

**BUREAU OF COUNCIL**  
Molly Bundrant, President  
Carl Sizer, Vice President  
David Koerth  
Taylor Galaska  
Sonja M. Heard



Robert Fiscus, City Manager  
Brett Stedman, City Solicitor  
Daphne Parrish, City Clerk

**SHARON CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

Meeting Held in Council Chambers  
Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 5:30 PM

**CALL TO ORDER AT 5:31 PM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**Council:**

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

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

**Department Heads:**

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

- I.) **LEGAL NOTICE** – *The City of Sharon will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 5:30 PM in City Council Chambers, to present the City of Sharon’s 2025 Budget.*
- II.) The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the proposed 2025 Operating Budget.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The proposed 2025 budget was reviewed by Section and Line Item. The following line items were discussed:  
Revenues:

- 301-100 – Current Real Estate – Mr. Sizer asked if the budgeted decrease is due to assessment appeals and demolitions. Mr. Tomko said yes, as well as the potential sale of the Hospital. Mr. Fiscus said if the hospital is not sold, there is still an ongoing assessment appeal.
- 310-700 - Mechanical Devices – Mr. Sizer asked if this amount is for fees for gaming and lotto machines. Mr. Tomko said yes.
- 320-040 – Rental Inspections/Licenses – Mr. Sizer said this revenue amount covers the NOOP expenses, and asked how many applications would need to be completed to generate this number. Mr. Tomko said approximately 2,600. Mr. Sizer said this would calculate to 50 per week, or 10 per day and seems impossible. Mr. Tomko agreed; he said this line item is revenue-neutral and matches up to the total of Lines 413. It is almost a filler to give an idea of the amount of money expended that we need to bring in to be able to break even. Mr. Sizer said if we cannot issue 2,600 licenses, how do we adjust the expense side since this is a revenue neutral item. Mr. Fiscus said we cannot adjust the expense side because it is the cost of doing the program. The revenue or cost would need to increase. We fought to keep the cost low and affordable, so landlords are able to afford it and be more compliant. Mrs. Bundrant said the

more compliant they are, the less it will cost. Mr. Fiscus said if it is recognized we are not meeting the revenues, there is a chance we may come to Council next year to request an increase. The NOOP Department is new this year with full-time staff, and it is taking time to get up and running; he believes the right people are in place and we will continue to build on it. Mr. Sizer said he does not want his questions to seem like he is not supportive; he is supportive but that is a lot in one year.

- 321-800 – Cable Franchise Fee – Mr. Sizer asked if the decrease in this amount is a function of how many residents have cable? Mr. Tomko said yes; he has an email out to them questioning why this amount has decreased.
- 351-200 – SAFER Grant - Mr. Sizer asked if 2025 is the last year for the SAFER Grant. Mr. Tomko said 2025 is the last full year; it expires in February 2026.
- 360-160 - Sewage Financial Services – Mr. Sizer said this is the fee for the City to administer the financial pieces of the Sanitary Authority and asked if we bill for additional services or just pass on the increases in our cost to the SSA. Mr. Tomko said there is an employee who was at single hospitalization coverage and is now at husband/wife coverage, creating the increase.
- 360-630 – Solid Waste Collection and Distribution – Mr. Sizer asked what this item is. Mr. Fiscus said it is the fee on the garbage bills for the City to administer E-Waste and enforcement.
- 370-400 – School and County Treasurer – Mr. Sizer asked if this increase is due to benefit increases or salary changes. Mr. Tomko said there is intent for someone to retire in January 2026 and he would like to hire someone in July, so it is a smooth transition. Mr. Fiscus said this amount is offset on the revenue; 1/3 paid by the School and 1/3 paid by the County.

#### Expenditures:

- 401-100 – City Council Employee Benefits – Mr. Sizer said this line item is for the availability of health insurance for Council to buy into and repay the premiums to the City. He asked if the reimbursement amount is included on the revenue side. Mr. Tomko said yes.
- 401-161 and 401-162 – City Council Employer Social Security and Medicare – Mr. Sizer asked why these expenses are budgeted to decrease, but the wages stayed the same. Mr. Tomko said last year the City's solicitor was on City payroll.
- Mr. Sizer asked the amount of the overall increase in employee healthcare. Mr. Tomko said the increase was 5 percent.
- 403-260 - Audit Expense – Mr. Sizer asked why this amount decreased. Mr. Tomko said it was allocated to different areas.
- 407-000 – IT Services – Mr. Sizer asked why this amount increased. Mr. Tomko said this is due to email support and general IT support.
- 410-000 – Police Wages – Mr. Sizer said this amount increased by 14%; he asked if this is due to an additional officer, offset by the increase in the SRO contract. Mr. Tomko said yes.
- 410-310 – Police Overtime – Mr. Sizer asked about this increase. Chief Stabile said Impact patrol was moved into General Duty Overtime.

<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>
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Meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM