

October 13, 2010

Sharpsville Borough Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 1 South Walnut Street, Sharpsville, PA

Mayor, Alex Kovach offered a brief prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Roll Call: Roll call showed the following present: Jack Cardwell, Chris Combine, Guy Moderelli, John Alfredo, Bob Piccirilli, Rob Dunn, Tom Patton.

Also present were: Mayor Alex Kovach, Solicitor Joseph Joseph and Borough Manager/Secretary Ken Robertson

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Moderelli and seconded by Councilman Dunn to approve the minutes of the Workshop Meeting on September 7, 2010, Regular Session on September 8, 2010, Regular Session (cont.) on September 14, 2010, Water & Sanitation Committee Meeting on September 29, 2010 and Intermunicipal Committee Meeting on September 29, 2010. Motion Passed.

Correspondence: The following letters were read by the Secretary from the following individuals:

St. Bartholomew's Child Care Center-Thank You Note

Comments from the Audience:

Mr. & Mrs. Pratt- Milliken Avenue- Mr. Pratt addressed Council by stating that when he had his heart emergency the Police Department along with the Fire Department were the first ones to respond and they helped save his life. He commented that their response time was tremendous and that they were so professional and in order to keep them he would be willing to pay higher taxes. Applause erupted throughout the crowd.

Mrs. Pratt also commented to Council that she understands that they are appointed to watch our money and do what they can to help save money but not at the cost of the residents safety and welfare.

Mr. Gary Lineberger-Georgetown: Mr. Lineberger addressed Council stating that he had an incident the night before with his 16 year old daughter and had it not been for Officer Sharp arriving so quickly he may have lost her. He commended the Police along with the Fire Department for doing an outstanding job and he cannot imagine living here without them.

Mr. Ralph Robinson-Hall Avenue: He addressed Council and spoke up for the Chief of Police and all of the officers stating what an outstanding job they do along with the great response time and we cannot afford to lose them.

Mrs. Lori Bertolasio-Mercer Avenue: She addressed Council and asked them to speak up as to who on Council wants to get rid of the Police Department and why? Council President Piccirilli spoke up and mentioned that we are looking at options to save money and that is the reason why we are looking to outsource the Police Department. Lori responded that the safety of the citizens is more important and that this should never have been an option. She mentioned that if this were to happen that we would be like Sharon and Farrell before long. The Police provide foot patrol in Sharpsville Gardens along with Georgetown and having their presence around helps to deter criminal activity.

Mr. Bob Rice-Ridge Avenue: Mr. Rice spoke in favor of keeping the Police force but also made the suggestion that residency needs to be approached when a new contract is developed. Mr. Rice's reasoning behind the residency is due to the fact that one of his children had an incident with an officer and they had asked for identification so that they could check his record and he feels that if they lived here then they would know the children.

Wendy Getway-Koehler Drive: Mrs. Getway addressed Council along with Mr. Rice's comments and stated that she disagreed with Mr. Rice because she feels that the Officers know the kids as well as they would if they lived here or they didn't. The Officers are involved in the school, we have a DARE Officer, they all work school events and she feels that they do a wonderful job.

Mary James-Milliken: Mrs. James spoke to Council and stated that she enjoys the safety of our community and the fact that she can let her children play outside and not have to worry about them because she knows that the Police Officers are always out patrolling the Borough to ensure that we are safe. She advised Council that they needed to re-think this idea because she as a voter would be re-thinking her decision at election time.

Mr. Frank Gagliardi-Ridge Avenue: He spoke to Council and stated that he had read in the paper that the Officers had offered Council to take a pay freeze in order to have this possible merger with Hermitage laid to rest. He also referenced that Hermitage will not and does not respond to medical calls like our Police Department does and that they have saved many lives. He also asked for the Councilmen that were in favor of this merger to stand up and explain themselves however no one did and he let them know that if they could not stand up and own up to what they were trying to do then they didn't deserve to be sitting at that table.

Summer Ricardi-Pierce Avenue: Mrs. Ricardi spoke to Council and reiterated the same statement that our kids do know the officers and she was speaking from a professional aspect as a dispatcher for 911 that Sharpsville Officers response time is remarkable and if we were to go to Hermitage we would never receive the type of service that we are accustomed to and they do not respond to any medical calls.

Mr. Andy Pratt-Victory Drive: Mr. Pratt stood up and advised Council that the citizens have spoken and we do not want to lose our Police Force so in order for this to come to an end, Council needs to stop it with a vote.

Linda Williams-Church Street: Mrs. Williams addressed Council by stating that not only would we be losing our Police Department we would be losing revenue that we receive from citations, grants, task force which in fact would make the merge with Hermitage-pointless. She suggested that a motion be made by a Council Member to have this merger ended immediately.

