

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, July 5, 2023
Immediately Following Workshop

CALL TO ORDER AT 6:38 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. Sizer | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Galaska - Excused |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. James | |

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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:

- Jason Tomko, Finance Director
- Edward Stabile, Chief of Police
- David Tomko, Director of Code Enforcement
- Mark Settle, Public Works Director

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

Kathy Testani, 417 Wilson Street; Regarding Ordinance #05-23, Ms. Testani asked why the hours of prohibited parking are from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM. She said the situation on Pearl Street is bad; there is a camper parked there, the street is narrow and while pulling out of the driveway next to the parked camper, there is no visibility to see traffic coming down the street. Mrs. Bundrant said we reviewed how other cities have managed this issue. Mr. Fiscus said permitting parking during daytime hours allows owners the opportunity to park long enough to maintain their vehicle and/or prepare it for a trip, while still prohibiting overnight parking. The Ordinance may be adjusted in the future, if needed.

Dave McLaren, 1113 Haig Street; Mr. McLaren asked about the approval of Council Meeting Minutes under the Consent Agenda. He asked why citizens are not able to review the minutes prior to approval. Since citizens are required to give their name and address for the minutes, they should be able to check to see if the minutes are correct. If there was an error, how can it be corrected? Mrs. Bundrant said Council reviews and approves the minutes prior to posting. Attorney Madden said if there is an objection to the contents of the minutes, a citizen can object to it, and it can be moved to have the minutes amended.

Debby Pickens, 629 Sherman Avenue; Regarding Ordinance #05-23, Ms. Pickens asked if this Ordinance is approved this evening, when it will become effective. Mrs. Bundrant said it would be effective 10 days after approval. Ms. Pickens said her niece lives on Pearl Street and is unable to see to pull out of her driveway.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCES

Public Hearing for Ordinance #05-23, introduced June 7, 2023 – SECOND AND FINAL READING, amending the Codified Ordinances, Chapter 480, to prohibit parking of RVs, campers, utility trailers and boats on highways, streets, or alleys within the corporate limits of the City between the hours of 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM

No comments.

ORDINANCES

MOTION that Ordinance #05-23 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”, to add thereto Section .18 to prohibit parking of RVs, campers, utility trailers, and boats on highways, streets or alleys within the corporate limits of the City between the hours of 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM” **Pass FINAL reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Koerth

Second: Mr. Sizer

Vote: YES Mr. James

Mr. Galaska

YES Mr. Koerth

YES Mrs. Bundrant

YES Mr. Sizer

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION that Resolution #52-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, approving the City of Sharon 2023 Fiscal Year Annual Action Plan” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Koerth

Second: Mr. Sizer

Vote: Mr. Galaska

YES Mr. Sizer

YES Mr. James

YES Mrs. Bundrant

YES Mr. Koerth

MOTION that Resolution #53-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, awarding the Demolition and Clearance Project 23-03 bid to Siegel Excavating, LLC; amount not to exceed \$111,200” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. James

Second: Mr. Koerth

Vote: YES Mr. Sizer

YES Mr. Koerth

Mr. Galaska

YES Mrs. Bundrant

YES Mr. James

MOTION that Resolution #54-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper city officials to approve Change Order #7 to the City of Sharon Gateway Project with M&B Services LLC, for sign removal and relocation; amount not to exceed \$700” **be adopted.**

**Mr. Fiscus said a PennDOT sign was placed in front of the Welcome to Sharon sign; this change order covers relocation of the PennDOT signage.

Motion: Mr. James

Second: Mr. Koerth

Vote: YES Mr. Koerth

YES Mr. James

YES Mr. Sizer

YES Mrs. Bundrant

Mr. Galaska

MOTION that Resolution #49-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper city officials to approve an addendum to the School Resource Officer Agreement with the Sharon City School District dated January 27, 2023” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. James

Second: Mr. Sizer

Vote: YES Mr. James

Mr. Galaska

YES Mr. Koerth

YES Mrs. Bundrant

YES Mr. Sizer

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 CITIZEN 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 #55-23 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 June 7, 2023, Council Meeting **be adopted.**

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

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

COMMENTS:

CITY MANAGER: Mr. Fiscus congratulated the Robotics Team. They reflect very well on Sharon and create a lot of publicity. Mrs. Bundrant thanked Mrs. Porterfield for her suggestion.

NEWS MEDIA: Melissa Klaric from The Herald asked the status of the Shenango Inn. Mr. Fiscus said he has a meeting scheduled tomorrow morning with one of the owners. He is actively working with them, and they continue voicing their commitment to Sharon and the Shenango Inn. Progress has slowed due to financial crises with overseas banks. Code enforcement recently addressed some issues with the owners. Mr. Fiscus recognized the benefit the project can be for the Shenango Valley, while also providing relief for the neighbors.

Ms. Klaric asked if there is any update on the State Towers building; will it be brought up to code, or will it fall into disrepair? Mr. Fiscus said the building is already in a state of disrepair. The owner or recipient of the trust has not made any comments about future plans; however, the City is paying attention to the situation. The taxes are a few years behind and the property could go up for tax sale at some point. Ms. Klaric asked what the City could do. Mr. Fiscus said there are different avenues the City could pursue; it may not be in the City’s best interest to take control of the property, and any options considered in the future would be discussed publicly.

MR. JAMES: No comments.

