address possible options in the next work session.

Kathy Llewellyn questioned Larry's report stating permits were needed for 10 Nicely Street. There was much discussion between Kathy and Larry regarding the need for a permit when roof shingles are replaced versus the need for permits for a property declared unsafe.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Wido to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta J. Titus, Secretary
Borough of Shickshinny