Tiffany Daley-owner of Breakfast @ Tiffany's: Tiffany addressed Council and asked if there were any other avenues that Council was looking at as far as savings because as a business owner she knows how much we need the Police Department in our town. She stated that the economy is getting worse and if we were to not have any security then the businesses along with the residents would be the ones at risk.

Mr. Andy Pratt-Victory Drive: Mr. Pratt spoke again and asked that if money is not the reason behind the merger then what is. He also asked the Councilmen that are in favor of the merger to stand up and provide their reasoning. No one stood.

Mr. Pratt asked if the Borough is in financial trouble and if not then why was this ever brought up for discussion.

Mrs. Ellie Ward-7th Street: Mrs. Ward commented that the Borough has wonderful city employees, Fire Department and the Police Officers are excellent. She has had to call for an officer in the past and they responded within minutes and we do not need to have a rent-a-cop.

Bob Rannard: Mr. Rannard spoke on behalf of the churches that had a rash of robberies during 2009 and he saw first hand that the Police Officers checked all of the churches twice a night and he witnessed them getting out of their vehicles and checking all of the doors, windows, etc. and if we were to go with Hermitage, that will never happen.

Mayor Kovach also stated that the officers check every business in town twice a night and it is documented in a log book.

Mrs. Patty Cardwell-463 South 4th Street: Mrs. Cardwell mentioned that she has had several medical calls at her home and the Police are the first to respond with the Fire Department next to arrive and they are nothing but professional.

Mr. Andy Pratt-Victory Drive: Mr. Pratt stood up again and requested that a vote be taken at this meeting.

Mayor Kovach advised everyone that the morale is low and it is due to the fact that this has been going on since the beginning of the year and these officers have families, homes, etc., to think of.

Officer Ran and Officer Sharp: Officer Ran and Officer Sharp asked to address Council and the citizens of the Borough to let them know that they were again presenting an offer to Council for a two (2) year contract extension along with a two (2) year pay freeze.

Many of the citizens opposed the pay freeze stating that in no way should they have to offer a freeze but they should be receiving a raise.

Barb Bracken-North 1st Street: She commented on the water situation and was wondering when it would be getting better. President Piccirilli advised her that this is an on-going process and we all need to be patient but it is scheduled to be completed by April 2011.

Barb also suggested the idea of having a “clean-up of the area” like Sharon had done and it is purely volunteer workers and she was on the clean up crew that helped on Meek Street and Irvin Avenue and thought that if there were any specific areas around town that it would be beneficial to the community. Council advised her that Main Street is slowly moving in the right direction and we need to have the residents start fixing up their property but Council also understands that with the economy it is hard to do.

Councilman Cardwell: Councilman Cardwell apologized to everyone for the way he was dressed and advised everyone in attendance that he had missed the Monday, October 11, 2010 Workshop where there was further discussion in regards to the Hermitage Proposal and he wanted to be placed on the record stating that he has been opposed to this merger since the beginning.

He commended the Police Department stating that they have bent over backwards to help us out by eliminating overtime (which they did voluntarily) but we cannot expect them to keep sacrificing.

Jack mentioned that he would like to see talks with Southwest Regional, Sharon, South Pymatuning and have a Regional Police Force and the outcries from the residents was an absolute “no”. Jack advised them at some point it will happen.

Councilman Dunn: A motion was made by Councilman Dunn and seconded by Councilman Alfredo to reject the Hermitage Proposal. Motion Passed. Councilman Alfredo then wanted placed on the record that he was voting for this as an obligation to the public but as elected officials it is their duty to explore all options.

Councilman Alfredo: A motion was made by Councilman Alfredo and seconded by Councilman Moderelli to start and open negotiations with the Police as soon as possible. Motion Passed.

Mr. Andy Pratt: Mr. Pratt thanked Council for voting in favor to keep the Sharpsville Police Department and advised them that if you pursue a regional police force to remember what the citizens want. It is not all about money it is about the safety of your residents.

Petie Kelly: Ms. Kelly thanked Council for providing everyone in attendance the opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions and thanked them for voting to retain the Police Department. She did suggest that during the negotiations we possibly have the idea that officers would have to become residents.

Petie also thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and asked everyone to continue coming to future meetings so that we can get fresh new ideas on how to build up our community.

Don Sonny: Mr. Sonny suggested that when the negotiations start that an incentive be given to the officers as a one time lump sum offer to move into the Sharpsville School District.

Monthly Department Reports: A motion was made by Councilman Moderelli and seconded by Councilman Cardwell to accept the Monthly Department Reports from the Police Department, Code Office, Fire Department, Public Works Department and Health Officer. Motion Passed.

Ordinance #1113-No Parking at the Intersection of Blue Devil Way and Milliken Avenue: A motion was made by Councilman Cardwell and seconded by Councilman Moderelli to read the ordinance. The ordinance was read by the Secretary. A motion was made by Councilman Moderelli and seconded by Councilman Dunn to adopt the ordinance.

Establishing an Ordinance for New Sewer Rate: A motion was made by Councilman Moderelli and seconded by Councilman Combine to authorize Solicitor Joseph Joseph to prepare and advertise an ordinance establishing the new sewer rate to \$44.00. Motion Passed.

Waltz Invoice: A motion was made by Councilman Cardwell and seconded by Councilman Combine to authorize payment for Invoice #28 in the amount of \$1490.00 for CDBG-09 Administration. Motion Passed.

Waltz Invoice: A motion was made by Councilman Patton and seconded by Councilman Combine to authorize payment for Invoice #28 in the amount of \$720.00 for the H2O Grant Administration. Motion Passed.

Waltz Invoice: A motion was made by Councilman Moderelli and seconded by Councilman Combine to authorize payment for Invoice #30 in the amount of \$500.00 for the CDBG-R-2009. Motion Passed.

Winslow Engineering- Pay Request #4: A motion was made by Councilman Cardwell and seconded by Councilman Moderelli to authorize payment in the amount of \$937.50 for High Street & Mercer Avenue. Motion Passed.

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission: A motion was made by Councilman Moderelli and seconded by Councilman Dunn to authorize payment in the amount of \$753.50 for the quarterly billing. Motion Passed.

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission: A motion was made by Councilman Moderelli and seconded by Councilman Cardwell to accept Lackawannack Township as a member to the Commission. Motion Passed.

Sidewalk Reimbursement: A motion was made by Councilman Dunn and seconded by Councilman Alfredo to authorize payment in the amount of \$433.33 to Mr. & Mrs. John Calior, 328 South 3rd Street. Motion Passed.

Elite EMS Inc.: A motion was made by Councilman Dunn and seconded by Councilman Moderelli to advise 911 that Elite EMS Inc. is to be placed into the rotation. Motion Passed.

Trick or Treat Hours: Mayor Kovach announced that Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 30, 2010 from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM to coincide with Hermitage and Sharon.

GD&F Invoice- Job #09033, Invoice #15: A motion was made by Councilman Moderelli and seconded by Councilman Patton in the amount of \$23,280.00 for the water distribution system. Motion Passed.

GD&F Pay Request #9: A motion was made by Councilman Moderelli and seconded by Councilman Patton in the amount of \$382,334.27 for the water distribution system. Motion Passed.

Councilman Comments:

Guy Moderelli: He advised everyone about the Mercer County Tax Collections Committee and the e-mail they had sent letting us know that a Resolution would need to be made stating that Berkheimer will not be collecting Earned Income Taxes in the year 2011. He congratulated the Sharpsville Football Team on a great season and wished them luck for the remainder of the season.

John Alfredo: Expressed his condolences to Judge Fornelli and his family.

Rob Dunn: Thanked Petie Kelly for being very instrumental within our community and advised everyone that the Historical Society does such a wonderful job by promoting the businesses, restaurants, etc. within the Borough.

Tom Patton: Thanked everyone for showing up at tonight's meeting and wanted to thank Mr. Gary Hinkson for his time in preparing the Hermitage proposal.

Bob Piccirilli: Advised everyone that he had opera tickets for sale for La Boheme.

Mayor, Alex Kovach: Advised everyone that Sharpsville will be hosting the Veterans's Day Parade on November 11, 2010 and the line up will begin at 12th and Ridge, therefore he will be closing down several streets but will be speaking with the Police Department and coordinating all of the details with them. More information will follow as it becomes available.

Borough Manager/Secretary, Ken Robertson: Advised everyone that the Finance Committee needs to schedule a meeting to discuss the upcoming Budget.

Approval of Payrolls: A motion was made by Councilman Alfredo and seconded by Councilman Patton to approve the payroll of September 9, 2010 from the following accounts, in the following amounts:

General	\$	19,310.37	
Water		11,020.54	
Sewer		4,852.34	
Health & Sani		<u>1,265.22</u>	
Total	\$	34,448.47	Motion Passed.

A motion was made by Councilman Alfredo and seconded by Councilman Combine to approve the payroll of September 23, 2010 from the following accounts, in the following amounts:

General	\$	17,172.83	
Water		10,359.96	
Sewer		6,193.75	
Health/Sani		<u>161.01</u>	
Total		\$33,887.55	Motion Passed.

Approval of Bills: A motion was made by Councilman Alfredo and seconded by Councilman Patton to approve the bills from the following accounts, in the following amounts:

General	\$	145,747.89	
Water		71,505.94	
Sewer		18,894.97	
Fire		4,762.43	
Highway Aid		2,882.76	
2003 Sinking		0.00	
Street Lighting		89.50	
Health/Sanitation		<u>19,593.40</u>	
Total	\$	263,476.89	Motion Passed.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before Council, a motion was made by Councilman Moderelli and seconded by Councilman Cardwell to adjourn. Motion Passed.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:35 PM


