

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

Council Chambers
Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL

Council:

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

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

Department Heads:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Tomko, Finance Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edward Stabile, Chief of Police
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Tomko, Director of Code Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Settle, Public Works Director

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Huntington Bank Electrical Construction Bid – Mr. Fiscus said the electrical construction project was discussed at the Workshop Meeting and bids were opened. He asked Council to approve a bid of \$51,300 to Penn Ohio Electrical Company. The project will entail removing electric service, removing lights and replacing with upgraded LED lights; it will also ensure power at the site for the various upcoming Downtown events.
- Dollar General Subdivision – Mrs. Bundrant said at a meeting earlier this evening, the Sharon Planning Commission (SPC) voted to recommend Council approve the subdivision. Dollar General provided SPC with a rendering of the building, which will look identical to the location on Route 18 in Hermitage. There were residents from Cherry Way in attendance who had concerns about the appearance of the store; they left feeling better about the project. The outside of the building will be brick and built 5 feet into the ground, and 60 arbor vitae will be planted. Mr. Koerth asked about R-2 Zoning. Mrs. Bundrant said yes, they have already received approval. Mr. Sizer asked for a picture of the rendering. Mrs. Bundrant said a picture was available; however, the picture was of the location on Route 18, and anyone interested can ride past to see this location. Mr. Sizer asked if Mrs. Bundrant was comfortable voting without everyone on Council seeing the photo. Mrs. Bundrant said the SPC has held several public meetings and recommended Council approve the subdivision.
- Fire Fighters Collective Bargaining Agreement – Mr. Fiscus said there have been negotiations with the Fire Fighters to extend their contract. A full copy of the tentative contract was made available to Council and it will be made available to the public after the public hearing next month. Highlights of the contract include increases in wages: 3% in 2023, 2% in 2024, 2.5% in 2025, and 2% in 2026. Healthcare premium sharing will increase from 16.5% to 17.75% over the life of the contract. Holidays: In the past there were ten (10) holidays and three (3) personal days listed. The language for full-timers will change to only allow for eight (8) days, but two (2) can be used as a true personal day where a Fire Fighter may now call off that morning. The other six (6) days must be scheduled in advance. Part-time Fire Fighters do not receive paid holidays; however, the days are still listed as they receive a different pay rate on those days. Mrs. Bundrant asked if this will negatively impact key days when manpower is needed, and there is now the ability to call in and use one of their call-off days. Mr. Fiscus said the Fire Fighters have the ability to do this now, utilizing sick days.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

Dave McLaren, 1113 Haig Street; Regarding Resolution #14-23, Mr. McLaren asked who is the Sharon Community Development Corporation. Mr. Fiscus said the Sharon Community Development Corporation was formed about a year ago and is memorialized through documentation. They have many stakeholders in Downtown and meet monthly and their goal is Downtown revitalization. Approximately 1-1/2 years ago there were discussions regarding a fee to help support the Downtown Businesses, which the downtown businesses would vote on. It was decided it would be unfair to take the fee to the downtown businesses and we looked for an avenue through ARPA Funding. Other cities have had success with similar organizations. Mr. McLaren asked for a list of the members of the Community Development Corporation. Mr. Fiscus will provide a list. Mr. McLaren asked if this allocation of funds will replace the fees. Mr. Fiscus said yes, it would in the meantime, but to be sustainable, the businesses would need to pay into the program. This will make the City eligible for Main Street Funding which potentially brings in additional money from the State.

ORDINANCES

MOTION that Ordinance #01-23 entitled “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Sharon and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 417 (IAFF), setting forth wages, benefits, and working conditions for the period January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2026” Pass FIRST reading by title.

Motion: Mr. Koerth

Second: Mr. Sizer

Vote: YES Mr. Sizer

YES Mr. Koerth

YES Mr. Galaska

YES Mrs. Bundrant

Mr. James - Excused

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION that Resolution #13-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, awarding the contract for Electrical Construction for the Demolition of the Huntington Bank Building, One East State Street, Sharon, PA to Penn Ohio Electrical Company; amount not to exceed \$51,300” be adopted.

Motion: Mr. Koerth

Second: Mr. Sizer

Vote: YES Mr. Koerth

Mr. James - Excused

YES Mr. Sizer

YES Mrs. Bundrant

YES Mr. Galaska

MOTION that Resolution #14-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing allocating ARPA funds to the Sharon Community Development Corporation; amount not to exceed \$695,000” be adopted.

Motion: Mr. Sizer

Second: Mr. Koerth

Vote: Mr. James - Excused

YES Mr. Galaska

YES Mr. Koerth

YES Mrs. Bundrant

YES Mr. Sizer

MOTION that Resolution #15-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing allocating ARPA funds to the extend the Downtown Development Director and Downtown Events Coordinator positions for a one-year period; amount not to exceed \$105,000” be adopted.

