

SHICKSHINNY BOROUGH
GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING JULY 5, 2022
MINUTES

The General Meeting of the Borough of Shickshinny Council was held on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, in the Council room of the Shickshinny Municipal Building. President Jessica Bolles called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, Bobbi Titus, Barry Noss Sr., Holly Morris, and Kevin Morris.

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 updated Council that WNEP-TV plans to broadcast the noon news on Thursday, July 28, 2022 at the Chestnut Street Park (behind Curry Donut Shop) as part of the Go Joe bike ride/fundraiser. She is waiting for confirmation from WNEP on whether or not they will handle directing traffic or if Josh Gregory should be contacted. Jessica will post information about the event on Facebook.

Council discussed the Borough's EMA compliance and the possibility of merging with another municipality. Joe Buchalski suggested meeting with Union Township to discuss any interest. An email will be sent to Union Township.

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 announced a request was received from the Wyoming Valley Striders to host a 20km race at the Susquehanna Warrior Trail at the Chestnut Street Park on November 13, 2022. Proof of liability insurance will be provided.

Motion made by Joe Buchalski/seconded by Jim Wido to approve the Wyoming Valley Striders race in Shickshinny Borough on November 13, 2022. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Motion made by Joe Buchalski/seconded by Jessica 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 was not in attendance. Council discussed the many resident complaints received on unenforced parking violations and the need for active codes enforcement. Bobbi is to send an email to Larry on his interest in continuing as Codes Officer in Shickshinny Borough.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Bill Stephens provided the following report:
Attorney Logsdon and Stephens are working with Erik Gotwalt on revisions to the maintenance agreement for the spring on Grant Street. Attorney Stephens is hoping that the revisions will be complete by the end of the week.

Solicitor's Report (continued)

Attorney Stephens noted that the Borough is in receipt of the latest invoice from John Ackerman, Twin Oaks for the Rockview East/West grant project. Attorney Stephens noted that Borough payment will not be made unless and until Mr. Ackerman provides what is requested, specifically details on the work performed.

Attorney Stephens has placed a call regarding contact information for the June 12, 2022 accident in the Borough in which there was damage to Borough signs and posts. He is awaiting a response.

Motion made by Joe Buchalski/seconded by Jim Wido 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 June report.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Wido to accept and approve the minutes of June 8, 2022. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido. Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Wido to accept the bank balances as of 6/30/22 and ratify the June 2022 bills paid. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido. Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Bolles to request two additional fire hydrants (corner of South Main and Grant Streets and near the 1st Keystone Bank on South Main Street) from Pennsylvania American Water. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido. Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Bolles to have United Heating remove the thermostat locks and programmed temperature settings in the Borough Building. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido. Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

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

Correspondence Received

An invitation was received from the Active Adult Center in Shickshinny Towers, celebrating 50 years of service on July 8, 2022 at 10:30 am. All are welcome to attend.

Old or Unfinished Business

Dredging of the creek behind South Main Street – Bobbi reported the emergency permit requires that removed contents from the stream be removed from the dredged area. There was discussion on the Street Department workers hauling the debris from the area and temporarily placing it near the present fill pile. An exception will be made to the 24 hours/week per worker requirement for this specific task.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Buchalski to have the dredging debris removed by the Shickshinny Borough Street Department workers. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion on lack of interest from tenants on the available office space in the Borough building and other possible uses of the space.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Bolles to discontinue option of renting office space and instead use the space for Emergency Management tasks/equipment and online training for the Street Department. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Old or Unfinished Business (continued)

Status of Crary Street Sink Hole Project – LSA Grant – There was a discussion on the current status of this project and the next steps needed to completed it. After discussion, Council requested that Bobbi gather information by contacting Don E Bower on the reason work was stopped, repaving what is needed, repair of the sink hole, verification of funds remaining in the grant, and obtaining written approval from the property owner for the necessary turnaround.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Bolles to appoint Kathy Llewellyn and Bobbi Titus to the Property Maintenance and Quality of Life board. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

The tree trimming by Chris Stoodley on 38 N. Main Street and 25 Conyngham Street is still in process.

Rockview Street – Damaged Guiderails – Council reported that Minichi Construction completed this project on July 5, 2022. The Borough Street Department will use cold patch for any necessary road repairs.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Wido to approve the lease for an additional, adjoining vacant lot, under the Lot Next Door Program, to John and Patricia Sauerwine for the parcel near 152 N. Susquehanna Avenue PIN 56L4NE4002005000. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Parker Hill road repair issues were discussed and whether or use Street Department workers or hire a contractor to scrape the road surface and place stone.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Bolles to hire a contractor for the necessary repairs on Baer Street and Williams. Yes votes: Bolles, Wido Abstain: Buchalski Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried. Bobbi will contact Brdaric for an estimate for the repairs.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Wido to advertise ordinance draft and planned adoption of the Short Term Rental Ordinance for Shickshinny Borough. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

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

New Business

Luzerne County CDBG Grant Application for 2023 – Council discussed possible projects including the demolition of blighted properties in the Borough. Bobbi is to locate the current list of blighted properties.

Motion made by Wido/seconded by Buchalski to renew the contract with the Mocanaqua Volunteer Fire Company for five years at a beginning annual fee of \$4,200 with a 3% annual increase. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

The collection of bagged grass clippings for residents and concern with the limited resources of the Street Department was discussed.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Wido to NOT provide the service of pickup of bagged grass clippings for residents in the Borough. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Hosting a free paper shedding event for Shickshinny residents was discussed. Possible locations are parking lots at the Borough Building or the Senior High Rise. All associated costs up to \$2,000 will be reimbursed by the Luzerne County Recycling Program.

New Business(continued)

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Bolles to host a 3-hour paper shredding event with vendor, Purple Paper Eaters on August 20, 2022. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Bobbi will contact the Senior High Rise regarding their location as our first choice and submit the grant application to Luzerne County Recycling.

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

Resident Comments

Holly Morris asked the status on the tree removal at 25 Conyngham Street. The Street Department needed to add some fill to the area before Chris Stoodley can remove the tree. The fill will be added this week.

Holly Morris expressed concern regarding enforcement of the parking violations occurring on Baer/Nicely Streets near the No Parking signs. A resident is frequently blocking the road which is impacting garbage removal and oil deliveries for residents in the area. There was a discussion on options for enforcement between Council, residents, and Attorney Stephens. Attorney Stephens will pursue options for Council on the matter.

Motion made by Buchalski/seconded by Wido to allow access to the Borough Building restrooms for the community yard sale on Saturday, July 9, 2022. Yes votes: Bolles, Buchalski, Wido Absent: Kruczek and Whitebread. Motion carried.

Kevin Morris congratulated Council on a good, quick meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta J. Titus, Secretary
Borough of Shickshinny