

**Sharon Hill Borough
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 15, 2021**

Call to Order, 7:04 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call, present: Council President Oliver (TO), Vice President Booker (SB), Councillors Cavalieri (TC), Green (HG), Bedford-Dean (LB), Felder (WF, arrived at 7:11 pm), Martinez (KM). Also present: Manager Barbarann Keffer (BK), Treasurer Will Morgan (WM) and Solicitor Courtney Richardson (CR).

Public Comment:

Larry Jones, 232 Ridley Avenue, property line dispute which included a verbal threat directed towards Council

John Zangaro, 89 Francis, property maintenance issues with abandoned vehicles at a neighboring property

Theresa Pearson-Bey, 339 Laurel, need for a community center and more programming for youth; request for speed humps at Bartlett/Laurels. There was a discussion on speed humps including HG, KM and TD all said they had donated money to pay for speed bumps.

Carolyn Garrett, 114 Reese, concerned about grass clippings being blown onto the street and clogging the storm drain

Felicia, 218 Brainerd, discussed renting space at Wiederwax Park for an event which expanded to a general conversation about the need to update the fee schedule for renting parks and fields in the borough

Rodney Hill, 126 Laurel, Property maintenance and abandoned vehicles.

State Representative Regina Young introduced herself to everyone.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Tanya Cavalieri

Library: updates on the July 4 and Juneteenth events

CPCIP update: The contract with BB&P was renewed. Municipal representatives were asked to go to their respective councils and request the monthly contribution be increased by \$100. TC gave updates on the various grant applications written by BB&P. TC also announced that CPCIP is seeking community members for its Task Force.

Motion to increase CPCIP payment from \$500 to \$600 a month: TC/SB, all in favor.

Recreation: announced to borough events taking place each Friday from 7/23/21 to 8/14/2021. HG also inquired about the extension of the Wiederwax Park grant. There was discussion about the need for shelving to protect the equipment and about a past Eagles grant.

Announcement of the 2021 Ramblers season: teams for U7, U9, 2 U11 and 2 U13 teams. The Ramblers season starts August 28 and they are looking for blocking pads/donations to replace ones damaged in a spring flood. The snack bar is open Tuesday -Friday.

Parks/Fields: The Ramblers are partnering with the softball club for a tournament August 6-8 at Sharon Hill Park.

HG stated that Cheyenne Murphy is the fundraising coordinator for the Ramblers. He also thanked Mr. Bey for all his time volunteering to coach the kids.

Councilperson LaTina Bedford-Dean

Personnel: Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) members are needed to fill the obligation of having a functional ZHB.

Councilperson William Felder

Sanitation Report

Code/Zoning: the reports need to be sent to him.

Councilperson Keith Martinez

Police and Fire Department Reports: read aloud by KM.

Resolution to give the SHFC \$25,000. Motion to table a commitment for that money until there is a written agreement between the Borough and SHFC: SB/TC, 6-1, TD dissented.

Vice President Sharon Booker

SHACC: updates on the Jazz Series and Flea Markets.

Presentation with Chief Herron on domestic violence: calls to SHPD for domestic issues have escalated over the course of the pandemic. SHPD is increasing training for victim advocacy. SB encourages residents to use the 24-hour hotline: 610.565.4590.

SB announced that Priority Thrive Delco, an effort to highlight local businesses through the county as we navigate the pandemic, has chosen Jimmy's, 926 Chester Pike, was chosen for the organization's August 21 event. Residents are encouraged to patronize Jimmy's especially on that date.

Council President Terrence Oliver

BK and WM discussed the status of the borough's obligations to the Darby Creek Joint Authority ("the Sewer Authority" going forward) and its Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) to fund the police pension. In short, SHB missed the last two quarterly payments in 2019 and all of the quarterly payments in 2020 to the Sewer Authority. The Q1 2021 payment was made and the Q2 payment is currently on the accounts payable list. However, the missed payments are still owed and constantly increase with interest penalties. An email between the Sewer Authority and the Borough shows an agreement that an extra \$35,000/month minimum should be paid to the Sewer Authority beginning in January 2021 until the missed payments and the fees are caught up.

BK and WM advised Council to consider adding the 4 missed \$35,000/month 2021 payments to the Sewer Authority and to pay the delinquent \$135,000+ MMO to cover the borough's minimum pension payment requirement and to stop the interest penalties. The borough will also owe a 2022 MMO payment by the end of this year. There was discussion about how the missed payments happened and about funding the operation of the borough until the end of the year.

Treasurer's Report: motion to accept the May Treasurer's Report, TD/HG, all in favor. Motion to accept the June Treasurer's Report, SB/TD, all in favor.

Accounts Payable: motion to accept the accounts payable report, TD/HG, all in favor. Motion to add the CPCIP \$500 payment to the accounts payable list, SB/TD, all in favor.

Officials Reports

Mayor Dunfee: Chief of Police Report: HD read the report and also several letters of appreciation concerning the assistance the SHPD and SHFC gave for the tribute to retired Police Chief and Magisterial District Judge Ed Christie.

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Borough Manager: BK reiterated the basic financial situation concerning the delinquent Sewer Authority and MMO payments and assured Council and the public that this situation is not insurmountable and that the financial condition of the borough is the top priority for this administration.

Solicitor's Report: CR recapped the work being done, especially concerning Right To Know (RTK) requests, and stated the Police Chief and Borough Manager will need to appear at court in the near future for a RTK hearing.

Public Comment

John Kroce, Assistant Fire Chief, asked about the pay for the paid fire staff

Charles Pearson-Bey, 339 Laurel, expressed concern with the delinquent sewer and pension payments

Donna Hunter, 1026 Coates, also expressed concern with the delinquent payments and asked about the property maintenance standard for two dumpsters on a neighbor's property.

Rep Regina Young talked about the ARP (American Rescue Plan) money and said she was glad to hear about the various problems in the borough and that she is here to help.

Sheila Carter, staffer in Rep. Young's office announced that on August 4 and August 11, Rep. Young will be canvassing in Sharon Hill from 11 am to 12:30 pm.

Bishop Gilchrist, 1408 Melrose, questioned the Zoning Code in general and when it was last updated (1995). He also expressed his support for the SHFC.

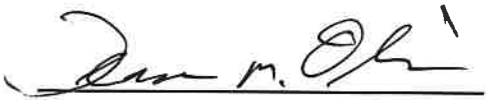
Theresa Pearson-Bey, 339 Laurel, remarked on trash removal, trash cans and the need for more code enforcement. In particular, she mentioned the car wash business on Chester Pike.

Rodney Hill, 326 Laurel, commented on the necessity that the borough government, residents and business owners need to work together on keeping the borough cleaner.

Adjournment

The next Council meeting is the August 12, 2021 Caucus Meeting.

SHARON HILL BOROUGH, MEETING MINUTES, approved date: August 19, 2021



Terrence Oliver, Council President



Barbarann Keffer, Interim Borough Manager

Celandra Rice-Adeloye, Interim Office Coordinator

