

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

Meeting Held in Council Chambers
Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at **7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL

Council:

- | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> President Bundrant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Koerth |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. James | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Galaska |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Sizer | |

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

Department Heads:

- Jason Tomko, Finance Director
- Edward Stabile, Chief of Police
- David Tomko, Director of Code Enforcement

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- ARLE Grant – With City Council's approval, Mr. Fiscus intends to apply for an ARLE grant to increase safety in downtown. The focus is maintaining Sharon as a walkable City and will include improving facilities, addressing ADA deficiencies, signalizations, crosswalk push buttons, detection of oncoming vehicles, and a traffic study.
- Local Fiscal Recovery Money Market Account – This will be a secondary account to allow capitalizing on interest as much as possible.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

- Frank Ross, 1050 March Street, asked if the ARLE Grant under Resolution 58-22 will include traffic light cameras to issue citations. Mr. Fiscus said the grant will be used to update signalization and does not include traffic cameras.
- Deborah Roberson, 484 South Oakland Avenue, asked about Ordinance 09-22, and monitoring one-hour parking on Pitt Street. Chief Stabile said he is in favor of metering; however, spot enforcement will be used to the best of the Department's ability. Ms. Roberson asked if kiosks would be considered. Mr. Fiscus said spot enforcement will likely be heavy early-on to create appropriate behaviors.
- Dave McLaren, 1113 Haig Street, asked about Resolution 52-22. Mr. Fiscus said this is a continuation of the ongoing demolition program. Mr. McLaren asked about Resolution 53-22 replacing lost public sector revenue. Mr. Fiscus said the government allows a standard deduction for the ARPA funds. Mr. McLaren asked the location of the properties to be transferred to the Redevelopment Authority under Resolution 54-22. Ms. Kepple said the properties are located on Nimick Street and Malleable Street.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCES

Public Hearing for Ordinance #07-22, introduced May 18, 2022 – SECOND AND FINAL READING, approving editing of various Component Codes of the City's Codified Ordinances

Public Hearing for Ordinance #09-22, introduced May 18, 2022 – SECOND AND FINAL READING, amending the Codified Ordinances to add a section of Pitt Street to One-Hour Parking

No questions or comments.

ORDINANCES

MOTION that Ordinance 07-22 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; and providing for the adoption and publication of new matter in the updated and revised Codified Ordinances” **Pass FINAL reading by title.**

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

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

MOTION that Ordinance 09-22 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”, Subsection 03, “One Hour Parking Streets”, to Add Thereto Pitt Street, South Side from Shenango Avenue to North Railroad” **Pass FINAL reading by title.**

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

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

MOTION that Ordinance 10-22 entitled “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, setting forth general goals and standards which shall be known as the EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK for all managerial, supervisory, confidential and all other non-union employees of the City of Sharon” **Pass FIRST reading by title.**

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

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

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION that Resolution #52-22 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, awarding the Demolition and Clearance Project #22-02 Bid to SereDay Trucking, Inc., amount not to exceed \$256,500” **be adopted.**

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

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

MOTION that Resolution #53-22 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, electing to utilize the Standard Allowance for the purpose of replacing lost public sector revenue under the provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Final Rule” **be adopted.**

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

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

MOTION that Resolution #54-22 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the transfer of property from the City of Sharon to the Sharon Redevelopment Authority: Parcels # 4-S-65 and 3-F-26” **be adopted.**

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

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

MOTION that Resolution #55-22 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper city officials to apply for a PennDOT STU (Surface Transportation Urban) Grant” **be adopted.**

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

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

MOTION that Resolution #56-22 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the Finance Director to open three bank accounts: Special Events; Medical Insurance Retiree Fund; and Local Fiscal Recovery Money Market” **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 #58-22 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper city officials to apply for an Automated Red Light Enforcement Transportation Enhancement (ARLE) Grant” **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 #59-22 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper city officials to purchase three (3) police vehicles and install equipment; amount not to exceed \$138,808.50” **be adopted.**

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

Second: Mr. Sizer
YES Mr. Galaska
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 #57-22 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 May 18, 2022, Council Meeting **be adopted.**

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

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

COMMENTS:

CITY MANAGER:

Mr. Fiscus said a discussion of the Traffic Study of the Spencer/Connelly and Service/Connelly intersections will be included on the July 6, 2022, Workshop Agenda. The Traffic Study, a 250-page document, is posted on the City’s website

for public review. An educated conversation will take place at the Workshop; the process for change will include discussions and public input at the Workshop; following discussions, an Ordinance will be introduced with a first vote by Council; next, a second public hearing will be held for additional public input; finally, Council would vote on a second and final reading. Any change approved by Council will also require PennDOT approval. Representative Longiotti has offered support to help facilitate these conversations and make the process fair for all parties.

NEWS MEDIA:

CITIZENS:

Jannitta Sellers, 761 South Oakland Avenue, said the house next to her was torn down and the contractors did a terrible job; there are still rocks, trees, etc. in the yard. Mrs. Bundrant said the property will be inspected to see if it was done properly.

Rick Davies, on behalf of Mary Ann DePofi and himself, thanked Council for looking further into the Spencer/Connelly intersection.

Frank Ross, 1050 March Street, said one entire side of March Street has been lined with No Parking signs. The signs were placed due to the complaints of one resident on the street and are causing major parking problems that were never dealt with in the past. He requested the signs be removed. Mr. Fiscus said the Ordinance was reviewed and parking is prohibited on the south side of the streets; the signs were placed in order to enforce the Ordinance. On one occasion, a boat was parked in front of a fire hydrant. Mr. Ross said there was one particular renter with many vehicles, and they have since moved; he asked what can be done to remove the signs. Mr. Fiscus said the request will be reviewed by Chief Stabile and himself.

Gail Cadman, 1060 March Street, said she has lived in her home for 25 years and the signs were placed due to one person making multiple complaints.

David McLaren, 1113 Haig Street, asked how much money will be deposited into the Local Fiscal Recovery Money Market Account. Jason Tomko said \$13.5 million.

Jerry Estman, 263 New Castle Avenue, asked what fees must be paid by owners of rental properties. Mrs. Bundrant said they are required to be licensed and the property inspected. There is a \$100 license fee, and a \$50 fee for the first inspection and a sliding scale for additional inspections. By law, the City cannot make a profit on the fees. Mr. Fiscus said the City does not profit and more likely loses money. The City continues to allocate additional resources to these issues. Mr. Estman said the property located at 264 New Castle has a third-floor window where trash is thrown from. There was a gun shooting and a gun found. Garbage is taken from the house and placed at empty houses. Mr. Estman has talked to a Code Officer and the Police Department.

Debby Pickens, 629 Sherman Avenue, said there was a No Parking Driveway sign at her driveway on Budd Street that was damaged and removed by the Street Department. The sign was not replaced, and she would like it replaced in a way that will not block her driveway.

Ms. Pickens said the house near her with the ongoing garbage issue has a backyard full of garbage and uncut high grass. The occupants took a full tote of trash and put it in front of another empty house, with grass high enough the tote can barely be seen. The alley behind Stambaugh Avenue has trash everywhere following trash pickup. Ms. Pickens called Code and spoke with a Code Officer who was to come to her house, but he never showed. Mr. Fiscus said he will follow up with Dave Tomko.

Kathy Testani, 417 Wilson Street, asked about the street sweeper. Mr. Fiscus said the street sweeper is operated by the Sharon Sanitary Authority (SSA) and he has been unable to obtain a route schedule, but the sweeper operates 3-4 days per week. SSA meetings are open to the public and meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month in Council Chambers at 5:15 PM.

Ms. Testani said she wanted to talk to Dave Tomko this evening about a house that had been condemned and purchased by an individual. Trash was placed outside and has been there a long time since there are items not collected by the trash collectors. Also, the grass has not been cut.

Ms. Testani asked when potholes will be filled. Mr. Fiscus said potholes are filled on a daily basis and if there is a specific pothole that needs addressed, please contact Brianna in the City Manager's office and she will notify the Street Department.

John Gallagher, 220 Case Avenue, asked if PennDOT will send a representative to the upcoming meetings regarding the Spencer/Connelly and Service/Connelly intersections. It would be beneficial for someone to attend the meetings to hear public input. Mr. Fiscus said PennDOT will have to approve any plan adopted by Council and Representative Longietti committed to advocate for the change.

Mr. Fiscus said if citizens want to talk to a Department Head other than during regular working hours, Department Heads are not required to attend the second Council meeting of each month but do attend the Workshop Meetings.

Hirman Griffin, 1082 Woodland Place, asked if there is a grass cutting ordinance. He said the grass in his neighborhood is getting bad and attracting rats. Mrs. Bundrant asked him to call Code with addresses. Mr. Griffin said they just need to take a ride. Mr. Fiscus said citations are sometimes not worth the paper written on. Mr. Griffin asked if the grass can be cut, and a lien put onto the property. Mr. Fiscus said liens can be put on the property but will further damage the property, making it less likely to be purchased by a responsible owner.

Mr. Griffin asked when storm sewers will be repaired. Mr. Fiscus said the Sanitary Authority maintains storm sewers by agreement and they maintain 25 per year.

Mr. Griffin asked if the state is involved in the Traffic Study. Mr. Fiscus said no, but the state will ultimately have to approve any change. Mr. Griffin asked who placed the light on the left side of Connelly Boulevard at Service Avenue. Mr. Fiscus it said most likely was placed by a PennDOT engineer as part of the most recent redesign project.

Jannitta Sellers, 761 South Oakland Avenue, said she is appreciative of the demolitions in Sharon and the City is looking better. She asked why trees are being planted in empty lots and who is going to maintain the trees. Mrs. Bundrant said those may be planted by someone who adopted the lot. Mr. Fiscus said these are beautification projects.

Karen Martinko, 672 Spruce Avenue, said the properties at 664 and 656 Spruce Avenue are both vacant and the owner is deceased. The houses are eyesores and she asked if they are on the demolition list. Mr. Fiscus suggested she call Brianna in the City Manager's office to ask if they are on a project list.

Beverly Palermo, 1125 Spencer Avenue, said she had an episode at her home on June 1st and wanted to commend two firefighters, Joshua Herald and Peircen Fenton.

MR. JAMES: No comments.

MR. SIZER: No comments.

MR. KOERTH: No comments.

MR. GALASKA: No comments.

MRS. BUNDRANT: Mrs. Bundrant received a reminder from a citizen that No Parking signs have not been placed on Heinz Avenue.

Mrs. Bundrant said if Council has any questions on the CDBG Comprehensive Plan to please email Suzanne Kepple by June 27 as she will not be able to attend the July Workshop Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM