

SHARON CITY COUNCIL

Purpose: Regular Council Meeting
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Sharon Municipal Building Council Chambers

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL

TIME: 6:37 P.M.

Council:

<u>✓</u> President Connelly	<u>✓</u> Mr. Lucas
<u>✓</u> Mr. James	<u>✓</u> Mrs. Bundrant
<u>✓</u> Mrs. Saylor	

<u>✓</u> Robert Fiscus, City Manager	<u>News Media:</u>
<u>✓</u> Attorney Madden, City Solicitor	<u>✓</u> The Herald
<u>✓</u> Daphne Parrish, City Clerk	<u>✓</u> WFMJ

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

Mr. Connelly opened the meeting, saying citizens are permitted to speak at meetings, but there will be no discussion of personnel matters, negative talk, or berating of employees. Conversations are to be limited to five (5) minutes, please stand up and say your name and address.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

No comments on agenda items

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCES

Public Hearing for Ordinance #09-19, introduced August 21, 2019 - SECOND AND FINAL READING
approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the Codified Ordinances of the City. **No comments**

Public Hearing for Ordinance #10-19, introduced August 21, 2019 - SECOND AND FINAL READING
amending 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. **No comments, Public Hearing was closed.**

ORDINANCES

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 FINAL reading by title**

Motion: <u>Mrs. Saylor</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 FINAL reading by title**

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

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

MOTION that Ordinance #11-19 entitled, “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the City of Sharon to enter into a Cooperative Intergovernmental Agreement between it and the Western Reserve Transit Authority and the Trumbull County Transit Board relative to providing administration of Federal Mass Transit Funds for Fiscal Year 2019 and Thereafter” **Pass FIRST reading by title**

Motion: **Mrs. Bundrant**
Vote: **YES** Mrs. Bundrant
YES Mrs. Saylor
YES Mr. Lucas

Second: **Mrs. Saylor**
YES Mr. James
YES Mr. Connelly

MOTION that Ordinance #12-19 entitled, “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending the Codified Ordinances of the City of Sharon, Part Four, “Traffic Code”, Title Eight, “Parking”, Chapter 480, “Parking Generally”, Section. 01 “No Parking Streets”, to add thereto the west side of Sharpsville Avenue from its point of intersection with Clark Street south to Silver Street” **Pass FIRST reading by title**

Motion: **Mr. Lucas**
Vote: **NO** Mr. James
YES Mrs. Bundrant
YES Mrs. Saylor

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

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION that Resolution # 59-19 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, accepting the 2020 Minimum Municipal Pension Plan Financial Requirements and Minimum Municipal Obligations” **be adopted.**

Motion: **Mrs. Bundrant**
Vote: **YES** Mr. Lucas
YES Mr. James
YES Mrs. Bundrant

Second: **Mr. Lucas**
YES Mrs. Saylor
YES Mr. Connelly

MOTION that Resolution # 60-19 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approving the City’s audit report as of December 31, 2018” **be adopted.**

**Jason Tomko gave a brief overview of the December 31, 2018 audit, prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The audit received an unmodified opinion, which has no bearing on how the City did financially. The Management’s Discussion and Analysis summarizes and highlights the financial statements. He explained the differences in schedules prepared on the full accrual basis of accounting and those prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting. The notes supply detail on the items covered in the audit. Mr. Connelly said he met with the auditor and they are doing an excellent job. Mr. Lucas asked Jason Tomko if there were any surprises from the audit. Mr. Tomko said there were none. Mr. Fiscus said we expected no findings, it was a positive audit, and we have a talented finance director.

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

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

MOTION that Resolution # 61-19 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the City of Sharon to enter into an agreement with the Sharon Sanitary Authority for Joint Financial Services” **be adopted.**

**Mr. Lucas said the wording should be changed as follows: delete “for Joint Financial Services” and replace with “to Provide Financial Services”.

Mr. Fiscus said the City’s Finance Director, Jason Tomko, would supply financial services to the Sharon Sanitary Authority (SSA), and a full-time Assistant Finance Director would be hired to assist him. The SSA would reimburse the City for the financial services. Mr. Lucas said if Mr. Tomko were to leave, having an assistant in place would be helpful. Mr. Connelly said the City and SSA shared the SSA’s financial director for several years in the past, and the SSA received funds from the City. He feels the collaboration is a win-win for both entities.

Motion: Mr. Lucas
Vote: NO Mrs. Bundrant
NO Mrs. Saylor
YES Mr. Lucas

Second: Mr. James
YES Mr. James
YES Mr. Connelly

MOTION that Resolution # 64-19 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, awarding the Public Facilities Improvements Contract 19-03 bid to Lindy Paving, Inc., not to exceed \$216,225” **be adopted.**

**Melissa Phillips said as is standard practice, this bid award still must be reviewed by Attorney Madden to make sure the bond is in-line. She said the engineer has given their recommendation to proceed. She said there were five (5) bids received for this project and all were competitive bids. She reviewed the work that will be done, including curb replacements at Wengler Park, resurfacing Pine Street, repairs on Penn Avenue including milling, paving, storm drain repairs and replacement, and curb ramps, Spruce Avenue (Musser School area) will be milled and paved and missing cross-walk ramps will be installed.

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

Second: Mrs. Saylor
YES Mr. Lucas
YES Mr. Connelly

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 #63-19 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 that Resolution #62-19 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, setting the 2019 Halloween Trick or Treat Hours for Thursday, October 31, 2019 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM" **be adopted.**

MOTION approving minutes from the August 21, 2019 Regular Council Meeting, the September 4, 2019 Public Hearing, and the September 4, 2019 Special Meeting **be adopted.**

MOTION approving rescheduling of the October 2, 2019 Workshop Meeting to October 9, 2019 **be adopted.**

MOTION approving rescheduling of the November 6, 2019 Workshop Meeting to November 13, 2019 **be adopted.**

Motion: **Mr. James**

Second: **Mrs. Bundrant**

Vote: **YES** Mr. Lucas

YES Mrs. Saylor

YES Mr. James

YES Mr. Connelly

YES Mrs. Bundrant

COMMENTS:

CITY MANAGER:

Mr. Fiscus said he and Melissa Phillips had a conversation with United Way following the Correction Center going out of business. He said the United Way is taking a substantial monetary loss and he pledged his support and said the City will do what they can to help and support the United Way. Mr. Fiscus said he would discuss this more at the October Workshop.

Mr. Fiscus referred to the press release attached to the agenda and said this would be discussed at the October Workshop.

Mr. Fiscus said AQUA has been involved in an overnight boring project under the Freeway and notified the City tonight should be last night for the work.

NEWS MEDIA: None

CITIZENS:

Steven Thiess, 91 Jefferson Avenue, said about the paving on Penn Street, it would be helpful to have parking lines painted on the west side of Penn Street to make the most efficient use of the space. Mrs. Phillips said she would look into this in the future.

Vince Cardamon, 1409 Glenwood Drive, asked if Strawbridge Avenue is one of the streets to be repaved and said the intersection at Smith/Strawbridge/Glenwood is bad. Mr. Fiscus said the 2020 paving project will be in

that neighborhood. He explained the 2020 project has not yet gone out for bid, but the funding is there, and the neighborhood is expected to be paved within two (2) years.

Mr. Cardamon asked about a home across the street from his where the yard has not been cut for over a year. He said in the past he personally maintained the yard, but it has become more than he is able to do. He asked for help with the problem. David Tomko said he is familiar with the property and Code has tried to contact the deed holder of the but has received no response. Mr. Cardamon said the owner lives in Louisiana and asked if there is any leverage to hold them responsible for the property. Mr. Fiscus said when an owner can be found we try to hold them responsible, and this case illustrates what the City is up against. He explained the concept of zombie properties and the inability of the City to upkeep these properties. Mr. Lucas said City Council needs to find a solution on how to hold owners responsible; unfortunately, a solution will not be possible tonight. Mrs. Saylor said the City has been working toward solutions and began the process of setting up a Neighborhood Data Analysis Task Force. Also, the Pennsylvania Housing Alliance will be assisting in addressing blight in the City. The experts will assess and recommend the next steps.

Carol Swartz, Lorain Street asked what Ordinance #12-19 entails. Mr. James said it takes parking off of Sharpsville Avenue. Mr. Fiscus said this Ordinance prevents cars from parking in the Bike Lane and allows enforcement of the NO Parking signage. He said this project was developed under the previous administration and there have been many changes since it was proposed five (5) years ago, including development of The Landing on Sharpsville Avenue. Mr. James said there are difficulties with deliveries to businesses due to NO Parking on that side of the street. Chief Stabile side immediate loading and unloading is provided.

Mrs. Swartz asked if Resolution #61-19 would result in sewer rates increasing. Mr. Fiscus explained this is a collaboration between the City and the Sharon Sanitary Authority (SSA) and will create a cost savings for SSA. Mr. Connelly explained money is kept in separate accounts and cannot be comingled. There are currently two (2) Finance Directors, and when the SSA's Finance Director retires, Jason Tomko will supply financial services to both the City and SSA and an Assistant Finance Director will be hired. This is a part of continued collaboration between the two entities.

Mrs. Swartz asked for funding for roads on the West Hill. Mrs. Phillips said she will look at it with the 2020 funding sources.

William Elliot, 337 Malleable Street, discussed crimes that occur on a trail that adjoins his property. He outlined what he has asked City and County officials to do to shut down the trail and the criminal activities. Mr. Connelly said he will discuss with Chief Stabile to see what can be done.

Robert Cunningham, 500 Hawthorne Place, asked about the status of the approximately \$100,000 over run on the Multi Modal paving project. Mr. Fiscus said the overages, except for one, were not approved, and the City has not paid nor agreed to pay the over run, and he is working with the Solicitor, PennDOT and the contractors toward a solution. He said Council would be required to vote and approve a resolution before any payment can be made.

Mr. Cunningham asked about the status of the City accepting credit cards for payment of taxes. Discussion took place on credit card fees and how those would be paid. Mr. Connelly asked Mr. Fiscus to research this and have information for the October Workshop.

George Meszaros, 433 South Oakland Avenue spoke on his opinion of the City Council President and the projects during his time on Council. He voiced his appreciation for Mrs. Bundrant and is hopeful she will be the next Council President. Mr. Meszaros suggested a privilege tax on houses in the "upper range".

MRS. BUNDRANT:

Mrs. Bundrant reminded the Main Street Meeting will be on Monday, September 23, 2019 at the Founders Room in the Chamber of Commerce. This meeting is to discuss whether business and property owners want to develop a business improvement district. She said this would be a type of self-tax and a way to fund small business support services in the future. She encouraged all property owners to attend.

MR. LUCAS: Nothing

MR. JAMES: Nothing

MRS. SAYLOR:

Mrs. Saylor said volunteers are need for Water Fire on Saturday, September 21, 2019. Information is available on the City’s website, on Facebook, or volunteers can just show up. Festivities begin at 2:00 PM and most volunteers report around 12:00 Noon.

Mrs. Saylor said tickets are available for the Community Library of Shenango Valley’s Fundraiser, Fall Fling to be held on Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. There will be activities at the Library, drinks, food, a basket raffle, and a Wine Walk. Ten (10) participating merchants will have samples. Tickets are \$25.

MR. CONNELLY:

Mr. Connelly asked if crosswalks in the City must be installed sidewalk-to-sidewalk. Mr. Fiscus said they must be ADA accessible with a curb ramp.

Mr. Connelly said East State Street looks wonderful. Mr. Fiscus said the Case Street sign will be replaced once the corrected sign is here.

Mr. Connelly said on Friday afternoon there would be an event at Sharon High School for the Alumni Hall of Fame. He said Mrs. Bundrant has tickets available for the Saturday breakfast.

Vince Cardamon asked where the City line is located on East State Street and if the City was consulted about the lane changes from five (5) lanes down to three (3) wide lanes. He said this traffic pattern is confusing. Mr. Fiscus said the outside lanes are not bike lanes but can be used by bikes or pedestrians and is part of a traffic calming pattern. He said PennDOT did not consult with the City.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Motion: Mr. Lucas

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

Second: Mrs. Bundrant

**YES Mrs. Bundrant
YES Mr. Connelly**