

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, January 18, 2023, at 6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER AT 6:31 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Council:

President Bundrant
 Mr. Sizer - Excused
 Mr. James

Mr. Koerth
 Mr. Galaska

Robert Fiscus, City Manager
 Attorney Madden, City Solicitor - Excused
 Daphne Parrish, City Clerk

News Media:
 The Herald

Department Heads:

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Garbage Contract – Mr. Fiscus said Mercer County Regional Council of Governments (COG) put the garbage contract out for bid in collaboration with Farrell and Wheatland and has managed the process to this point. Bid opening was held on January 9, 2023; Tri County Industries submitted the only bid. The bid amount to continue the current level of weekly unlimited service is \$43 per month and will be billed at the rate of \$129 per quarter. The \$43 includes Tri-County's fee of \$39 plus a \$4 municipal fee which funds E-Waste and enforcement services. Mrs. Bundrant asked why the bag option changed from \$32.50 per quarter to \$11 per bag, with a minimum of one bag per week. Bag service is more expensive than unlimited tote service. Mr. Fiscus said per conversations with Jerry Bowser, President of Tri-County, their costs have drastically increased. Mr. James asked about E-Waste Service. Mr. Fiscus said Tri-County does not offer E-Waste Service. Residents can drop-off TVs and appliances at the City Garage, which are hauled away.
- Reappointment of Ombudsman – James Epstein was initially appointed as the City's Ombudsman in 2010. He has agreed to continue to serve as Ombudsman for one more year subject to the terms of the 2010 Resolution and his letter of acceptance. An email address was created to distribute to employees to contact him.
- MOU – SAFER Grant – Fire Fighters – The City received the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant in the amount \$780,000. When the grant was received, Mr. Fiscus indicated the only way to utilize the grant is to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the IAFF, outlining conditions, including positions are not permanent and will be eliminated if funding is no longer available. The grant will provide three full-time positions for three years, beginning February 7, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

- Ben Griffin, 528 Dwyer Way; Mr. Griffin asked why the City needs to commit to a 3-year garbage contract and suggested a one-year contract to see what happens. Mr. Fiscus said the term under the bid was for a 3-year contract. In order to change the contract term, the County would have to decline the contract and rebid it. As of February 1, there would be no garbage collection in the City. Since Tri-County was the only bidder, the bid would probably not change. Mr. Griffin asked when bids were put out. Mr. Fiscus said bids were advertised by COG on November 8, with an initial bid opening scheduled for the end of November. The bid was delayed by COG to allow Wheatland to be included. Mr. Griffin said a lot of people cannot afford this increase and asked if service

could be provided bi-weekly. Mr. Fiscus said many people have large amounts of garbage and could not change to bi-weekly service and changing to bi-weekly service would eliminate the option for unlimited service. Mr. Griffin said he has noticed people moving out of housing put large amounts of stuff onto the curb for pick-up. Mr. Fiscus said the landlords who do this are drastically driving up the cost for the rest of us. Mr. Griffin said City taxes have not been raised, but this contract will cost residents over \$200 additional per year. Mr. Fiscus agreed and said he wished there was better news and other options available.

- Dave McLaren, 1113 Haig Street; Mr. McLaren asked if E-Waste Service will accept hot water tanks for disposal. Mrs. Bundrant suggested placing the item on the curb and scrappers will likely pick-it up.

Mr. McLaren asked in regard to Resolution 05-23 – Salt Participation Agreement, whether records of usage are maintained. Mr. Fiscus said under the Salt Agreement, the City locks in the amount of salt to be purchased. Mark Settle, Public Works Director, and Jason Tomko, Finance Director, reviewed previous years’ usage and conservatively decreased the amount by 500 tons.

Mr. McLaren asked about Resolution 07-23 authorizing disposal of Municipal Records. Mrs. Bundrant said this is part of the City’s normal record disposal program and the records included are 7 years old.

Mr. McLaren said when the garbage contract is set to expire, this should be discussed well ahead of time and suggested moving on the process earlier. Mr. Fiscus agreed and will voice with COG to begin the process in advance next time.

Mr. McLaren asked if Mr. Epstein will receive a salary for the Ombudsman position. Mrs. Bundrant said Mr. Epstein declined a salary.

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION that Resolution #04-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper City Officials to enter into a three (3) year agreement starting February 1, 2023, with Tri-County Industries for Residential Refuse and Recycling collection/disposal service” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Koerth

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

Second: Mr. Galaska

YES Mr. James
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Resolution #05-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper City Officials to sign and execute a Salt Participation Agreement with the PA Department of General Services for the period of August 2023 through July 2024 for the purchase of 4,000 tons of salt” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. James

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

Second: Mr. Koerth

YES Mr. Galaska
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Resolution #06-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, awarding the 2023 COG Bids under the Joint Municipal Purchasing Program” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Koerth

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

Second: Mr. Galaska

_____ Mr. Sizer
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Resolution #07-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the disposing of certain municipal records” **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. James

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

Second: Mr. Koerth

YES Mr. Koerth
YES Mrs. Bundrant

MOTION that Resolution #08-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, adopting the Memorandum of Understanding outlining policies and procedures between the City of Sharon Police Department and the Sharon City School District” **be adopted.**

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

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

MOTION that Resolution #09-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, reappointing James P. Epstein as the City’s Ombudsman for 2023 subject to the Ombudsman Resolution of 2010 and Mr. Epstein’s acceptance letter, with jurisdiction to hear and investigate complaints by employees of the City concerning the City Manager and/or City Council or its Members and to take action as he deems to be in the public interest” **be adopted.**

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

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

MOTION that Resolution #10-23 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, adopting the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Sharon and the Sharon Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 417 regarding Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) funded positions” **be adopted.**

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

Second: Mr. Koerth
Mr. Sizer
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 # 11-23 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 December 21, 2022, Council Meeting and January 3, 2023, Reorganization Meeting **be adopted.**

MOTION that Resolution #12-23 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 Planning Commission
 - James Landino (4-year reappointment)
- Mercer County Regional Planning
 - Molly Bundrant (3-year reappointment)
- Shenango Valley Animal Shelter
 - Molly Bundrant – Alternate (3-year reappointment)

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

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

COMMENTS:

CITY MANAGER: None.

NEWS MEDIA: None.

CITIZENS:

Herman Griffin, 1082 Woodland Place, asked the amount of the new garbage rates. Mrs. Bundrant said the quarterly rate will be \$129. Mr. Fiscus said bag service is utilized, it will be more.

MR. JAMES: None.

MR. SIZER: None.

MR. KOERTH: None.

MR. GALASKA: None.

MRS. BUNDRANT: None.

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| ADJOURNMENT |
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Meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM

Motion: Mr. Koerth

Vote: YES Mr. Koerth

 Mr. Sizer

YES Mr. Galaska

Second: Mr. James

YES Mr. James

YES Mrs. Bundrant