

**SHARON CITY COUNCIL**

**Purpose:** Regular Council Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, October 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:**

<b>X President Palanski</b>	<b>X Mr. Burke</b>
<b>X Mr. Connelly</b>	<b>X Rev. Trambley</b>
<b>X Mr. James</b>	

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**News Media:**

<b>X Scott Andrejchak – City Manager</b>	<b>_____The Herald</b>
<b>X Attorney Madden – City Solicitor</b>	
<b>X Lori Merolillo – City Clerk</b>	

**Dept. Heads:**

**X Terry Whalen - Fire Chief**  
**X Gerald T. Smith - Chief of Police**  
**X John Cave - Street Dept.**  
**X Ken Griffith- Finance Director**  
**X Janet Thomas- Community Development**  
**\_\_\_\_\_ Robert Fiscus- Director of Code**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Charter requires City Manager submit a balanced budget and it is a difficult task because there is a 38% increase in healthcare. The budget has created a challenge even though the increase has not shown yet but Mr. Andrejchak believes it will and 38% is the only thing he can budget around. Mr. Andrejchak is waiting 2 weeks to see if it changes then submit a balanced budget on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS - ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA:**

## PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCES

### Public Hearing for Ordinance 09-14, introduced August 21, 2014- SECOND AND FINAL READING

Authorizing the vacating and abandoning of a portion of Vine Avenue beginning at a point on the intersection of the south right of way line of Silver Street and continuing to the north right of way line of Pitt Street.

### Public Hearing for Ordinance 10-14, introduced September 18, 2014- SECOND AND FINAL READING

Authorizing City Officials to enter into a cooperative Intergovernmental agreement with, the Western Reserve Transit Authority and the Trumbull County Transit Board.

### Public Hearing for Ordinance 11-14, introduced September 18, 2014- SECOND AND FINAL READING

Authorizing the Proper City Officials to join with other local Government units as a settler of the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust for the purpose of purchasing shares of the trust.

### Public Hearing for Ordinance 12-14, introduced September 18, 2014- SECOND AND FINAL READING

Requiring residency within 15 miles of the City by all full time employees of the City.

- Sam Walker asked if the 15 miles was from the City Building or the actual boundaries. Mr. Palanski replied that it was from the boundaries which Mr. Walker commented that it could actually be 20 miles then but Mr. Madden explained the Ordinance specifies 15 miles from each boundary.

## ORDINANCES

**MOTION** that Ordinance #09-14 entitled “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the vacating and abandoning of a portion of Vine Avenue beginning at a point on the intersection of the south right of way line of Silver Street and continuing to the north right of way line of Pitt Street.

**Motion: Rev. Trambley**

**Second: Mr. Burke**

**Vote: Yes Mr. Burke**

**Yes Mr. James**

**Yes Rev. Trambley**

**Yes Mr. Palanski**

**Yes Mr. Connelly**

**MOTION** that Ordinance #10-14 entitled “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the Proper City Officials to enter into a cooperative Intergovernmental agreement with the Western Reserve Transit Authority and the Trumbull County Transit Board. **Pass FINAL reading by title.**

**Motion: Mr. James**

**Second: Mr. Connelly**

**Vote: Yes Mr. James**

**Yes Mr. Connelly**

**Yes Mr. Burke**

**Yes Mr. Palanski**

**Yes Rev. Trambley**

**MOTION** that Ordinance #11-14 entitled “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the Proper City Officials to join with other local Government units as a settler of the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust for the purpose of purchasing shares of the trust. **Pass FINAL reading by title.**

- Mr. Palanski asked Mr. Andrejchak to give a quick explanation of this Trust and Mr. Andrejchak replied that PLGIT is an organization that is an investment Trust that operates statewide that school districts, Authorities and Cities can use their products but however in order to participate if the City wanted to use the investments it would have to be done by Ordinance.

**Motion: Mr. Connelly**

**Second: Rev. Trambley**

**Vote: Yes Mr. Connelly**

**Yes Rev. Trambley**

**Yes Mr. James**

**Yes Mr. Palanski**

**Yes Mr. Burke**

**MOTION** that Ordinance #12-14 entitled “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, requiring residency within 15 miles by all full time employees of the City. **Pass FINAL reading by title.**

**Motion: Mr. Burke**

**Second: Rev. Trambley**

**Vote: Yes Rev. Trambley**

**Yes Mr. Burke**

**No Mr. Connelly**

**No Mr. Palanski**

**No Mr. James**

<b>RESOLUTIONS</b>
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**MOTION** that Resolution #59-14 entitled “A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the City Manager to sign a no cost extension until February 6, 2015 for the ARLE Grant. **be adopted**

**Motion: Mr. James**

**Second: Rev. Trambley**

**Vote: Yes Mr. Burke**

**Yes Mr. James**

**Yes Rev. Trambley**

**Yes Mr. Palanski**

**Yes Mr. Connelly**

## **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.*

- Rev. Trambley requested an amendment to the Minutes from September 18, 2014 Regular Meeting which involved Ordinance 12-14 where the Votes were incorrectly shown and should be changed.

**MOTION** that Resolution #58-14 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 #57-14 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, setting the 2014 Halloween Trick or Treat Hours for Friday October 31, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m." **be adopted.**

**MOTION** to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2014 Regular Meeting. **be adopted.**

**Motion: Mr. James**

**Second: Rev. Trambley**

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

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

- Rev. Trambley asked if Ordinance 12-14 is now done and if this is the final vote. Mr. Palanski explained that it can be brought up again to start the process over but as of now this is final.

### **COMMENTS:**

### **NEWS MEDIA:**

### **CITIZENS:**

Ron Maurice asked Mr. Palanski why he changed his mind for Ordinance 12-14 but Mr. Palanski explained that he doesn't think he changed his mind, but it is a process and originally it was discussed to either get rid of the Ordinance requiring residency or enforce it at the workshop. Mr. Palanski added that it was added to the agenda at the last Council meeting for the first reading and Mr. Palanski voted yes to keep it moving forward. Mr. Palanski also added that after considering all the information and coming down to the final vote he reconsidered every pro and con and felt there was no compelling reason to change the Ordinance. Mr. Palanski explained that sometimes there is a reason to change and sometimes there is not and his decision at this time was not to change it. Mr. Maurice asked if this Ordinance is for every employee of the City and Mr. Palanski answered that it affects every employee except Police Officers that qualify with 15 years of service.

Carol Swartz asked about the pictures that were in the Herald the other day that were in really bad shape and the article about the meeting regarding dilapidated homes and whether anyone from Council attended

the meeting. Mr. Andrejchak replied that he was present, along with the Community Development Coordinator, the Code Officer and the Code Director. Mrs. Swartz asked if they felt there might be help for these properties and Mr. Andrejchak explained he felt it was a tool for the City to explore the Land Banks but Mr. Andrejchak also added that the meeting focused on a lot of Code Enforcement which our Department is already doing. Mr. Andrejchak also stated that he felt the City was fairly advanced with what the Code Department is already doing but with the Land Bank being a tool it has to be a regional entity and Mr. Andrejchak felt that possibly the County Redevelopment Authority or Housing Authority would quarterback the idea. Mrs. Swartz asked Mr. Connelly and Mr. James if they voted no on the 15 mile residency requirement and why. Mr. Connelly explained that it was nothing personal and he just felt that employees should have to live in the City. Mrs. Swartz asked if everyone voted yes then employees can live elsewhere like Hermitage etc and Mr. Connelly said yes that is correct. Mr. James said he had a lot of reasons for his vote which one of them is financial and nobody realizes how much the City would be losing and in the next 10 years if all our employees lived outside the City then they would just collect a paycheck and go home to spend their money where they live. Mr. James added that they would not be here eating in this town or playing taxes so there would be nothing vested. Mr. James continued to explain that this has been an Ordinance forever and he has always agreed with it from the day they enacted it. Mrs. Swartz asked if City Council has to follow the Ordinance also and Mr. Palanski replied yes which Mrs. Swartz replied that she did not understand it and felt the employees should be allowed to live where they want to.

Shirley Mitchell said she liked what Mr. James said regarding the residency Ordinance and with our Police Officers and Firefighters Mrs. Mitchell feels they care more about the City they live in. Mrs. Mitchell added that if they lived outside like Sharpsville etc. they would not care as much about Sharon because she sees it and lives it every day and when you live in an area where she lives and the things that you see you want to be able to report it. Mrs. Mitchell added that there are usually 2 police cars parked in a parking lot near her just sitting there but they are in the area and care more when they live here. Mrs. Mitchell explained that the reason she came to the meeting was because she read in the paper about the City being concerned about how the area looked and that the City was trying to do some things to make it look better. Mrs. Mitchell said there are some property owners that you don't have to chase to Florida to get them to have them renovate their property such as Standard Market on the corner of where she lives at. When Standard market moved there the City had a zoning hearing and Mrs. Mitchell went to the meeting because she did not want the market to move in because there was a market on the other side of the street and she knew how it was ran. Mrs. Mitchell explained that part of the deal for them to move in was they had to put a privacy fence up which they did and add lights which were not supposed to bother the neighbors. Mrs. Mitchell said now the fence is falling down and she has asked the Code Officer more than one time about getting the fence fixed and it is not happening and asked Council if they would address it. Mrs. Mitchell also mentioned another property that is located right next door to the old building on Budd St. and explained that it looks horrible with high grass and trash all over and has been like that for a long time and not just 1, 2 or 3 years but forever. Mrs. Mitchell asked if the Code Officer ever passes through there and added that this situation goes back to having employees live in the City so they might be a little more concerned.

Ron Maurice said he is still confused on the residency item because it is not ok for the employees to move out but it is ok for anyone on the Sanitary Authority to live outside the City but we pay their wages and they work for the City but Mr. Palanski explained that the Sanitary Authority employees their own employees and their wages come from the fees that are collected and Mr. Maurice added the fees are from the City of Sharon. Mr. Palanski replied no the fees are from the people that use the sanitary service which some of those do not live in the City of Sharon such as Sharpsville and Trumbull County. Mr. Palanski added that the Sewer Department is not employed by the City and Mr. James told Mr. Maurice that Sanitary Authority is a separate entity from the City.

**MR. ANDREJCHAK:**

**MR. CONNELLY:**

**MR. BURKE:**

**MR. JAMES:**

**REV. TRAMBLEY:** Said he had an opportunity to be at 2 of the school open houses over the past month and both for the Middle-High school and West Hill Elementary. Rev. Trambley wanted to say that he felt we had a very impressive school District with great teachers, amazing facilities and very good parent involvement as well.

**MR. PALANSKI:** Said that he is aware the City has a very difficult financial situation coming up and understands there are different opinions on how to do what but conflict is part of resolution and added that this is a very good City that we all live in. Mr. Palanski also added that he made the conclusion on his first year on Council when Mr. Palanski heard how bad everything was and would drive through the City and see the signs of life. Mr. Palanski said that this City is not dead and it is alive but has challenges and actually looking forward to the budgetary process and how Council handles it. Mr. Palanski added that he is proud of everyone that works here and pleased when the public shows up and adds comments.

<b><u>ADJOURNMENT:</u></b>
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**Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.**

**Motion: Mr. James**

**Second: Rev. Trambley**

**Vote: Yes Mr. Connelly**

**Yes Rev. Trambley**

**Yes Mr. James**

**Yes Mr. Palanski**

**Yes Mr. Burke**