

SHARON CITY COUNCIL

Purpose: Regular Council Meeting
Date: Tuesday, December 23, 2008
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Location: Sharon Municipal Building Council Chambers

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL - PRESENT:

TIME: 6:48 P.M.

Council:

President Heutsche
Mr. Flower
Mr. Connelly

Mr. Donato
Mr. Messina

News Media:

Attorney Madden - City Solicitor
Mayor Robert J. Lucas
Sharronda Faber - City Clerk

Courtney Anderson - The Herald
Jeanne Starmack - The Vindicator

Dept. Heads:

Terry Whalen - Fire Chief
Michael J. Menster - Chief of Police
John Cave - Street Dept.

Also Present:

Larry Reeher
Carol Swartz
Gerald Smith
Vikki Gruitza
Darryl Torrence
Bill Stigliano
Bob Fiscus
Matt Grove
Carol Rombold

Jason Clepper
Paul McSherry
Ron Maurice
Kenny King
Debbie Lasher
Dave Kepics
Sam Messina
Gerda Widmyer

DISCUSSION

1.) Sharon Sanitary Authority - Discussion regarding appointments

Motion made to Table discussion

Motion: Mr. Heutsche

Second: Mr. Flower

All in favor: 6 yeas

All opposed: 0

2.) Garbage Contract - Tri-County Industries (Low Bidder) - 4 Options

Mr. Jerry Bowser of Tri-County Industries was present for questions. Mayor Lucas explained the four options presented in the bid, with option 1 being similar to present service, option 2 where everyone has to pay for leaf pick-up and recycling, option 3 saves money, and option 4 includes using a personal container versus a toter. He stated that the current cost for garbage is \$13.60/month and that it will increase approximately \$5/month. Mr. Flower inquired about when the current contract ends. Mayor Lucas advised that it ends 1/31/09. Mr. Flower suggested that Council delay voting on this until the December 30, 2008, meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCES

Public Hearing for Ordinance #22-08, introduced by Mr. Flower November 13, 2008 – SECOND AND FINAL READING

An Ordinance authorizing the lease of the Jefferson Avenue Playground and Ballfield to the Sharon City School District for and in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) for a term of 50 years.

Resident Kenny King inquired about responsibility for the upkeep of the ballfield. Mr. Heutsche explained that the school district will maintain the property.

Public Hearing for Ordinance #23-08, introduced by Mr. Flower November 13, 2008 - SECOND AND FINAL READING

An Ordinance fixing the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2009 at 43.5 Mills of each dollar of assessed valuation.

Mr. Connelly stated that if the budget is left alone, the millage would remain at 39.5. Carol Swartz inquired if it would be possible to drop the millage, and commented that it would be a wonderful holiday present to Sharon residents. Kenny King inquired about increasing the wage tax, and asked about residents/businesses delinquent on their real estate taxes. He also inquired about what is being done to collect delinquent taxes. Mr. Heutsche explained about properties going for Sheriff's sale and what is allowable under PA Statute. Mayor Lucas advised that the City historically collects 87% of its taxes yearly and 9-11% from prior years. Sam Messina commented that if he did not pay his taxes he would lose his house. William McConnell Jr. stated that if the City reduces its real estate millage then it needs to be offset by an increase in wage tax. He inquired what Council intends to raise the wage tax millage to. He reminded City Council of the procedures according to Home Rule Charter of passing an Ordinance. He stated that it sounds great to reduce millage, but in tough economic times it will result in a net increase for most working residents. He advised against such dramatic first year. He cautioned doing the full increase of wage tax in one lump sum. Mr. Heutsche advised that based on 2007 audited Wage Tax numbers, meetings with the City's auditor, Mayor, and Centax, who does the Wage Tax Collections, City Council feels that they are making a prudent decision. Mayor Lucas denied the City always doing things in "dramatic" fashion as Mr. McConnell Jr. accused. He stated that the proposal is meant to retain jobs and help residents; he stated that senior citizens and businesses will receive a break from the proposed tax changes. Mr. McConnell advised that 40% of households are renter-occupied and it will be a complete net tax increase for them. He questioned the prudence to implement a dramatic increase in wage tax rather than an incremental increase to see how it works. He advised that there is no experience with wage tax collection and suggested that they consider a ½ or 1 % increase rather than jumping to 2.25%. He questioned why they had to go the full route this year and inquired if they could pass the budget without raising the millage. Mrs. Swartz discussed the increase in Wage Tax implemented by the City of Farrell years ago. Mr. Heutsche advised that Farrell is Act 47 and that they also tax non-residents at a higher rate. Mr. Connelly stated that wage tax is more of a "known" income versus not knowing who is going to pay their real estate

taxes. Kenny King discussed how the the increase is too drastic. Attorney be re-published if there are changes the amount to 21.47 mills and hold

change would effect households and that he thinks Madden advised that the Ordinance would need to to the substance of it. Council decided to amend first reading.

**Public Hearing for Ordinance #24-08, introduced by Mr. Flower November 13, 2008 -
SECOND AND FINAL READING**

An Ordinance adopting the Community Development Administrative Budget for the Fiscal Year 2009 as \$259,365.00.

**Public Hearing for Ordinance #25-08, introduced by Mr. Donato November 13, 2008 -
SECOND AND FINAL READING**

An Ordinance adopting the Community Development Entitlement Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 as \$739,550.00.

**Public Hearing for Ordinance #26-08, introduced by Mr. Flower November 13, 2008 -
SECOND AND FINAL READING**

An Ordinance adopting the Liquid Fuels Budget for the Fiscal Year 2009 as \$378,355.00.

**Public Hearing for Ordinance #27-08, introduced by Mr. Donato November 13, 2008 -
SECOND AND FINAL READING**

An Ordinance adopting the Capital Improvements Budget for the Fiscal Year 2009 as \$1,680,366.00.

Attorney Madden inquired about the changes in the budget. Mayor Lucas explained some of the changes with transferring money. Kenny King questioned Ordinance #24 & 25 on the Community Development budgets. Mr. Heutsche explained that it is federal money. Council decided to amend Ordinance #27-08 to change the amount to \$1,883,554 and to hold first reading.

**Public Hearing for Ordinance #28-08, introduced by Mr. Flower November 13, 2008 -
SECOND AND FINAL READING**

An Ordinance establishing and designating the authorized personnel for each of the Administrative Departments in the City for 2009.

Mr. Flower inquired about the complement for the fire department. Mayor Lucas advised that the complement did not change. Gerda Widmyer asked for a rundown of the complement. Mayor Lucas gave an overview. Carol Swartz inquired if any personnel was added from 2008. Mayor Lucas advised that a firefighter position was removed on paper and that there were no changes to police, street, or clerical, other than a reduction in some hours. He advised that some of the 40-hour clerical positions were reduced to 35 hours. Fred Hoffman advised that the City should bump up its complements in the police and fire departments in the event that the wage tax increase brings in more money than anticipated; if the additional money does not come in then

the positions do not have to be filled. Mayor Lucas advised that it may be prudent to add police officers; the City may work out a deal with the school district to add the School Resource Officer position. Attorney Madden advised that the complement can be amended at any time. Mr. Hoffman stated that the problem is that the Home Rule Charter changed the process for amending an Ordinance. Mr. McConnell disagreed with Mr. Hoffman's statements.

**Public Hearing for Ordinance #29-08, introduced by Mr. Flower November 13, 2008 -
SECOND AND FINAL READING**

An Ordinance appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of City Government, herinafter set forth, during the Fiscal Year 2009, as the sum of \$8,490,386.00.

Ordinance is amended to amount of \$8,007,332 and first reading to be held.

**Public Hearing for Ordinance #30-08, introduced by Mr. Flower November 13, 2008 -
SECOND AND FINAL READING**

An Ordinance authorizing the lease of 1000 square feet of the Municipal Building to the City of Sharon Sanitary Authority for office purposes for and in consideration of \$12,000.00 for a term of one year.

Attorney Madden advised that Mayor Lucas negotiated an agreement with the Sanitary Authority. Motion made by Mr. Heutsche, seconded by Mr. Flower, all in agreement to Table the Ordinance. Mayor Lucas explained that it will be a service contract to provide services and lease equipment, and that it will net the City \$140,000 per year.

**Public Hearing for Ordinance #31-08, introduced by Mr. Donato November 13, 2008 -
SECOND AND FINAL READING**

An Ordinance extending the term of real property, earned income tax, net profits mercantile, and business privilege taxes within a specific geographic area in the City of Sharon designated as a Keystone Opportunity Zone, Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone or Keystone Opportunity Improvement Zone in order to foster economic opportunities, stimulate industrial, commercial, and residential improvements and prevent physical and infrastructure deterioration within areas of the City of Sharon, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, upon certain terms and conditions.

WORKSHOP

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS BY COUNCIL:

I) ORDINANCES

Ordinance #34-08 - Mr. Flower summarized the details of the 4-year contract. He stated that the firefighters will pay a portion of their health care, two of the years there will be a wage freeze, the complement will be maintained at 16, with an agreement to reduce to 13 and fill with part-time firefighters. He stated that for new hires, they would not receive longevity, would receive 5 sick days per year and a short-term disability policy (vs. 16 sick days/year), and that in the last year of the contract the health care premium would go to 10% of the cost. If a new firefighter is hired full-time, their pension benefits would be given under third-class city code. Mr. Connelly inquired if this would be first reading and questioned consideration to change in scheduling as recommended by the Early Intervention Study. Carol Swartz inquired about how much is being contributed towards health care. Mayor Lucas advised and explained full timers being replaced with part timers when they resign, retire, etc at \$12/hour. Mike Unrue, IAFF President, stated that the union is never happy with having part-timers replace a full-time position, but that they understand the position of the City. Courtney Anderson of the Herald clarified health care contributions, wage increases, and the amount that was budgeted. She asked for a comment on negotiations. Mr. Flower advised that they went well and he commended the union for understanding the City's position. Jeanne Starmack of the Vindicator inquired if the union had ratified the contract. Mr. Unrue advised that a majority had by tentative vote.

II) RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #129-08 - Gerda Widmyer requested an explanation. Mr. Heutsche advised that PMRS requires the City to have a policy, and that Council is proposing that the City not allow the buy-back of worker's compensation time to count towards retirement. Mrs. Widmyer inquired about the number of times this has been an issue. Council stated none - they just have to have a policy.

Resolution #115-08 - Kenny King sought clarification on the Tax Anticipation Note. Mayor Lucas explained. Mr. Connelly inquired if the 2008 TAN Note had been paid. Mayor Lucas advised that the check had been written, but was not yet mailed.

Resolution #116-08 - Mr. Heutsche pointed out that Mr. Hoffman withdrew his name for consideration and stated that Mr. Cardamon was recommended by the Sharon Sanitary Authority. Mr. Flower asked if the Commissioners have expressed an indication if they will approve Mr. Cardamon's appointment. He suggested that perhaps one of the County Commissioners hold a seat on the Sanitary Authority. Mr. Heutsche advised that none of the Commissioners want to participate. Mr. Connelly explained that the vacancy was due to the resignation of Mr. Beader and it was their seat to fill so Council took names; he also clarified the appointment of Mr. Beader originally by Council.

Resolution #117-08 - Mr. Messina inquired about the role of Mr. Hoffman as a liaison. Mr. Heutsche advised that Mr. Hoffman will attend Sanitary Authority meetings and report back to

Council. Mr. Connelly advised that it is redundant and he is not sure it is needed since he also sits on the Sanitary Authority. Mr. Heutsche advised that Council has concerns with Mr. Connelly on the Sanitary Authority; they believe it may be a conflict of interest. Mr. Heutsche advised that he believes it to be difficult on Mr. Connelly to sit on both boards. He stated that he feels that Mr. Connelly should removed himself from the Sanitary Authority and clarified that no one has said that he has acted improper but that he feels it's difficult to sit on both boards. He stated that according to the solicitor it is not illegal but through all the various negotiations he has to be asked: "What hat are your wearing?" Mr. Connelly discussed why he initially took the seat on the Authority - he believed it was more about overseeing the construction and now it has developed into running a small business. Mr. Heutsche advised that they did not realize how much negotiating back and forth between the City and Authority that would be required, and suggested that Mr. Connelly give some thought as to whether to continue with that position. William McConnell Jr. stated that he believed that Mr. Connelly is doing a good job and believes him to be effective both as a member of the Sanitary Authority and as a Councilman and stated that he supports him. Mr. Heutsche advised that he did not indicate that Mr. Connelly was not doing a good job only that it puts him in a difficult position (between the Sanitary Authority & the City). Carol Swartz inquired about the number of members on the Sanitary Authority. She inquired why Council would appoint a liaison when Mr. Connelly is on the Authority. Mr. Heutsche advised that Council wishes to appoint a liaison and that it will not cost the City money - they do not have to but they want to.

Resolution #119-08 - Darryl Torrence inquired about the duties of this committee. Mr. Heutsche advised that it was a committee found in the Administrative Code of the Codified Ordinances by the Home Rule Transition Committee. It will be a committee made of business people to help develop businesses; they will work with Penn Northwest Development and the Chamber of Commerce - but they will work specifically for the betterment of the City of Sharon. Mr. Evans will be their first member.

Resolution #120-08 - Mr. Connelly inquired if all the budget transfers were for the police department. Chief Menster explained the transfers and that they are all from line items within his budget.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENTS - ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA:

None - Made during Workshop.

ORDINANCES

MOTION that Ordinance # 22-08 entitled "An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Pennsylvania, authorizing a lease between the City of Sharon and the Sharon City School District for the Jefferson Avenue playground and ballfield to the Sharon City School District for and in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) for a term of 50 years" **pass FINAL reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Flower

Second: Mr. Donato

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Flower**

**Yes - Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

MOTION that Ordinance # 23-08 entitled "An ORDINANCE of the City of Sharon fixing the tax rate for the fiscal year 2009 for general City purposes, the sum of 16.47 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation; and for debt purposes, the sum of 5 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the total of 21.47 mills" **pass FIRST reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Flower

Second: Mr. Donato

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Flower
NO - Mr. Connelly**

**Yes- Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

****PASSED BY 4-1 VOTE****

MOTION that Ordinance # 24-08 entitled "An ORDINANCE of the City of Sharon adopting the Community Development Administrative budget for fiscal year 2009 in the amount of \$259,365.00" **pass FINAL reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Flower

Second: Mr. Messina

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Flower
Yes - Mr. Connelly**

**Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

MOTION that Ordinance # 25-08 entitled "An ORDINANCE of the City of Sharon adopting the Community Development Entitlement budget for fiscal year 2009 in the amount of \$739,550.00" **pass FINAL reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Donato

Second: Mr. Messina

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Flower**

**Yes - Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

MOTION that Ordinance # 26-08 entitled "An ORDINANCE of the City of Sharon adopting the Liquid Fuels budget in the amount of \$378,355 for fiscal year 2009" **pass FINAL reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Flower

Second: Mr. Donato

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Flower**

**Yes - Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

MOTION that Ordinance # 27-08 entitled “An ORDINANCE of the City of Sharon adopting the Capital Improvements Budget in the amount of \$1,883,554 for fiscal year 2009” **pass FIRST reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Donato

Second: Mr. Flower

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Messina**

**Yes - Mr. Flower
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

MOTION that Ordinance # 28-08 entitled “An ORDINANCE of the City of Sharon establishing and designating the authorized personnel for each of the six (6) administrative codes for 2009” **pass FINAL reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Flower

Second: Mr. Messina

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Messina**

**Yes - Mr. Flower
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

MOTION that Ordinance # 29-08 entitled “An ORDINANCE of the City of Sharon appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of City Government during the fiscal year 2009 in the amount of \$8,007,332” **pass FIRST reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Donato

Second: Mr. Flower

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Flower
Yes- Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Donato**

**Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

MOTION that Ordinance #30-08 entitled "An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the lease of 1000 square feet of the Municipal Building to the City of Sharon Sanitary Authority for office purposes for and in consideration of \$12,000.00 for a term of one year" **pass FINAL reading by title.**

TABLED AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCIL

(New service agreement being negotiated by the Mayor - will be on agenda for next meeting)

MOTION that Ordinance #31-08 entitled "An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of

Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, extending the term of real property, earned income tax, net profits mercantile, and business privilege taxes within a specific geographic area in the City of Sharon designated as a Keystone Opportunity Zone, Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone or Keystone Opportunity Improvement Zone in order to foster economic opportunities, stimulate industrial, commercial, and residential improvements and prevent physical and infrastructure deterioration within areas of the City of Sharon, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, upon certain terms and conditions" **pass FINAL reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Connelly

Second: Mr. Flower

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Flower**

**Yes - Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

MOTION that Ordinance #33-08 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 Eight** - "Business Regulation and Taxation;" **Title Four** - "Taxation;" **Chapter 840** - "Earned Income Tax;" **Section .02** - "Imposition of Tax," to raise the rate of tax for 2009 and thereafter from 1% to 2.25%" **pass FIRST reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Flower

Second: Mr. Donato

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Flower
Yes - Mr. Messina
NO - Mr. Connelly**

**Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

****Passed 4-1****

MOTION that Ordinance #34-08 entitled "An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon authorizing a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 417 of the International Association for the period beginning January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2012" **pass FIRST reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Flower

Second: Mr. Heutsche

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Flower
Yes - Mr. Messina**

**NO - Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

****Passed 4-1****

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION that Resolution #115-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Pennsylvania, awarding the 2009 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) in the amount of \$1,250,000 to First National Bank for 3.85% effective January 1, 2009" **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Connelly

Second: Mr. Flower

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Flower
Yes - Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Donato**

**Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

MOTION that Resolution # 116-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon appointing Mr. Vince Cardamon to fill the unexpired term of Brian Beader on the Sharon Sanitary Authority through January 1, 2012, subject to approval by the Mercer County Commissioners" **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Connelly

Second: Mr. Donato

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Flower
Yes - Mr. Connelly**

**Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

MOTION that Resolution # 117-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon appointing Mr. Fred Hoffman as a liaison between Sharon City Council and the Sharon Sanitary Authority" **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Donato

Second: Mr. Heutsche

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Flower**

**NO - Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

****Passed 4-1****

MOTION that Resolution # 118-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon appointing Lavern Hofius and Bob Mentrek and re-appointing William Coleman and Maurice Keaveny to the Sharon Regional Health Center Authority" **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Flower

Second: Mr. Connelly

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Messina**

**Yes - Mr. Flower
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

MOTION that Resolution #119-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon appointing Mr. John Evans as Chairman of the Sharon Economic and Community Development Commission" **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Flower

Second: Mr. Donato

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Flower
Yes - Mr. Connelly**

**Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

MOTION that Resolution # 120-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon authorizing General Fund Budget transfers" **be adopted.**

<u>From Acct #</u>	<u>To Acct #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
410.42 Vehicle Maintenance	410.31 General Duty OT	\$6,500.00
410.37 Clothing Allowance	410.31 General Duty OT	\$5,000.00
410.11 Materials & Supplies	410.31 General Duty OT	\$2,500.00
410.34 Shoot Time OT	410.31 General Duty OT	\$1,000.00
410.36 Shift Differential	410.32 Court Time	\$3,000.00

Motion: Mr. Flower

Second: Mr. Connelly

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Flower
Yes - Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Donato**

**Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

MOTION that Resolution #121-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon authorizing a Contract with Tri-County Industries for Garbage Collection Services for 2009" **be adopted.**

TABLED at the request of Council to allow more time for review of options.

MOTION that Resolution #129-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon establishing it as the policy of the City to not allow City employees who are members of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System to purchase credit for time off work because of a compensable Worker's Compensation claim" **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Flower

Yes - Mr. Connelly

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Flower**

**Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

<u>CONSENT AGENDA</u>

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 #122-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing, in accordance with Section 915 of the Home Rule Charter, the Mayor and Finance Director, or in the absence of a Finance Director, the Controller or Treasurer, to pay the bills on Schedule 'A' " **be adopted.**

MOTION that Resolution # 123-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon accepting the audit report for the City from Black, Bashor & Porsch, LLP for year ending December 31, 2007" **be adopted.**

MOTION that Resolution # 124-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon authorizing the proper City Officials to enter into an agreement with June Gulla for Health Officer services through December 31, 2010" **be adopted.**

MOTION that Resolution #125-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon adopting an Open Records Policy for the City of Sharon, appointing an Open Records Officer, and setting a fee schedule" **be adopted.**

MOTION that Resolution # 126-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon adopting an Open Records Policy for the Sharon Library Authority, appointing an Open Records Officer, and setting a fee schedule" **be adopted.**

MOTION that Resolution #127-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Pennsylvania, approving revisions to the FY 2007 CDBG Administrative Budget" **be adopted.**

ORIGINAL ACTUALLY

NEW

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>EXPENDED</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
Salaries (CD & Rehab)	\$141,335	\$118,807	\$20,000	\$161,335
Benefits (CD & Rehab)	29,931	20,143	11,494	41,425
Audit	15,000	13,050		15,000
Accounting	1,000	0		1,000
Travel	5,000	993		5,000
Telephone	2,500	2,266		2,500
Postage	1,000	171		1,000
Supplies	4,500	1,458		4,500
Advertising	4,000	1,773		4,000
Printing	300	0		300
Association	500	20		500
Publication	1,500	151		1,500
Building & Oper. Exp.	12,000	12,000		12,000
Planning/Management	<u>15,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>		<u>15,000</u>
TOTALS	\$233,566	\$173,832	\$31,494	\$265,060

SOURCES OF FUNDS:

2006 Admin Balance	\$ 55,817		\$35,945	\$ 91,762
2007 CDBG Admin.	153,249		(178)	153,071
2007 Rehab Charge-Off	<u>24,500</u>		<u>(4,273)</u>	<u>20,227</u>
TOTALS:	\$233,566		\$31,494	\$265,060

MOTION that Resolution #128-08 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon approving revisions in the FY 2007 CDBG Housing Rehabilitation line item due to an increase of \$28,975 in rehabilitation program income received in 2007" **be adopted.**

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>ORIGINAL BUDGET</u>	<u>REHAB PROGRAM INCREASE</u>	<u>REVISED BUDGET</u>
Housing Rehabilitation	\$155,000	\$ 28,975	\$183,975

MOTION to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2008, Regular Council Meeting, November 26, 2008, Budget Hearing and December 8, 2008, Budget Hearing" **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Donato

Second: Mr. Messina

Vote: Yes - Mr. Messina

Yes - Mr. Donato

Yes - Mr. Flower

Yes - Mr. Heutsche

Yes - Mr. Connelly

<u>COMMENTS:</u>

NEWS MEDIA:

Jeanne Starmack - The Vindicator - Inquired about the schedule for 2009 meetings. Advised that it will be posted by the following week. Discussed a special meeting January 5, 2009, to reorganize and

hold second reading of the wage tax ordinance.

Courtney Anderson - The Herald - Inquired to Mr. Connelly about his negative vote on the Firefighter Contract and on tax issues. Mr. Connelly advised that he believed that the increase in Wage Tax was too bold of a move. Mr. Flower stated that he believed it needed to be done (to lower real estate millage) and that businesses and senior citizens will benefit. Mr. Heutsche advised that he took the comments of Mr. McConnell into consideration but that City Council wanted to see the real estate millage lowered enough to make properties more sellable/attractive. Mayor Lucas stated that he originally proposed a 2 ½ % wage tax, but that Council opted to lower it to 2.25%. He advised that it is in line with Greenville and Farrell and the sister City of Hermitage. Mr. Donato stated that the biggest complaint he hears from residents is that the real estate taxes are too high, therefore, he felt this was a move they needed to make. Mr. Connelly commented that he thought that it was good that the Mayor was able to balance the budget with no tax increase. Ms. Anderson inquired about the garbage contract.

CITIZENS:

Fred Hoffman - Inquired about what the Sanitary Authority set the new sewer rates at and commented that any tax savings would be absorbed by the higher sewer rates. He asked if the new rate hike was attributable to additional construction costs for the WWTX plant expansion. Mr. Connelly advised that there were delinquency problems at the beginning of the year and that the decision to raise the rates was not an easy one for the Sanitary Authority.

Dave Kepics - Inquired what amount was generated from Wage Tax in 2008. Mayor Lucas advised approximately \$1.25 million.

Gerda Widmyer - Inquired about the City's continuing involvement with the Shenango Valley Animal Shelter. Mr. Heutsche advised that they had considered pulling out but decided to leave it in the budget for this year. He stated that he plans to discuss the fees further with MCRCOG in the upcoming year. Mrs. Widmyer suggested that the City not pull out. Mr. Heutsche suggested that the City look at bidding it out. Mrs. Widmyer stated that there would be a problem of where to house the animals.

MAYOR LUCAS:

Commented that the beet juice seems to be working well for snow removal. Thanked the Sanitary Authority for working on the agreement with the City and to former City employees for their move to the Sanitary Authority. Discussed the possibility of spraying vacant lots to retard the growth of grass and weeds. Advised that if it works the lots would only need cut 2x/year. Thanked the IAFF for working with the City. Discussed that the Early Intervention Report suggested that the City hire a grant writer; advised that the fire department took it upon themselves to apply for a grant (which was awarded) for a new fire truck. Stated that the City will finish the year "in the black." Discussed negative comments which tend to bring the City down. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

MR. FLOWER:

Commended the Mayor for his work on the budget. Stated that December was a rough month and Council had to wrestle with a proposed 4 mill tax hike. Commended the IAFF for their bargaining and stated that he was glad they came through and helped the City.

MR. CONNELLY:

Discussed a pile of dirt/debris at Budd St./New Castle Ave. with a sign on it for "Free Dirt" which had been dumped on the street. Mayor Lucas will look into.

MR. DONATO:

Applauded Mayor Lucas for his work on the budget and for giving Council the opportunity to do something different (than raise taxes). Commended the Fire Dept. for working with the City to settle their contract.

MR. MESSINA:

Thanked his fellow Councilmen as his first year has been a learning experience. Thanked them for their patience and stated that he has learned a lot about City Government in his first year on Council.

MR. HEUTSCHE:

Commended everyone for a good job on the budget and to the fire department for working out a good contract. Stated that they are working with the Police Dept. on the pension issue.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

Motion: Mr. Flower

Second: Mr. Donato

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Flower
Yes - Mr. Connelly
Yes - Mr. Messina**

**Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK