

SHARON CITY COUNCIL

Purpose: Regular Council Meeting
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2014
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Location: Sharon Municipal Building Council Chambers

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

TIME: _____ P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Council:

Yes President Palanski

Yes Mr. Burke

Yes Mr. Connelly

Yes Rev. Trambley

Yes Mr. James

News Media:

X Scott Andrejchak – City Manager

____ **The Herald**

X Attorney Madden – City Solicitor

X Lori Merolillo – City Clerk

Dept. Heads:

X Terry Whalen - Fire Chief

X Gerald T. Smith - Chief of Police

X John Cave - Street Dept.

X Ken Griffith- Finance Director

____ **Janet Thomas- Community Development**

____ **Robert Fiscus- Director of Code**

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Andrejchak explained that Hermitage and Sharpsville are having their trick or treat hours on Friday October 31st from 4-6 p.m. and requested Sharon set the same day and time. Mr. Palanski just asked that someone inform COG that Sharon's hours would be the same.

Mr. Andrejchak said that J & T Paving were awarded the contract for paving and given permission to pull their bonds so they can get started because of weather.

Mr. Andrejchak explained that the Penn Ohio Building on Budd St. was being demolished.

Mr. Andrejchak said the residential demolition has started and the first house that has been demolished was on Hembold Way.

Mr. Andrejchak introduced Chief Gerry Smith and explained he was made the new Police Chief then allowed Chief Smith to introduce the new Lieutenant. Chief Smith introduced Lieutenant Mark Johnson and spoke about his history with the Sharon Police Department.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENTS - ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA:

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCES

Public Hearing for Ordinance 08-14, introduced August 21, 2014- SECOND AND FINAL READING

Authorizing the sale of Parcel #41-A, situated at Vine Ave. and Pitt St.

ORDINANCES

MOTION that Ordinance #08-14 entitled “An ORDINANCE of the Council of the City of Sharon, County of Mercer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the sale of Parcel #41-A through the Redevelopment Authority to Primary Health Network for \$15,000.00 consideration. **Pass**
FINAL reading by title.

Motion: Mr. Burke

Second: Mr. James

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

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

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 between itself, the Western Reserve Transit Authority and the Trumbull County Transit Board. **Pass FIRST reading by title.**

Motion: Mr. James

Second: Rev. Trambley

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

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

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 settlor of the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust for the purpose of purchasing shares of the trust. **Pass FIRST reading by title.**