Motion: Mr. Sizer

Second: Mr. Koerth

Vote: YES Mr. Galaska

YES Mr. Sizer

Mr. James - Excused

YES Mrs. Bundrant

YES Mr. Koerth

MOTION that Resolution #16-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper City Officials to approve Change Order #3 to Sharon Multi Modal Transportation Phase III Paving Project with Youngblood Paving, Inc., to adjust the contract bid quantities to match construction quantities; total decrease to the contract not to exceed \$84,176.27” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Koerth

Second: Mr. Sizer

Vote: YES Mr. Sizer

YES Mr. Koerth

YES Mr. Galaska

YES Mrs. Bundrant

_____ Mr. James - Excused

MOTION that Resolution #17-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper City Officials to approve the Subdivision Plan for Dollar General” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Koerth

Second: Mr. Sizer

Vote: YES Mr. Koerth

_____ Mr. James - Excused

YES Mr. Sizer

YES Mrs. Bundrant

NO Mr. Galaska

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 #18-23 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 January 18, 2023, Council Meeting **be adopted.**

MOTION that Resolution #19-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing appointments for certain Committees, Boards and Commissions” **be adopted.**

- Sharon Community & Economic Development
 - John Evans – Reappointment (3 Years)

Motion: Mr. Koerth

Second: Mr. Sizer

Vote: _____ Mr. James - Excused

YES Mr. Galaska

YES Mr. Koerth

YES Mrs. Bundrant

YES Mr. Sizer

COMMENTS:

CITY MANAGER: None.

NEWS MEDIA: None.

CITIZENS:

Ben Griffin, 528 Dwyer Way; Mr. Griffin thanked David Koerth in regard to the removal of the \$3 fee from the Tri-County bills. Mr. Fiscus said he contacted Tri- County regarding the fee and they understand this fee was not in the agreed upon terms, and it was removed.

Dave McLaren, 1113 Haig Street; Mr. McLaren said the streetlight is burned out on Spencer Avenue between the Freeway and Griswold Street.

John Dunlevy, 429 Reed Street; Mr. Dunlevy said his questions are in regard to the negotiation of the new Tri-County contract. Mr. Fiscus said there were not a lot of negotiations. The process was a sealed bid process in collaboration with neighboring municipalities and Tri-County's bid was the only option presented.

Mr. Dunlevy asked if there is a clause in the contract to reduce the rates should the cost of diesel decrease. Mr. Fiscus said there is not. There was no such contract in the previous 6-year contract. The contract could not be reopened, and we were locked into a lower rate for the length of that contract. Also, the bid specs are for one flat rate.

Mr. Dunlevy asked why residents utilizing bag service are forced to pay for one bag per week if they are not utilizing the service. Mr. Fiscus said at the previous pre-bid meetings, bag service was discussed. Service is the same for everyone and cannot be tailored on an individual basis. The other options are bi-weekly or monthly service. Weekly service is necessary for the greater good.

Mr. Dunlevy asked if statistics of annual income were received from Tri-County. He estimated they are receiving revenues of approximately \$24 million. All residents of Mercer County are being forced to pay these high rates.

Mr. Dunlevy asked if the City requested an extension of the contract or to pay a one-time fee. Mr. Fiscus said Tri-County declined to extend the contract. Mr. Dunlevy asked if financial records were requested to confirm their losses or operating costs. Mr. Fiscus said Tri-County was the only bidder; there was no choice if we wanted to continue with garbage service.

Mr. Dunlevy said the first responsibility for this Council and the Council of Governments is to look out for the citizens and he does not think this was executed in a very good fashion.

Ben Griffin, 528 Dwyer Way; Mr. Griffin asked the status of the Shenango Inn. Mr. Fiscus said change in zoning was approved to allow for a hotel as long as it meets stringent criteria. The 45-day appeal period is close to expiring.

Deborah Roberson, 484 South Oakland Avenue; Ms. Roberson said there are several newly empty lots in her neighborhood and people are parking their cars in those lots. Mr. Fiscus said to contact Dave Tomko in the Code Department.

MR. JAMES:

MR. SIZER: Dave U'Halie passed away last weekend. He was a long-time Sharon resident and was elected to the Home Rule Charter Commission. Mr. Sizer sent condolences to his family.

MR. KOERTH: Mr. Koerth requested Mr. Fiscus and Jason Tomko explore bringing garbage service back to the City. We have 3½ years to explore it, research it, and see if it is possible.

MR. GALASKA: None.

MRS. BUNDRANT: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM