

BUREAU OF COUNCIL
Molly Bundrant, President
Carl Sizer, Vice President
William James
David Koerth
Taylor Galaska



Robert Fiscus, City Manager
William J. Madden, City Solicitor
Daphne Parrish, City Clerk

SHARON CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 7:00 PM

Meeting Held in Council Chambers AND Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Council:

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| ✓ President Bundrant | ✓ Mr. Koerth |
| ✓ Mr. James – via Zoom | ✓ Mr. Galaska |
| ✓ Mr. Sizer | |

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

Department Heads:

- ✓ **Jason Tomko, Finance Director**
- ✓ **Edward Stabile, Chief of Police**
- ✓ **Melissa Phillips, Director of Community Development – via Zoom**
- ✓ **David Tomko, Director of Code Enforcement**

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- Shenango Inn – Michael Yanko from the Yanko Group, a prospective investor for the Shenango Inn, attended to introduce himself to Council and give a presentation. A presentation was prepared on his laptop which Mr. Fiscus asked him to email to him to share with Council and the public. Mr. Yanko has been conducting business in NY for approximately 30 years and listed some of his past projects. Shenango Inn would be a smaller project for the group. The Group wants to respect the area, the structure, and the historical significance of the site. Plans are to package this hotel in a new soft brand - Comelot Hotels, powered by Jurny Hospitality. The estimated cost of the project will be approximately \$5 million and will include 140 rooms, reopening the Red Lion Restaurant, an infrared sauna and spa, and restoration of the wedding hall for all types of events. The hotel will use hospitality technology for booking and entering rooms through mobile check-in and detecting excess noise in rooms. Housekeepers will use technology to scan the rooms for viruses and bacteria. Rooms will include mirrors that can be used to exercise online in the room. Meetings are planned with architects to evaluate building an extension onto the building and the feasibility of a pool and cabana either on the roof or downstairs. He requested Council to assist with a package to help make the project better. Mr. Yanko will attend the March 2, 2022, Workshop and will be ready to share plans and features. Mrs. Bundrant and Mr. Fiscus thanked Mr. Yanko for attending and his interest.
- West State Street and Morrison Street Roadway Replacement - Change Orders – Mr. Fiscus said Council was provided with information and three resolutions for change orders in regard to the West State Street and Morrison Street Roadway CDBG Project. Council had no questions regarding the change orders. Mrs. Phillips said there will also be one final change order in the spring for less than \$5,000 for applying weatherized paint.
- Planning Commission – Mr. Fiscus said due to challenges with moving forward with redevelopment in Sharon, we need a streamlined planning process and a robust Planning Commission. Considerable time was spent evaluating where we are and how we can improve. He evaluated the processes of neighboring municipalities; our processes need evaluated and plans put into place, as the process is becoming an obstacle. It takes months to get through the planning process, due to the inactiveness of the Board and the inability of the City to support them. Mr. Fiscus proposed considering a Comprehensive Plan, the cost would be between \$30,000 and \$40,000. The City of Hermitage has a plan posted as an example to review. In addition to a Comprehensive Plan, we need to consider plans for utilizing our

land and what should be where, as well as updating Zoning Ordinances. There are currently 3 out of 7 vacant seats on the Planning Commission. The number of seats could be increased if we are able to find additional talent.

- Road Maintenance – Mr. Fiscus said we talked publicly in the past about the challenges in the Public Works Department, including one retirement at the first of the year and a second full-time employee unable to drive a plow truck due to a work-related injury. We have had trouble hiring part-time personnel. With these challenges, the response to the recent snowstorm would not be rated high and Mr. Fiscus apologized to Council and the citizens. There are 70 miles of paved surfaces in Sharon and with a full staff, clearing should take 12 hours under ideal conditions. There was a total of 9 personnel who worked throughout the snowstorm; the first 24 hours was split up into shifts and at no point was there less than 3 operators on the roads. The City has four 10-ton plows, with one out-of-service for repairs, and a smaller truck with a plow. Staff and equipment from the Sharon Sanitary Authority assisted. Staff went back to their normal 8-hour shifts starting today. The City has increased its technology capabilities and a lot of data is available and is being analyzed to find the failures, efficiencies, lack of efficiencies, and productivity. From the data we will look for solutions and make improvements. Staff will be put in place and equipment will be acquired as need.
- Rescheduling February Workshop – Mr. Fiscus said because there were several scheduling conflicts with Council members and he will be out of town for training, the February 2, 2022, Workshop is rescheduled for February 9, 2022. This change will be advertised and posted on the City’s website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

- Dave McLaren, 1113 Haig Street, asked about Ordinance #02-22. The motion reads the intersection of Service Avenue and the Freeway in two places. This is a typographical error; the motion will be read correctly as the intersections of Service Avenue and the Freeway, and Spencer Avenue and the Freeway.
- Mr. McLaren asked about Resolution #08-22 – Change Order for the mast arm, and where this project is located. Mrs. Bundrant said this is for the project at the intersection in front of Speedway.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCES

Public Hearing for Ordinance #11-21, introduced December 15, 2021 – SECOND AND FINAL READING,
authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Sharon and AFSCME

No comments.

ORDINANCES

MOTION that Ordinance #11-21 entitled “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for temporary amendments to the contract between the City of Sharon and the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees commencing January1, 2022 through March 31, 2023, with regard to post-retirement benefits” **Pass FINAL reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Koerth
Vote: YES Mr. Galaska
YES Mr. James
YES Mr. Koerth

Second: Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. Sizer
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Ordinance 01-22 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 east side of Heinz Avenue Between Thornton and Bluff” **Pass FIRST reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Koerth
Vote: YES Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. Galaska
YES Mr. James

Second: Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. Koerth
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Ordinance 02-22 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 Four, “Public Ways”, Chapter 444, “Traffic Control Devices, “Section 444.05, “Traffic Lights at Particular Intersections”, Subsection (D), “Right Turns on Red Prohibited”, to add thereto additional intersections at which no right turn on red is permitted being Service Avenue, southbound at the Shenango Valley Freeway, and Spencer Avenue, southbound at the Shenango Valley Freeway” **Pass FIRST reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Sizer
Vote: YES Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. Galaska

Second: Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. James
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Ordinance 03-22 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 Two, “Administration Code”, Title Six, “Administration”, Chapter 230, “Tax Collection” Section 230.01, “Installment Payments” to allow periodic payments through December 31 of each year” **Pass FIRST reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Koerth
Vote: YES Mr. James
YES Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. Sizer

Second: Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. Galaska
YES Mrs. Bundrant

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION that Resolution #05-22 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the City Manager to apply for the 2022 Greenlight Go Grant” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Sizer
Vote: YES Mr. Galaska
YES Mr. James
YES Mr. Koerth

Second: Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. Sizer
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Resolution #06-22 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, awarding the 2022 COG Bids under the Joint Municipal Purchasing Program” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. James
Vote: YES Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. Galaska
YES Mr. James

Second: Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. Koerth
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Resolution #07-22 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper City Officials to sign and execute a Salt Participation Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of General Services for the period of August 2022 through July 2023, for the purchase of 4,500 tons of salt” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Koerth
Vote: YES Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. Galaska

Second: Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. James
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Resolution #8-22 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper City Officials to approve Change Order #1 to the contract with M and B Services LLC for a 35-foot Mast Arm for the Sharon Greenlight Go Traffic Signal Upgrade Project – PennDOT Greenlight Go Program; total increase to the contract not to exceed \$1,416” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Sizer
Vote: YES Mr. James
YES Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. Sizer

Second: Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. Galaska
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Resolution #9-22 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper City Officials to approve Change Order #2 to the contract with M and B Services LLC for additional excavation, curb installation and roadway restoration for the Sharon Greenlight Go Traffic Signal Upgrade Project – PennDOT Greenlight Go Program; total increase to the contract not to exceed \$5,756” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Sizer
Vote: YES Mr. Galaska
YES Mr. James
YES Mr. Koerth

Second: Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. Sizer
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Resolution #10-22 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper City Officials to approve Change Order #1 to Contract 21-05 with Whitman Requardt & Associates, LLP – West State Street and Morrison Street Roadway Replacement Project in include installation of a catch basin on the southwest corner of Morrison Street and Spruce Avenue; total increase to the contract not to exceed \$4,987.50” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Sizer
Vote: YES Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. Galaska
YES Mr. James

Second: Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. Koerth
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Resolution #11-22 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper City Officials to approve Change Order #2 to Contract 21-05 with Whitman Requardt & Associates, LLP – West State Street and Morrison Street Roadway Replacement Project to include the changes listed on attached Contract Change Order #2; total increase to the contract not to exceed \$4,979” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Koerth
Vote: YES Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. Galaska

Second: Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. James
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Resolution #12-22 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper City Officials to approve Change Order #3 to Contract 21-05 with Whitman Requardt & Associates, LLP – West State Street and Morrison Street Roadway Replacement Project to include the changes listed on attached Contract Change Order #3; net decrease to the contract will be \$1,250.55” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Galaska
Vote: YES Mr. James
YES Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. Sizer

Second: Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. Galaska
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Resolution #13-22 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the disposing of certain municipal records” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Sizer
Vote: YES Mr. Galaska
YES Mr. James
YES Mr. Koerth

Second: Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. Sizer
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Resolution #14-22 entitled, “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing a budget transfer from multiple line items” **be adopted**.

Motion: Mr. Sizer

Vote: YES Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. Galaska
YES Mr. James

Second: Mr. Koerth

YES Mr. Koerth
YES Mrs. Bundrant

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 #15-22 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 Financial Officer to pay bills on attached Schedule “A” **be adopted**.

MOTION approving minutes from the December 15, 2021, Council Meeting and January 3, 2022, Reorganization Meeting **be adopted**.

Motion: Mr. Sizer

Vote: YES Mr. Koerth
YES Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. Galaska

Second: Mr. Koerth

YES Mr. James
YES Mrs. Bundrant

COMMENTS:

CITY MANAGER: No comments.

NEWS MEDIA: No comments

CITIZENS:

Deborah Roberson, 484 South Oakland Avenue, asked the City’s plans for helping small businesses and start up funds, utilizing the ARP funds. Mr. Fiscus said there will be continued discussion at upcoming Workshops. Currently, small businesses can apply for the Small Business Grants until the end of January. The grants are to help offset the negative effects of the pandemic on the businesses. The City is actively working with Penn Northwest Development to assist with evaluating the grant applications. They will also assist with creating program guidelines and the application process to attract new businesses and support current businesses. The goal is to stabilize current businesses and grow the local Sharon economy moving forward by attracting new businesses to Sharon. If a new business is interested in relocating or starting in Sharon, they can contact the City Manager’s office.

MR. JAMES: Mr. James thanked Mr. Fiscus for his work during not ideal conditions. He was on top of everything during the storm. We need more employees.

MR. SIZER: Mr. Sizer echoed Mr. James’ sentiment. He said to keep in mind we are short staffed--don’t be mean to the people who showed up. Mr. Fiscus worked a lot to get the roads clear and everyone realizes the conditions were unacceptable. We are all frustrated and embarrassed and this cannot happen again. He thanked Mr. Fiscus and the road crew.

MR. KOERTH: Mr. Koerth agreed with the other comments. He said Mr. Fiscus is determined to get the problem fixed. Mr. Koerth suggested discussion of a parking ban at the February Workshop.

MR. GALASKA: No comments.

MRS. BUNDRANT: Mrs. Bundrant acknowledged the pressure Mr. Fiscus was under with less staff, the emergencies that happened, and the number of phone calls. She wished Mr. Fiscus and the crew a restful weekend. She said despite all the complaints online, Council appreciates that they showed up work hard. Mr. Fiscus apologized to the public. He acknowledged the inconveniences, and from this will come improvements.

CITIZENS:

Herman Griffith, 1082 Woodland Place, said a snowplow went down the road today and later in the evening came back and plowed down the middle of the road; at the crossroads there is nowhere to go, and cars are sitting in the road. He asked who is training these people. Mr. Fiscus said this was the first snowfall for many of the drivers. Training with new operators has been done without snowfall in a controlled environment. We previously had drivers with 30 years of service and that is hard to replicate. Mr. Fiscus said it typically take three passes to clear a road and then salt is applied. They are trying to reach every street in the City so may make one pass and come back later to finish cleaning up. Mr. Griffith asked about an Ordinance for no parking on the streets. Mrs. Bundrant said discussion of a Parking Ban will be on the agenda for February 9, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM

Motion: Mr. Sizer

Vote: YES Mr. James

YES Mr. Koerth

YES Mr. Sizer

Second: Koerth

YES Mr. Galaska

YES Mrs. Bundrant