

The Borough Council of Shiremanstown, Pennsylvania held its regular monthly meeting on December 9, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at Borough Hall, One Park Lane, Shiremanstown, Pennsylvania.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Getz  
Lucy Getz  
Anna Harris  
Bryan Homer  
Stevie Krpata  
Carol Mullen-O’Leary  
Cindy Watson

**BOROUGH OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Andrew Sheely, Solicitor  
Janna Colechio, Secretary

**MINUTES**

On a motion by Mrs. Harris and seconded by Ms. Watson, the minutes of the November 21, 2024, Council Meeting were approved as written.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

The Treasurer’s Report for the month of November 2024 was previously submitted for the Council’s review. Ms. Watson made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for November 2024 and file it for audit. With a second from Dr. Mullen-O’Leary, the motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN’S REPORT**

**CITIZENS PRESENT**

Dave Dyson  
Kirk Stoner  
Tom McCutcheon  
Veronica O’Leary

**ADDRESS**

Bible Baptist Church  
Cumberland County Planning Commission  
Shiremanstown Fire Department  
15 N. Stoner Avenue

Ms. O’Leary expressed interest in hearing Mr. Stoner and any recommendations he may have regarding making it more pedestrian friendly between the Borough and surrounding municipalities as the Council consider a bike lane through several local municipalities.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Stoner introduced himself as the Director of the Cumberland County Planning Department. He provided a brief history of the Planning Commission, a nine-member panel committed to helping the thirty-three municipal governments of Cumberland County to build strong communities by promoting responsible economic development, encouraging housing diversity and conserving natural resources. He stressed the Planning Department is there to partner with the Borough by listening to their concerns and ideas in creating a stronger community and building a partnership with them to achieve those goals.

Mr. Getz thanked Mr. Stoner for his time and willingness to assist the Council. He stated that, along with Mr. Homer, one of the major concerns is the safety of its citizens. He stated that the proposed bike route that would run through Lower Allen Township beyond the Borough on Main Street, and through neighboring communities is a goal the Council has investigated; however, the safety of pedestrians on Main Street with the often-congested traffic of personal vehicles and commercial trucks, many of them eighteen-wheeler rigs, overshadows that decision. While Mr. Homer, as the chair of the Streets and Pavements Committee, has reached out to PennDOT seeking solutions with no practical solution suggested by them. He also expressed frustration that Simpson Ferry Road in New Cumberland Borough, Lower Allen Township, and Mechanicsburg is the same state road as Main Street, but Main Street is the only portion of that road to have the speed limit set as 35MPH rather than 25MPH. With the closing of Ames Tru-Temper on Railroad Avenue abutting the Borough now open to other commercial uses, the potential for further traffic is real creating more hurdles for the Borough to overcome.

Concurring with Mr. Getz's concerns, Mr. Homer explained that on October 23, 2024, he again had appealed to PennDOT for speed reduction on Main Street and was waiting for a response from them. Referring to the *Shiremanstown Revitalization Committee Strategic Visioning Report* prepared by the Planning Commission in March 2009, he explained he realizes that the goals listed in the report are many the Borough the Borough has been addressing and some they would like to reintroduce particularly the safety concerns addressed by Mr. Getz, the walkability between Shiremanstown and its neighboring municipalities, and rezoning districts to appeal to small businesses to set up and boost the economy. He acknowledged the lack of parking and addressing pedestrian safety are key to creating a thriving business district which all the Council members share. He noted the *Shiremanstown Revitalization Committee Strategic Visioning Report* prepared by the Planning Commission in March 2009 was a plan to achieve the vision by 2029. Picking up that vision now remains a long-term plan the Council must continue to work toward achieving. He expressed interest in learning how Boroughs like Carlisle and Camp Hill have created a growing economy while maintaining a strong sense of community.

Mr. Stoner thanked Mr. Getz and Mr. Homer for expressing their hopes and concerns. He concurred many of the solutions are dependent on PennDOT and the issue of Main Street being the primary "business district." He echoed Mr. Homer's reminder that some of the changes will not be achieved overnight but through continuous long-term planning and action. He stated that Carlisle Borough was able to achieve many of its goals due to being the County seat of government, Dickinson College, and other businesses that were previously established, making expansion easier. Camp Hill Borough also has had an advantage by having an established business area with mixed used zoning. More recently, the Borough of Mount Holly Springs has recently reached out to neighboring Borough of Newville to maintain their sustainability. He stressed the importance of developing and maintaining connections with both Lower Allen Township and Hampden Township, especially in increasing walkability between the three municipalities. He recapped the Planning Department is available to support the local government and build a strong relationship in a collaborative effort to meet the goals of their planning initiatives by sharing

resources available at the County level. He also recommended reaching out to the State Representative and Senator to contact PennDOT in aiding the Borough in efforts to make Main Street safer. Acknowledging he has already developed a working relationship with Mr. Homer, it was agreed that Mr. Homer would be the best point of contact between the Borough and the Planning Department.

Mr. Getz explained the ad for the tax rate and budget had been submitted through The Sentinel's website the week following the budget meeting; however, due to changes in their advertising procedures, with advertisements now being generated by a third party in Texas, publication was not made in time for a vote at the current meeting. Mr. Sheely explained that public advertising has become more difficult and expensive, which is affecting not only municipalities but private businesses as well. With the Solicitor working with The Sentinel and the Secretary, it was agreed the advertisement will run on December 12, 2025, causing this meeting to be continued later between December 23, 2024, at the earliest and December 31, 2024, at the latest. Dr. Mullen-O'Leary questioned if the meeting had to be in December with plans for the holiday season already in place for many. It was explained that since it was the end of the fiscal year, the Borough had no other option and polled who would be available to ensure a quorum at the date selected. Availability except for the Secretary and Dr. Mullen-O'Leary was established for Monday, December 23, 2024. Mrs. Harris made a motion to continue the meeting December 23, 2024, at 7:00 PM. With a second from Ms. Watson the motion carried, with Dr. Mullen-O'Leary voting nay.

Dr. Mullen-O'Leary expressed unease of a vote on a contentious budget without a full council was wrong. Mr. Getz expressed understanding of that; however, he reminded her that as a Council, each member has one vote, and the majority determines the course of action, and no member has authority to change that. Dr. Mullen-O'Leary stated her request to the Treasurer was to provide the budget as it was agreed upon and another showing the full millage increase allotted to the Shiremanstown Fire Department for clarification. Her concern, as the liaison to the SFD, being that the SFD receive the amount she had requested just as others had requested. As it is, she has no idea where the additional funds would be allocated. Mr. Getz pointed out that Dr. Mullen-O'Leary had never been appointed by motion and voted to be the liaison. Mrs. Krpata made a motion to approve Dr. Mullen-O'Leary as the liaison to the Fire Department. With a second from Mrs. Harris, the motion passed. Ms. Watson stated that she did not feel comfortable discussing the budget without the Treasurer being available to answer questions. Noting that the Solicitor can often fill in with some questions, he is not the Treasurer who has all the detailed information. Mr. Getz explained funds not specifically allocated on a budget line item are retained in the general fund to build up a type of savings for urgent situations if necessary. Dr. Mullen-O'Leary requested time for discussion regarding the budget as it affects the Fire Department. She stated the Fire Department had provided the documents requested at the November meeting on December 5, 2024, she had confirmed with the Secretary that the documents were sent out to the Council, and that there had been no questions asked of her by the Treasurer or anyone else. The Secretary interjected Mr. Lane had not been available to review them as he left on vacation. Continuing, she stated the documents clearly showed that even with the \$18,500 she requested, it doesn't cover the budget for the SFD, and it is her opinion that everything is

in good order. She stated that she had met unofficially with Lower Allen Township and Hampden Township and for them to take over and provide fire service would be over \$100,000. Mr. Homer commended the Fire Company in providing the information and provided a worksheet covering 2021-2024 noting that fundraising efforts in 2023 had yielded approximately \$16,000 and if the Borough would partner up with the firefighters, the yield could be even higher. He feels that right now what the Fire Company needs right now is a good relationship with the Borough Council and should there be a time they have a financial pinch and continue providing documentation, the Borough could help them. The controversy regarding the clearing of the FRA findings was addressed, and the Secretary confirmed that Ms. Lisa Reber, the regional manager of the Department of the Auditor General, Bureau of Fire Relief Audits confirmed her recommendation to release to the 2024 state aid following her review of the bank paperwork submitted by Michela. Mr. Homer requested information requested that activity reports be provided. Mrs. Krpata expressed dismay that with the Fire Company being autonomous, why the Council is reluctant to provide the funding that was approved. Mr. Homer replied that is a matter of trust because of the poor financial decisions that were made, and the burden of funding should not fall on the taxpayers. He further requested that Mr. Lane be asked to provide two budgets, the original voted on in November and one with the entire \$18,500 being allocated to the Shiremanstown Fire Department. The Secretary was authorized to tell the Treasurer of the need for a second budget for comparison purposes. Dr. Mullen O'Leary requested a method to join the meeting electronically since she will not be attending. It was agreed phone or facetime would be acceptable since the Secretary will be out, and the Borough's subscription to Zoom lapsed due to lack of use since COVID.

An Intergovernmental Agreement between the Shiremanstown Borough Police Department and the Mechanicsburg School District was reviewed. Mrs. Krpata explained that this would enable the installation of a STOP arm signal enforcement system to submit captured video clips of any vehicle overtaking a school bus with the red lights activated. This would be included in an evidence pack sent to the local police department, who then would submit it to the District Judge. Conviction of offenses carries a \$300 fine with \$250 allocated to the School District, \$25 to the Shiremanstown Police Department, and \$25 to the school bus safety program. She stated there has been a high success rate, and the School District is waiting for Shiremanstown. Chief Stoner had questions regarding the discretionary abilities of the Police Department; however, the Solicitor cleared the questions indicating that the District must coordinate with BusPatrol to provide the law enforcement agency with written documentation that the signal arm enforcement system was operating correctly at the time of the alleged violation. Dr. Mullen-O'Leary made a motion to authorize Chief Stoner to enter into the agreement with Mechanicsburg School District. With a second from Mrs. Krpata, the motion passed unanimously.

The Council needed to determine meeting dates for their regular council meetings in 2025 for advertising purposes. Mrs. Getz made a motion to meet the second Monday of each month. With a second from Mrs. Harris, the motion passed.

Mr. Getz reviewed with Council information for the repairs of the sanitary storm sewers which need done prior to gaining an estimate on the cost for repairing the alleys on Strawberry Alley

and John's Alley and East Vine Street. An estimate of \$1900 was provided to dig two exploratory holes at East Vine Street where two potential sinkholes have appeared. The second estimate is to inspect and repair the original brick storm sewers on Strawberry Alley and fill them with flowable fill before moving onto repairs. The estimated cost for this is \$9,800. Dr. Mullen-O'Leary questioned where the funding for these repairs would come from. Mr. Getz stated from the General Fund. Mrs. Krpata made a motion to proceed with the exploratory work needed prior to repairs being made. With a second from Mrs. Harris, the motion passed.

Mr. Getz presented the proposed 2025 salary schedule which was a 4% cost of living raise across the board. Dr. Mullen-O'Leary made a motion to approve the salary schedule as presented. With a second from Ms. Watson, the motion passed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**November**

Complaints Rec'd	39	Traffic	18
Criminal	1	Non-Traffic	0
Assist. Other Depts.	15	Verbal Warn	1
Traffic Accidents	0	Parking Tkts	1
PD Revenue	\$ 710.96	Written Warn	2
		Faulty Equipmt.	8

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Traffic Tickets/Arrests</b>
Stoner	189.00	0
Montgomery	189.00	1
Shaughnessy	17.50	0
McCoy	124.00	14
Hall	14.00	0
Rine	28.00	0
McMillen	18.00	2
Gelnett	18.00	1

Traffic citations for the month included:

- 5 for driving without a license
- 3 for driving without insurance
- 2 for speeding
- 2 for expired registration
- 1 for expired inspection
- 1 STOP sign violation
- 1 for permitting a violation
- 1 for no license plate
- 1 for a counterfeit inspection sticker

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Sheely had nothing additional to report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Harris announced praised Officer Tim Rine for his active participation at the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and holiday party. Chief Stoner said he would be glad to pass her appreciation onto Officer Rine.

Dr. Mullen-O'Leary asked what the next step in presenting the proposed changes to the zoning map would be. Mr. Sheely advised that she contact Mrs. Alloway as the Codes Enforcement Officer and oversees the meeting of the Borough's Planning Commission. Changes would be discussed at their meeting and recommendations based upon those discussions would be made to the Council. Any changes would need to be presented to the County prior to advertising for adoption to change the Borough's Zoning Ordinances.

Mr. Getz thanked Mr. Dyson for his role in actively monitoring the installation of the flashing school zone lights on West Vine Street. Currently, Mr. Lenker is waiting on a response from BBEC Electricians for a quote to retrofit the existing units for LED and solar retrofitting. After receiving this information, Mr. Lenker will be preparing a total project quote for the School.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Homer announced that the reflectors for pedestrian crossings have been installed, and that the banana bases for the Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalks have been received. Mr. Getz instructed Mr. Homer to reach out to Mr. Rosnick to manage the removal of the signs from Main Street upon forecasts of winter weather events.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

Mr. Bland inquired about the status of the police sedan since the last bid on Municibid before the closing of the auction was \$8,600. Mr. Getz asked Chief Stoner for an update. The Chief advised the highest bid was \$8,650 which was \$2,650 above the reserve. The winning bid was provided by a police officer in Connecticut acting privately. Arrangements for pick-up of the vehicle are in progress. Mr. Bland reasoned that this should have been a decision by vote of the Council, and the Citizen's Report should be following business by the Council not at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Getz explained that since Mr. Bland had not signed in to speak, it was not necessary to acknowledge his question. Discussion escalated, and Mr. Getz asked the Chief to please have Mr. Bland removed. The Chief advised Mr. Bland to quit speaking out of turn. Mr. Bland agreed to remain and sit quietly.

Mrs. Getz made a motion to accept the receipts and pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mullen- O'Leary and passed unanimously.

Dr. Mullen O'Leary made a motion to reconvene the meeting on Monday, December 23, 2024, to approve the 2025 budget and pass the ordinance to establish the tax rate for 2025. With a second from Mrs. Krpata, the motion was approved.

SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL,

Janna E. Colechio  
Borough Secretary