Motion: Rev. Trambley

Second: Mr. Burke

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

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

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

Motion (to table): Mr. Connelly

Second: Mr. James

Vote: **Yes** **Rev. Trambley**
 No **Mr. Connelly**
 No **Mr. James**

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

3-2 Not to Table Ordinance

Motion (to Pass): Mr. Burke

Second: Rev. Trambley

Vote: **Yes** **Rev. Trambley**
 No **Mr. Connelly**
 No **Mr. James**

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

Mr. Connelly requested to table the Ordinance after the first and second motion to vote but with a motion to table that precedes the original motion. Mr. Connelly explained that he was not sure about the language in the Ordinance and preferred to table the Ordinance until it can be discussed more. Mr. James second the motion to table the Ordinance and Mr. Connelly added that he understood some of the Police have difficulty and some of the children of the Police may go to school with children from someone they arrest. Mr. Burke added that he may have agreed with Mr. Connelly a while ago but times have changed and years ago there was a good turnout when hiring Police and Fire or even the Street Dept. Mr. Burke also said as long as the job is being done he does not feel it is an issue and nobody has ever asked Mr. Burke where he lives. Mr. Burke continued to say that the last time he took the test for the Police Department there were 132 people applying and the last time the test was given there were only 36 people. Also, Mr. Burke explained this is not only pertaining to Police but all departments and the Street Department cannot even hire a snow plow driver because applicants are limited. Mr. Burke ended his comments that Council can discuss the Ordinance all they want but Mr. Burke will be voting to lift residency. Rev. Trambley added that he did not feel they should table the Ordinance and just vote yes or no because if it is tabled then the discussion stays open and that does not give a clear message to the City Manager to say go enforce this Ordinance. Rev. Trambley also said this issue needs clarity and Mr. Palanski added that normally if there is a motion to table with a second it indicates that a member of the body needs additional information but in this case Mr. Palanski feels it has been discussed enough and the Ordinance is pretty clear. Rev. Trambley explained that the Ordinance is a lot to require new hires to move especially when starting a new job. Rev. Trambley added that he has had to move quite a few times in the past and knows there is a significant cost in transition and real estate when asked to make that move. Also, Rev. Trambley added that they should not make law based on fear, and Rev. Trambley feels that the City is a place that people would like to move to and if they are given the option then people would choose to move or stay in the City. Mr. Connelly added that he feels this change would be a revenue loss for the City because if employees move out of the City then they are not paying taxes into the City. Mr. Connelly said if you work in the City you should have to live in the City and other communities have this so there should be no discussion. Mr. Connelly also said that the 15 miles allowed outside the City would mean someone could live in Mercer and with emergency services they wouldn't be able to get back to quickly. Mr. Connelly does not feel this Ordinance is a workable solution and added that this was discussed 9 years ago when he came on Council and nothing was changed and everything has been ok all these years so why change it.

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION that Resolution #53-14 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the proper city Officials to enter into a contract with J & T Paving for the 2014 Public Facilities and Street Improvement Project for Sterling Ave. in the amount of \$128,036.00. **be adopted**

Mr. Palanski asked if this would happen this year and Mr. Andrejchak said yes it will.

Motion: Mr. Burke

Second: Rev. Trambley

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

Yes Mr. James
Yes Mr. Palanski

MOTION that Resolution #54-14 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City of Sharon Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, accepting the 2015 Minimum Municipal Pension Plan Financial Requirements and Minimum Obligations. **be adopted**

Mr. Palanski read the amounts

Motion: Mr. James

Second: Mr. Palanski

Vote: **Yes Mr. James**
 Yes Mr. Burke
 Yes Rev. 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 #55-14 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 #56-14 entitled "A RESOLUTION of the Council of the City authorizing appointments for certain boards. **Be adopted.**

Enterprise Zone
Scott Andrejchak

MOTION to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2014 Regular Meeting. **Be adopted.**

Motion: Mr. James

Second: Rev. Trambley

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

Yes Rev. Trambley
Yes Mr. Palanski

COMMENTS:

NEWS MEDIA:

CITIZENS: Ron Maurice asked Mr. Connelly how he cannot agree with the Residency Ordinance when he owns a house in Sharon but does not live in the City. Mr. Connelly replied that he most certainly lives in Sharon and added that he owns 2 houses in Sharon. Mr. Connelly also added that he works in Wheeling West Virginia during the week and is here in Sharon 3 days a week. Mr. Maurice replied that he does not feel Mr. Connelly lives in the City with that schedule and asked why Mr. Maurice cannot move 15 miles away if he wanted. Mr. Connelly said that this is his opinion and the Ordinance has been in effect for 100 years but Mr. Maurice added that it has never been enforced so why not just change it and Mr. Connelly said that is wrong and it should have been enforced. Mr. Connelly told Mr. Maurice to go ahead and move out of the City but the average person in the City makes \$50,000 a year and Mr. Connelly said Mr. Maurice probably pays around \$1200 in taxes and if he would move to Hermitage then they get that tax money and per capita tax but Mr. Maurice asked if Mr. Connelly feels like there would be a mass exit from employees, but Mr. Palanski interrupted so Council could move onto something else.

Carol Swartz- Asked about the Residency Ordinance and told Rev. Trambley she does not think the community is going to be built because Mrs. Swartz is seeing to many people and neighbors trying to move out and Rev. Trambley added that he moved into the City by choice. Mrs. Swartz asked Mr. Andrejchak about the Demolition list and said she has been asking about a couple properties for a long time and Mrs. Swartz knows there are a lot of properties that need torn down but asked about these two properties she has been concerned with. Mrs. Swartz was told these two houses were on the Demolition list but then taken off so she is hoping next year they will be added. Mr. Andrejchak explained that it is possible and Mr. Andrejchak usually takes the complaints and passes them on to the Code Office then they are investigated from there but usually when the list of properties is created the funding only allows less than ten houses to be demolished. Mr. Andrejchak asked Mrs. Swartz which houses she was referring to and said he would talk to the Code Office so they can get started on the next round of houses. Mrs. Swartz thanked Mr. Andrejchak for explaining the process to her. Mrs. Swartz asked if the Transit Authority Ordinance had anything to do with the MCCT. Mr. Palanski explained that Sharon is the pass through for the money and because of the market change Sharon is included with Boardman and Warren and when the money comes down they reach an agreement on what the Counties share is. Mr. Palanski added that as a member of the Transit Authority the City receives the money for the Council of Governments which the money comes in and goes out. Mrs. Swartz wanted Council to know that she does not agree with the residency because her two daughter drive over an hour to work and when Mrs. Swartz worked at Penn State they had a bunch of people driving in at least 45 min every single day and those people including her daughters never missed a day. Mrs. Swartz feels that as long as you are showing up for work it should not matter how far you are driving.

Elton from the West Side of Sharon asked how many full time firemen were employed and Mr. Andrejchak replied that there were 13 full time firemen. Elton added that there are also full time police officers and Mr. Palanski agreed, then Elton asked how many of them live in the City. Elton asked with all the money that is paid out in retirement and benefits and everything else and there are only 13,000 people in the City so how long before the legacy buries us. Mr. Palanski replied that Elton's point is well taken and you can only live within the income you have and things do change over time which then it is up to the municipal body and the City Manager to make those changes. Mr. Palanski added that he would not vote for any property tax increase speaking for himself, because raising taxes will faster than

anything put the nail in the City, but Mr. Palanski does not agree that it is a dying City but property taxes cannot be skyrocketed either. Mr. Palanski said Sharon has the highest property tax in the County along with the highest income tax in the County.

Dane Whalen from Hometown Community Rentals told Mrs. Swartz that Hometown does not maintain either property she was referring to. Mr. Whalen also said that the Company was under the impression that they had the rights to buy that property on Hembold Way which was just demolished. Mr. Andrejchak explained that the property was on the demolition list last year but was removed by the request of Hometown Community Rentals which they had an attempt to find a way to acquire the property and that never happened. Mr. Whalen had a concern and explained that he lives on Spruce Ave. and his two sons live down the street from him on Spruce Ave. also, but last year Mr. Whalen came across a group of kids fighting in front of his house a few different times and then this week there was a drug deal on the corner of his street that he witnessed. Mr. Whalen took pictures from his house and called the Police Department but he was never contacted to see the pictures and asked what the Police are doing to protect these neighborhoods and kids. Mr. Andrejchak asked Mr. Whalen to present any information and pictures he had to him after the meeting.

Ryan Chmura Vice-President of the Sharon FOP asked about some letters that were sent out to City employees in regards to residency and asked if the extension would be granted to those employees until the second reading of the Ordinance is voted on. Mr. Palanski explained that it is a personnel matter and Council cannot discuss it.

MR. ANDREJCHAK:

MR. CONNELLY: Huge mistake to lift residency

MR. BURKE: Congrats to Chief Smith in his first week and stopping a car which led to a felony arrest from a warrant arrest out of Ohio and a tough decision to make a promotion within the department which he made a great decision. Also, kudos to the department on the 2-3 arrests that were made from the fight of 25 people in front of Musser Elementary School.

MR. JAMES: Congrats to Lt. Johnson and Chief Smith

REV. TRAMBLEY: Also Congrats to Lt. Johnson and Chief Smith

MR. PALANSKI: Echoed the Congrats to Lt. Johnson and Chief Smith

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 P.M.

Motion: _____

Second: _____

Vote: ___ Rev. Trambley
 ___ Mr. Connelly

 ___ Mr. Burke
 ___ Mr. Palanski

____ **Mr. James**