

SHARON CITY COUNCIL

Purpose: Regular Council Meeting
Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2019
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Sharon Municipal Building Council Chambers

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL

TIME: 6:36 P.M.

Council:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> President Connelly | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Lucas |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. James | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Bundrant |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Saylor | |

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Fiscus, City Manager | <u>News Media:</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attorney Madden, City Solicitor | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Herald |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daphne Parrish, City Clerk | |

Department Heads:

- Jason Tomko, Finance Director**
- Edward Stabile, Chief of Police**
- Melissa Phillips, Director of Community Development**
- David Tomko, Director of Code Enforcement and Public Works - Excused**

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments – Public Comments was closed

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCES

Public Hearing for Ordinance #08-19, introduced July 17, 2019 - SECOND AND FINAL READING
providing for the vacating and abandoning of a public road known as Hickory Street

No public comments – Public Hearing was closed

ORDINANCES

MOTION that Ordinance #08-19 entitled, “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for the vacating and abandoning of a public road known as Hickory Street, running general east and west and beginning at its point of intersection with the east line of Vine Avenue and proceeding in an easterly direction to the point of dead end.” **Pass SECOND AND FINAL reading by title**

Motion: <u>Mr. Lucas</u>	Second: <u>Mrs. Saylor</u>
Vote: <u>YES</u> Mr. James	<u>YES</u> Mr. Lucas
<u>YES</u> Mrs. Bundrant	<u>YES</u> Mr. Connelly
<u>YES</u> Mrs. Saylor	

MOTION that Ordinance #09-19 entitled, “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the Codified Ordinances of the City” **Pass FIRST reading by title**

Motion: <u>Mr. James</u>	Second: <u>Mr. Lucas</u>
Vote: <u>YES</u> Mr. Lucas	<u>YES</u> Mrs. Saylor
<u>YES</u> Mr. James	<u>YES</u> Mr. Connelly
<u>YES</u> Mrs. Bundrant	

MOTION that Ordinance #10-19 entitled, “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, signifying its intention and desire to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the City of Sharon Industrial Development Authority, as amended and supplemented, to extend its term of existence an additional fifty (50) years; setting forth the form of the amendments to the Articles of Incorporation; authoring the execution and filing of the amended Articles of Incorporation; and authorizing the taking of all appropriate action as may be necessary to reorganize said Authority” **Pass FIRST reading by title**

Motion: **Mrs. Bundrant**

Second: **Mr. Lucas**

Vote: **YES** Mrs. Saylor

YES Mrs. Bundrant

YES Mr. Lucas

YES Mr. Connelly

YES Mr. James

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION that Resolution # 50-19 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting The City of Sharon Social Media Policy” **be adopted.**

Motion: **Mrs. Bundrant**

Second: **Mr. James**

Vote: **YES** Mrs. Bundrant

YES Mr. James

YES Mrs. Saylor

YES Mr. Connelly

YES Mr. Lucas

MOTION that Resolution #51-19 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania authorizing the proper City Official to accept the recommendation of the Sharon Community and Economic Development Commission to extend a Small Business Loan to The Corinthian, Inc. (operating company) and John Bianco in the amount of \$20,000 at 60% of the prime fixed interest rate for a term up to five (5) years” **be adopted**

**Mr. Connelly asked if prior loans are repaid. Jason Tomko said all but two are being repaid; one which is out-of-business was written-off and the other is still outstanding, and there is approximately \$32,000 in the fund. Mr. Fiscus said the outstanding loan is being actively pursued for repayment. The current rate of interest was clarified to be 60% of approximately 5%, which is approximately 3%.

Motion: **Mrs. Bundrant**

Second: **Mrs. Saylor**

Vote: **YES** Mr. James

YES Mr. Lucas

YES Mrs. Bundrant

YES Mr. Connelly

YES Mrs. Saylor

MOTION that Resolution # 52-19 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania adopting the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mercer County Juvenile Probation Department and Sharon Police Department, outlining the juvenile probation/police partnership known as Operation Nightlight” **be adopted**

**Chief Stabile gave clarification on this item, saying juvenile probation officers ride with City officers and make home visits, attend football games, Water Fire, and help with security at events. This program forms relationships with the officers and is a good outreach and enforcement program.

Motion: **Mr. James**

Second: **Mrs. Saylor**

Vote: **YES** Mr. Lucas

YES Mrs. Saylor

YES Mr. James

YES Mr. Connelly

YES Mrs. Bundrant

Motion: Mr. James
Vote: YES Mrs. Saylor
YES Mr. Lucas
YES Mr. James

Second: Mrs. Bundrant
YES Mrs. Bundrant
YES Mr. Connelly

COMMENTS:

NEWS MEDIA: None.

CITIZENS:

Carol Swartz, Lorain Street said about Resolution #57-19, the City could save the \$32,400 if one resident from each neighborhood were to identify where the blight is located, and the money then used somewhere else. Mrs. Saylor said this is a state grant for this study. Mr. Fiscus added we have worked hard to identify blight ourselves and this will supply a different perspective. The study will help to pave the way for added funding and build strategies.

Sara Buzzard, 279 Ridge Way, said she would like something done with The Zoo on Water Avenue. It burned two or three years ago, the bricks are loose at the top, it is not secure, all open and needs to be torn down. She is concerned for the safety of kids in the neighborhood and suggested the City go after the owner to get it torn down. Mr. Fiscus said the building is not on the residential demolition list. The owner lives out of state and the City has made attempts to hold him responsibility, but he does not have resources to tear it down. Mr. Fiscus could not promise it will be torn down immediately but is on the City's forefront to do. He said we would likely get a better demolition price if it is part of the next round of demolition bids. Discussions took place about using CDBG funds versus City funding to demo the building. Mr. Fiscus said using City funding would make the process slightly faster, but the City still needs to follow all of the EPA Guidelines, comply with the DEP, and asbestos remediation. Mr. Lucas asked for an estimated cost in light of the upcoming 2020 budget preparation. Mr. Fiscus will work on getting multiple estimates.

Sam Walker asked Melissa Phillips to share information on the expertise of the PA Housing Alliance. Mrs. Phillips said this agency wrote "Blight To Bright", a guidebook to eradicating blight, and they are experts with state laws and policy. They will work with the new Neighborhood Data Analysis Task Force to analyze data and help develop a strategy to move forward with resources. She said they are the best agency, and this is a wonderful opportunity.

George Meszaros, 433 South Oakland Avenue has had an ongoing issue with a landlord next door, involving David Tomko making contact and working toward a resolution. Several weeks ago, the landlord called the police because Mr. Meszaros was filming her cutting grass. Mr. Meszaros reported the two police officers were able to solve this ongoing problem in ten minutes and he wanted to publicly acknowledge their work.

Mr. Meszaros said on August 3, 2019 at 6:00 PM, he saw a police officer, when responding to a call, traveling approximately 60 MPH through the intersection of Oakland and Leslie without his siren on. Mr. Meszaros was concerned for safety of the public.

Carol Swartz asked if any homes on the West Hill would be part of the next round of demolitions. Mr. Fiscus told her they would not. He explained the targeting of neighborhoods by our consultant and HUD requires demolitions be done where they will be effective in the neighborhood. He said there should be multiple plans and is sympathetic that there are properties everywhere that need torn down. However, the City must prioritize and target the areas where they get the biggest result.

Mr. Fiscus gave an update on the Grant Street Wall. He and Mrs. Phillips met with a PennDOT engineer, Mr. Winslow, and the contractor. His intention was to close the road immediately, and tear down the wall within a week, which would be an unbudgeted expense. He notified PennDOT the sidewalk was being shut down due

to a letter from Mr. Winslow outlining imminent danger of the wall collapsing. Mr. Fiscus said PennDOT is not as concerned about the wall and is not interested in closing the road. PennDOT does not believe it will collapse and would likely deny a permit to close it down. Mrs. Phillips received an email from PennDOT documenting this. PennDOT wants to develop a better plan and will work with the City to supply Geo Technical support, specializing in similar wall situations. The Geo Technical engineers will perform tests to assess if the wall is moving and recommend monitoring the situation and formulate a better solution such as an earthen type road. Mrs. Phillips said PennDOT was privy to information not available to Mr. Winslow. She said the next steps will be to put out a request for quotes from a list of Geo Technical engineers and solicit solutions within a budget parameter which is to be determined. Mr. Fiscus said the fence is still on the sidewalk and detours will be posted for pedestrians.

Mr. Fiscus said State Street is open, painted, and looks good. The "Case Street" signage is about two weeks away from being corrected. The purpose of the brick in the road is decorative. He told PennDOT the brick is confusing because it is the same pattern as in the crosswalks. PennDOT responded that once all of the 3,100 plantings and trees are in place, they will provide a barrier for people walking there. Also, the plantings will serve to calm traffic. Mr. Fiscus said there will be no YIELD sign at Stambaugh Avenue, it will be a general traffic light, and will be properly painted.

Mrs. Bundrant requested Mr. Fiscus email Mr. Calla to check on the status of the School on the ongoing traffic issues at Case Avenue. The current Ordinance does not allow parking on the side of Case Avenue where everyone is parking, and the City is unwilling to change the Ordinance until it is approved by the Department of Education engineers and a plan recommended.

Mrs. Bundrant requested an update on the School District recycling. She said by Ordinance, they need to be recycling; however, they were in a contract and the City agreed to give them time to complete the contract and comply. Mr. Fiscus said David Tomko assigned Geno Rossi to do outreach and this is one of the things he is working on, as well as making sure all businesses are recycling. Mrs. Bundrant requested an update from David Tomko at the next Council Meeting.

George Meszaros asked about garbage bills for residents who live out of the state for part of the year and paying for services they are not using. Mrs. Saylor clarified the garbage contract that is expiring is that of the school, not the City's contract. She also said Tri-County will not provide service to communities unless the service is made mandatory, and there are no other companies to bid on the service.

MRS. BUNDRANT: No comments.

MR. LUCAS:

Mr. Lucas asked Mr. Fiscus if we will be tarring cracks on streets. Mr. Fiscus said there has been some discussion on tarring, and a bid to tar West State Street was \$20,000. He also has looked into the cost to rent equipment and do the work internally. This is something to be discussed during budget preparation. Mr. Lucas commented on Smith Avenue, the end in Hermitage has had the cracks tarred, and it is in better shape than the Sharon end. Mr. Fiscus agreed that we have replaced some roads, now we must maintain them.

Mr. Lucas asked if we put Fisher Hill and Hadley out for bids. Mr. Fiscus said the project cleared designed and is ready for the PennDOT ECMS System. We are up against PennDOT's timeline, and although we have pushed hard toward getting it done this year, the streets will not likely be paved until spring. He said when we get to Multi-Modal III, he prefers not using the PennDOT System, their inspectors or timeline. We have the ability to do it all in house. Mr. Lucas requested the street sweeper clean the gravel from the road.

Mr. Lucas said there is Left Arrow sign when you are heading west on the Freeway toward the roundabout, the arrow is pointing left to go into Speedway, but has confused some drivers who turned left into the roundabout.

He said the arrow needs to be pulled back.

MR. JAMES: No comments

MRS. SAYLOR: Mrs. Saylor reported on a concern about speeding on Smith Avenue from State Street to the Freeway. She was unsure if this has been an ongoing issue or a result of increased traffic. Chief Stabile said the police are inhibited where they can monitor speed because they need stand-off distance, making it difficult in a residential area. He also said stop signs cannot be used to control speed. He said the radar bill, if passed, will be a positive step toward controlling speed on residential roads.

MR. CONNELLY: Mr. Connelly said we need to start planning now for decorating the roundabout for Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Motion: Mr. Lucas

Second: Mr. James

Vote: YES Mrs. Bundrant

YES Mr. James

YES Mrs. Saylor

YES Mr. Connelly

YES Mr. Lucas