

SHARON CITY COUNCIL

Purpose: Regular Council Meeting
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2014
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Location: Sharon Municipal Building Council Chambers

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Council:

Yes President Palanski

Yes Mr. Burke

Yes Mr. Connelly-(by phone)

Yes Mr. Trambley

Yes Mr. James- (came at 6:36)

Yes Scott Andrejchak – City Manager

News Media:

Yes Attorney Madden – City Solicitor

Yes The Herald

Yes Lori Merolillo – City Clerk

___The Vindicator

___WPIC

Dept. Heads:

Yes Terry Whalen - Fire Chief

Yes Michael J. Menster - Chief of Police

___John Cave - Street Dept.

Yes Ken Griffith- Finance Director

Yes Janet Thomas- Community Development

Yes Robert Fiscus- Director of Code

ATTENDANCE:

Carol Swartz

Sam Walker

Henrietta King

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Update on parking garage- Near completion and today at 1:00 the City's electrician met with the electrical contractor to do a final review of the generator and Mr. Andrejchak was told the generator passed the test. Mr. Andrejchak is hoping the garage will be open early next week. The City is still waiting on reimbursement for the project, and late last year the City adopted a Resolution evidencing site control of the garage and submitted that to the Office of Budget but currently Mr. Andrejchak and Mr. Madden are working on some deed work to show the State in order to process the reimbursement. Mr. Andrejchak explained that what was submitted was not sufficient enough but they expect to be reimbursed on the project in the next few months.

Also, the traffic signal on Smith Ave. and Service Ave. Mr. Andrejchak spoke with Bruce and Merilees earlier in the week and they were dispatched to check the timing of the light. If the timing is off then they will make the adjustments. Mr. Trambley asked what the timing issue was on the traffic signal and Mr. Burke explained that it was the length of the red signal.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENTS - ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA:

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCES

Public Hearing for Ordinance 15-13, introduced December 19, 2013- SECOND AND FINAL READING

authorizing execution and deliverance of the Municipal Risk Management Workers' Compensation Pooled Trust Agreement and application

Public Hearing for Ordinance 16-13, introduced December 19, 2013- SECOND AND FINAL READING

Fixing the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2014

Mr. Andrejchak gave a brief description of Ordinance 15-13. Resident Mr. Sam Walker asked what SWIF was and Mr. Andrejchak explained that it stood for State Workers Insurance Fund and added why the City was in the State Workers Fund. Mr. Walker asked whether the employees if injured would receive better care but Mr. Andrejchak replied by explaining this move is based on the premiums and not the care. Mr. Walker asked if the employees would have the same insurance coverage with this change and Mr. Andrejchak answered yes.

ORDINANCES

MOTION that Ordinance #15-13 entitled "An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing execution and deliverance of the Municipal Risk Management Workers' Compensation Pooled Trust Agreement and application. **Pass SECOND reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Trambley

Second: Mr. Burke

**Vote: Yes Mr. Connelly
 Yes Mr. James
 Yes Mr. Burke**

**Yes Mr. Trambley
Yes Mr. Palanski**

MOTION that Ordinance #16-13 entitled "An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fixing the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2014 for general City purposes, the sum of 29.51 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation. **Pass FINAL reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. Connelly

Second: Mr. James

**Vote: Yes Mr. Trambley
 Yes Mr. Connelly
 Yes Mr. James**

**Yes Mr. Burke
Yes Mr. Palanski**

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION that Resolution #09-14 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon awarding the 2014 COG Bids under the Joint Municipal Purchasing Program. **be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Trambley

Second: Mr. James

**Vote: Yes Mr. Burke
Yes Mr. Trambley
Yes Mr. Connelly**

**Yes Mr. James
Yes Mr. Palanski**

MOTION that Resolution #12-14 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon authorizing the Shenango Valley Shuttle Service's service standards, service policies and policies. **Be adopted**

Motion: Mr. James

Second: Mr. Burke

**Vote: Yes Mr. James
Yes Mr. Burke
Yes Mr. Trambley**

**Yes Mr. Connelly
Yes Mr. Palanski**

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 #10-14 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing, in accordance with Section 915 of the Home Rule Charter, the City Manager, or in the absence of the City Manager, the Tax Collector, to pay the bills submitted on Schedule A to Council" **be adopted.**

MOTION that Resolution #11-14 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, authorizing re-appointments for certain Committees, Boards and Authorities. **Be adopted.**

Sharon Health System Authority
Maurice Keaveny

MOTION to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2013 regular Council Meeting. **Be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. Burke

Second: Mr. Trambley

**Vote: Yes Mr. Connelly
Yes Mr. James
Yes Mr. Burke**

**Yes Mr. Trambley
Yes Mr. Palanski**

COMMENTS:

NEWS MEDIA: Mr. Wiercinski asked if the Joint Municipal Purchasing Program Bids was a routine thing and Mr. Andrejchak explained that it is routine and the City is just accepting their pricing. Mr. Wiercinski also wanted to verify that there was nothing on the agenda regarding the Real Estate Transfer Tax which was previously discussed and asked if Council was going to move forward with the tax change. Mr. Palanski replied that nothing has been discussed fully yet and Council still needs to research other municipalities and what they are charging. Mr. Palanski explained that it is a long process to make a change to the Transfer Tax and Council is only at the beginning stages of the process. Mr. Wiercinski asked if the first Ordinance was to amend the Charter and Mr. Palanski replied yes that would be the first step. Mr. Wiercinski asked if any of the councilmen have been approached by anybody supporting the idea of changing the Transfer tax but Mr. Palanski replied no.

CITIZENS: Carol Swartz asked if anyone knows of the status of the demolition or renovation of homes because there were 2 homes near her that were supposed to be torn down but Mrs. Swartz was told there is a gentleman buying those properties so they were pulled off. Mr. Andrejchak explained the demolition program and added that this year there were a few taken off the list because the City was approached by an individual that was interested in purchasing them but if nothing is done or approved with these properties by next year they could end up back on the demolition list. Mrs. Swartz asked how you get homes added to the demolition list because the ones in Mrs. Swartz neighborhood needed to come down years ago. Mr. Andrejchak said the Code Office usually try's and prioritizes the properties based on a need or a safety issue. Mr. Andrejchak suggested that if Mrs. Swartz has a home she would like to see torn down then write the address down or after the meeting tell him the address because there is a running list the City keeps and each year those properties are looked at again. Mrs. Swartz also wanted to ask about the negotiations with the Police and Arbitration but Mr. Andrejchak explained that he could not comment on that issue. Mrs. Swartz thought that the citizens should be entitled to know what is going on but Mr. Andrejchak said that it just began and Mrs. Swartz asked if it will go on for long and Mr. Andrejchak was not sure.

MR. ANDREJCHAK:

MR. CONNELLY:

MR. BURKE: In response to the demolition Mr. Burke asked about the two houses on the East Side of Stambaugh Ave. between Prindle and the freeway. Mr. Fiscus replied that Mr. Whalen with Hometown Community Rentals is committed to rehabbing both properties.

MR. JAMES:

MR. TRAMBLEY: Wanted to thank everyone and added that is an honor to serve on Council.

MR. PALANSKI:

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Motion: Mr. Burke

Second: Mr. Trambley

**Vote: Yes Mr. Trambley
 Yes Mr. Connelly
 Yes Mr. James**

**Yes Mr. Burke
Yes Mr. Palanski**