

**SHARON CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**DATE/TIME:** WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019 AT 6:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** SHARON MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**CALL TO ORDER** **TIME: 6:37 P.M.**  
**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**ROLL CALL**

**Council:**

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

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Robert Fiscus, City Manager (<i>Phoned in</i>)</b>	<b><u>News Media:</u></b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Attorney Madden, City Solicitor</b>	<b><u>The Herald</u></b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Daphne Parrish, City Clerk</b>	

**Department Heads:**

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

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Fiscus said he sent Council an email summarizing the cost of driveway ramps, as discussed at the June Workshop Meeting. The projected total cost is approximately \$1,000, and Mr. Fiscus requested further discussion at the July Workshop meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCES**

**Public Hearing for Ordinance #05-19, introduced May 16, 2019 - SECOND AND FINAL READING**  
revising, amending and restating Chapter 829 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Sharon.

No comments.

**ORDINANCES**

**MOTION** that Ordinance #05-19 entitled “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, revising, amending and restating Chapter 829 of the Codified Ordinances of the City making it unlawful for any owner, agent, lessor, landlord or other person to rent, lease sublet, assign a lease or let space to be occupied by another or others as a dwelling without first applying for a license to so rent, lease, let, sublet, or assign a lease with the Office of the Code Enforcement Officer of the City of Sharon and only after Enforcement Certification from the Code Enforcement Officer after inspections that the premise is suitable for occupancy.” **Pass SECOND and FINAL reading by title**

**Motion:** **Mrs. Bundrant**

**Second:** **Mrs. Saylor**

**Vote:** **yes** **Mrs. Bundrant**

**yes** **Mr. James**

**yes** **Mrs. Saylor**

**yes** **Mr. Connelly**

**yes** **Mr. Lucas**

**MOTION** that Ordinance #07-19 entitled “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the incurring of indebtedness by the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, by the issuance of a \$355,000 General Obligation Note for the purpose of providing funds to pay for correction and improvement of curbing and sidewalks at intersections to make them ADA Compliant; fixing the form, date, interest and maturity thereof; making sale thereof at private sale; providing for the payment of debt service thereon; authorizing the execution and delivery thereof; making appropriations; further authorizing and directing the proper City Officials to advertise the adoption of this Ordinance in the manner provided by law; and further authorizing and directing the proper City Officials to submit the required documents to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for approval in accordance with the provisions of the Unit Debt Act.” **Pass FIRST reading by title**

**Motion:** **Mr. James**

**Second:** **Mr. Lucas**

**Vote:** **yes** Mrs. Saylor

**yes** Mrs. Bundrant

**yes** Mr. Lucas

**yes** Mr. Connelly

**yes** Mr. James

\*\* Mrs. Bundrant asked if pictures and videos of the driveways and streets will be taken prior to work beginning. Jason Tomko replied, “yes”.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**MOTION** that Resolution # 44-19 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the Finance Director to open a new checking account for Keystone Communities Program fund " **be adopted.**

**Motion:** **Mrs. Bundrant**

**Second:** **Mr. Lucas**

**Vote:** **yes** Mr. James

**yes** Mr. Lucas

**yes** Mrs. Bundrant

**yes** Mr. Connelly

**yes** Mrs. Saylor

**MOTION** that Resolution # 45-19 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, expressing its support for legislation implementing a natural gas severance tax in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.” **be adopted.**

**Motion:** **Mr. James**

**Second:** **Mrs. Saylor**

**Vote:** **yes** Mr. Lucas

**yes** Mrs. Saylor

**yes** Mr. James

**yes** Mr. Connelly

**yes** Mrs. Bundrant

**MOTION** that Resolution # 47-19 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, expressing its support for legislators to pass House Bill No. 365 of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, Session of 2019.” **be adopted.**

**Motion:** **Mrs. Bundrant**

**Second:** **Mr. James**

**Vote:** **yes** Mrs. Bundrant

**yes** Mr. James

**yes** Mrs. Saylor

**yes** Mr. Connelly

**yes** Mr. Lucas

\*\*Mr. Lucas requested Mr. Connelly explain House Bill No. 365. Mr. Connelly read verbiage from the parts of House Bill No. 365. In summary, the Bill gives law enforcement authority to remove trespassers or squatters.

## CONSENT AGENDA

*THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE CONSIDERED BY CITY COUNCIL TO BE ROUTINE CITY BUSINESS AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION AND ONE ROLL CALL VOTE. ANY COUNCIL MEMBER, CITY OFFICIAL OR CITIZENS WISHING CLARIFICATION OF AN ITEM MAY ASK A QUESTION BY RAISING THEIR HAND AND IDENTIFYING THE ITEM BEFORE ADOPTION OF THE ITEM.*

**MOTION** that Resolution # 46-19 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing, in accordance with Section 915 of the Home Rule Charter, the City Manager and Finance Director, or in the absence of the Finance Director, the Tax Collector, to pay the bills submitted on Schedule A to Council" **be adopted.**

**MOTION** approving minutes from the May 16, 2019 Regular Council Meeting **be adopted.**

**Motion:** **Mrs. Bundrant**

**Second:** **Mr. Lucas**

**Vote:** **yes Mrs. Saylor**

**yes Mrs. Bundrant**

**yes Mr. Lucas**

**yes Mr. Connelly**

**yes Mr. James**

### **COMMENTS:**

**NEWS MEDIA:** No media representatives present.

### **CITIZENS**

Judy Henderson, 1010 Sherman Avenue thanked Council and the various departments and employees for their work on blight. She said several abandoned houses including one damaged by a fire near her home are now down, the contractors removed bricks, and everything is gone. She asked who to contact about tires on a vacant lot on Budd Street. Dave Tomko said he is aware of the lot, which is owned by an individual who collects tires throughout the City and stores them on that lot until they are hauled away. Mrs. Bundrant recognized Ms. Henderson's recent video posted on Facebook.

Carol Swartz, Lorain Street asked about Ordinance 05-19 how the City knows that new renters have moved into a property if landlords do not notify of the change. Mr. Tomko acknowledged this is a challenging situation and there can be a fine if the landlord violates the Ordinance.

Larry Bilko, 530 Lillian Drive commented on the fine paving job on his street; however, the project created a problem with driveways having up to a 7 to 8-inch drop from the driveway to the street. He asked if the City can fix what was broken during the milling process. Mr. Fiscus said he is aware of the situation and will be fixed by ramps, if we go with that solution. He said the inspector said this was a result of a pre-existing condition of the driveway. Mr. Bilko said the inspector would say that because he does not want to fix it; the driveway was in one piece and no longer is. He asked if someone could repair with cold patch. Mr. Fiscus said he informed Mr. Connelly the cost per John Cave would be \$25 per driveway and 39 driveways need ramps, totaling approximately \$1,000. Repairs would take approximately two to three weeks to complete if no interruptions. Mr. Connelly requested Mr. Fiscus visit Mr. Bilko's situation; Mr. Fiscus agreed to a follow-up visit to Mr. Bilko's home. Mr. Lucas asked Jason Tomko if a line item exists in the budget to cover this expense. Mr. Tomko said there is money in the Liquid Fuels and/or Road Maintenance line items to cover the cost. Mr. Lucas said since funds are in the budget, this would not require a resolution. Mr. Fiscus requested guidance on this issue as well as the over-budget amount on the Multi Modal Phase I Project. Mr. Connelly said there will be conference call upon Mr. Fiscus' return to further discuss the details.

Robert Cunningham, 500 Hawthorne Place asked why the City does not accept credit cards for payment of taxes. Jason Tomko said this is something we are going to explore, and there is a cost associated with it. He said the City of Hermitage did accept credit cards but stopped due to the cost. He said we would require need a low-cost solution, and the cost would be passed onto the taxpayer. In addition, it would need to be compatible with the City's software. Mr. James said The Square has a program for government entities supplying

processing at a lower cost. He said the County charges a \$37 fee to process a credit card payment. Leyla Sartori said she uses The Square for personal business and noted a \$150 sale generated a \$4.13 fee.

**MRS. BUNDRANT:** No comments.

**MR. LUCAS:** Mr. Lucas asked if Mr. Fiscus talked to County Commissioners about adding safety wings on the Viaduct. Mr. Fiscus said he has not yet contacted the Bridge Department or Commissioners but is on his agenda.

Mr. Lucas asked about a list of mechanical device establishments in the City. Mr. Fiscus said the Code Department is working on this and will follow-up.

Mr. Lucas said he is in favor of a street sweeper schedule, to facilitate coordination of catch basin cleaning in conjunction with street sweeping. He said if we use portable signs, we can get vehicles off the street to do a thorough job. Mr. James commented when people see the street sweeper coming, they do move their cars. Mrs. Bundrant said it is difficult to get vehicles moved for snow removal and is likely more difficult to get those moved for sweeping. Mrs. Saylor said the Sanitary Authority discussed the problems related to the street sweeper and they further discussed the possibility of selling the street sweeper to the City for \$1, allowing the street department to take over its operation. Mr. Connelly said as a Sanitary Authority member he is not willing to give the sweeper away for \$1 and this requires further discussion. Mrs. Saylor said residents on the south side of the City would love to have nothing more to complain about than the streets not being swept, they are dealing with burned-out houses, etc. Mr. Lucas said we have a street sweeper and we should use it, and he is only asking for a schedule. Mrs. Saylor said the Sanitary Authority does not have staff to do it and the City should take it over. Mr. Lucas said if the sweeper is not out, we need to address it. Mrs. Saylor said it has not been out because of the consistent rain and it is silly that we are picking on the street sweeper.

**MR. JAMES:** No comments.

**MRS. SAYLOR:** Mrs. Saylor said there has been some recent discussion about possibly sharing services between the City and Sanitary Authority, and City Ordinance requires residency. She said while everyone should obviously want to live in Sharon, it is not a realistic requirement for administrative nonunion employees, and we need to look at lifting residency requirements for nonunion employees. She said the police took concessions and a penalty; and they can get good candidates. She suggested looking at the pay structure where if you move into the City you get a raise; rather than penalizing people for not living here, reward them for moving here. Mr. James requested Mrs. Saylor put her ideas on paper and email to Council. Mr. Connelly said this is a question everyone historically has asked him, and it is political. He agreed it needs readdressed.

**MR. CONNELLY:** Mr. Connelly asked Dave Tomko how are we addressing grass. Mr. Tomko said residents are sent a letter giving them 7 days to cut grass and if they do not respond, they get a citation. He said the City does not have staff to cut more than 300 lots and grass cutting is 70-75 percent of the workload. Staff have not been able to keep up because of the rainy weather and they take care of city lots first; community service does as many as possible.

Mr. Fiscus thanked Council for the opportunity to attend the Fire Academy for two weeks. He said this is his final year attending and will be back on June 28, 2019.

## ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 P.M.

**Motion:** Mr. Lucas

**Second:** Mr. James

**Vote:** yes Mr. James

yes Mr. Lucas

yes Mrs. Bundrant

yes Mr. Connelly

yes Mrs. Saylor

Mr. Connelly reminded the next Council Meeting will be Wednesday, July 17, 2019, following a Workshop Meeting.