MR. SIZER: Mr. Sizer thanked the Downtown Events team, Police Department, Fire Department, Street Department and Code Department for the July 4th Event. The City was well represented at the event and the Fire Department demonstrations were excellent. There was significant police presence and he felt safe. He thanked everyone for the team effort.

MR. KOERTH: Mr. Koerth echoed Mr. Sizer. He said Sherris and Courtney did a great job, and the fireworks display was also great.

MR. GALASKA:

MRS. BUNDRANT: No comments.

CITIZENS:

Ben Griffin, 528 Dwyer Way; Mr. Griffin asked about street paving and if the City has any projects this year. Mr. Fiscus said the Irvine Avenue project is starting now; it is a complete reconstruction from the Ohio line to Ellsworth Street and includes new curbs, sidewalks and surface. Mr. Griffin asked if this is the only street to be paved this year. Mr. Fiscus said it is a big project, approximately \$1.8 to \$1.9 million, and is funded by a Multi Modal Grant. In addition, the Morrison Street paving project is upcoming and will be funded with \$225,000 from CDBG funds. Mr. Griffin asked about Spencer Avenue, south of the freeway. Mr. Fiscus said it won’t be paved this year however, the finance office continues to actively apply for grants. He will provide a list of streets on the Multi Modal application at the next Workshop Meeting.

Mr. Griffin said the demolition at Columbia and Hazen is the worst demo project he has ever seen. Mr. Fiscus agreed and said he is working with the property owner and contractor to find a resolution. The City has insurance collateral being held until the project meets our specs. Mr. Griffin asked the name of the company. Mr. Fiscus said it is A&B Properties.

Mr. Griffin asked the status of the Croakers ARPA funds issue. Mr. Fiscus said this is a criminal matter; the gentleman who allegedly stole the money turned himself in. The matter is being actively pursued to make sure the ARPA funds are returned to Croakers for their investment.

Mr. Griffin asked what protections are in place for the neighbors of the new Dollar General store regarding trees and landscaping. Mr. Fiscus said approval of the zoning and planning was contingent on the actual building and grounds complying with the specs submitted. Mrs. Bundrant said there was a public meeting regarding the plans for the Dollar General and she believed the attending neighbors were happy with the plans after attending the meeting. Mr. Griffin said the Dollar General on State Street is not a good example.

Dave Stanley, 348 Elm Avenue; Mr. Stanley asked when something will be done about Elm Avenue. He has lived there for 33 years, and nothing has been done and he is sick of the potholes. Mr. Fiscus said the City has applied for a paving grant which includes Elm Avenue, and we should know if it is approved by September. He explained that paving is done under a systematic plan with the goal of paving the entire city. Mr. Stanley asked why the condition of streets is not being evaluated. Mr. Fiscus said they are evaluated. The former City Manager had all the streets evaluated and ranked by condition and that data is being utilized when applying for grants. Mrs. Bundrant said it may be time to update the inventory. Mr. Fiscus said a stormwater and paving inventory are being worked on.

Mr. Stanley said there are two slum landlords at the corner of Elm Avenue and Meek Street who do not mow or take care of the properties. Mrs. Bundrant asked for the addresses. Mr. Stanley said the corner of Elm/Meek, red brick house.

Harold Fette, 272 Spruce Avenue. Mr. Fette said there is a vacant lot next to his and the next house over was torn down. The house across the street was also torn down. There is a man who claims he bought it and the City gave him permission to use it as a dump for his landscaping business. The man also has a 24' flatbed trailer sitting on the road. Mr. Fiscus said he will address these issues; it is not zoned to be a dump. Mr. Fette said on the corner of Prindle and Oakland there were mattresses, garbage bags and tables there for three weeks before they were taken away.

Dave McLaren, 1113 Haig Street; Mr. McLaren said there was executive session after last month's meeting to discuss land purchase and asked for an update. Mr. Fiscus said the City is looking to partner with different agencies and the School District to strategically obtain a piece of land.

Mr. McLaren asked if the \$5,000 Croakers money was above and beyond the grant money they were awarded. Mr. Fiscus said no, it was part of their grant. Mr. McLaren asked if there is follow up with grant recipients after they are awarded funds. Mr. Fiscus said, yes, this is the responsibility of the Finance Department, and they actively oversee spending.

Mr. McLaren said he read Community Action Partnership of Mercer County is selling two lots and/or houses. He asked who this organization is. Mr. Sizer said they are the organization at the corner of Bank Place and Dock Street. Mr. Fiscus said they currently own those properties and are looking to sell. Mr. McLaren asked for clarification on the Valley Shenango Economic Development Corporation, Sharon Community Development Corporation, and CAPMC. Mr. Sizer said he will explain the different agencies to him after the end of the meeting.

John Bobbie, 329 Elm Avenue; Mr. Bobbie said he wished someone from the City would ride down his road and see the sinkholes, patches and condition of the road.

Kathy Testani, 417 Wilson Street; Ms. Testani said there has been improvement with some of the houses in her neighborhood. Someone is working at the house on Wood Way. She asked why Mr. Whalen still does not have garbage service. She will talk with Dave Tomko regarding those who do not have service.

Mitch McFeely from Mars Bank in Grove City introduced himself to Council. Mars Bank is new to Grove City, they specialize in municipal deposits, municipal loans, consumer deposits, and consumer loans and they have great CD specials now. He left literature regarding their products.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM