

The Borough Council of Shiremanstown, Pennsylvania held its regular monthly meeting on August 11, 2025, 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
George Lane, Treasurer
Tammie Dailey, Mayor
Janna Colechio, Secretary

MINUTES

On a motion by Mrs. Getz and seconded by Mrs. Harris, the minutes of the July 14, 2025, Council Meeting were approved as written.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s Report for the month of July 2025 was previously submitted for Council’s review. Mrs. Harris made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for July 2025 and file it for audit. With a second from Ms. Watson, the motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN’S REPORT

CITIZENS PRESENT

ADDRESS

Ryan J. Stephenson	3 Drayton Court, Mechanicsburg
Tom McCutcheon	Shiremanstown Fire Department
Joan Runkle	4 Walnut Street
Enzo Harris	106 West Main Street
Greg Harris	106 West Main Street
Mary Messick	102 West Main Street

Mr. Stephenson, coach of the Susquehanna Storm Softball Team, and Kari DeMaria of the Shiremanstown Parks and Recreation Committee were thanked for helping revitalize the Memorial Park ball field. He confirmed the field will be used only for practice by the team of girls comprised of 14 years and younger on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. The Secretary confirmed that the team’s proof of insurance had been received earlier when volunteers from the team upgraded the field.

Enzo Harris announced he was observing to fulfill requirements for the Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge in the Boy Scouts of America program.

Ms. Messick stated that the electronic message board at Saint John’s Lutheran Church illuminates her home and noted her concern regarding the Council’s consideration of changes to the timing of messages. Additionally, she stated that the hours and brightness, at times, interfere with her sleep schedule. She stated that she would prefer no sign, but realizing that is not possible now, would like to keep the schedule of changing notices to once every sixty minutes and not once every ten minutes. Mrs. Alloway recently observed that the

sign is less bright. Mr. Getz questioned Ms. Messick, which has more impact, and she replied that dusk has more of an impact than early morning. It was then confirmed that the Children's Garden Daycare hours are 7:00 AM through 5:00 PM. It was suggested that the message could be changed every 30 minutes, and a black background be used after 5:00 PM as a compromise that would suit the needs of Saint John's Church as well as appease the neighboring community. Mrs. Krpata suggested that it may be easier for the Codes Enforcement Officer if definite hours were included in the changes rather than using dawn and dusk. Mrs. Alloway agreed.

The Solicitor provided a brief history of the sign ordinance which was last revised in 2018. The Zoning Hearing Board initially reviewed an electronic sign proposal submitted by the Shiremanstown Church of God in 2016. Since that time, electronic signs/banners have become more common in the Borough, and they have been used for municipal, religious, charitable, and educational purposes to enrich the community in general. If the Council determines to accommodate changes per the request of Saint John's Lutheran Church/The Children's Garden, they will need to direct him to have the ordinance written to 30 minutes, etc. and publicly advertise the ordinance twice prior to adoption. He reminded the council that any such changes will affect all electronic signs in the Borough. Mr. Homer requested the issue be tabled until he had the opportunity to discuss these concerns with Pastor Keilholtz. The Council agreed to table the issue until the September 2025 meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Shiremanstown Fire Department submitted the financial and activity reports for the month of July. Mr. McCutcheon said he was wondering what updates were available as to the assistance from the Borough in purchasing the radios. President Getz stated that no decision was made because the Council was waiting for a firm dollar amount from the Fire Department after a lengthy discussion in June, and in July, no Fire Department representatives attended the meeting to provide updates or discuss options.

Dr. Mullen O'Leary emphasized the importance of reaching an agreement between the Borough and the Fire Department. The Council was reminded that the Fire Department has the option to obtain a private loan to support the purchase of the radio system. In addition, funds have been set aside by the Borough specifically for emergency situations, over and above the standard quarterly payments provided to the Fire Department. This approach was presented as a potential resolution for supporting the Fire Department's financial needs. She recommended that the Borough provide the funds for the repayment of the loan until January 2026. Mrs. Harris responded that, to her, it sounded as though the Council was being asked to repay the loan and then put the additional payments into the 2026 budget and requested clarification. Dr. Mullen O'Leary deferred her question to Mr. McCutcheon. Mr. McCutcheon responded that one option he had considered was for the Council to provide the \$8,000 to the Fire Department with those payments giving time for the Fire Department to create additional funds. Mrs. Harris questioned if the corporate letters for assistance in fundraising had been issued. Mr. Homer responded they had been sent out; however, Mr. McCutcheon reported that to date there had been no responses. Discussion continued when Mr. Homer interjected that he felt the issue was going back to where it had begun. He further stated that, while the Fire Chief demonstrates strong leadership in managing the department and

responding to calls, there are areas for improvement regarding financial management. If time could be turned back and the things had been a bit more collaborative, things may be fine. But now, the question to be answered is should the Council preserve the independence of the Borough or merge with Lower Allen Township for the advantages of a larger municipality? He referred to a chart of local municipalities and their tax rates and how they were applying their tax dollars. He cited that Lower Allen Township, who could potentially merge with the Borough making it the Village of Shiremanstown, charges an annual fire protection fee per residential tax parcel of \$89, so calculating the \$89 by the 599 parcels in the Borough would generate approximately \$53,000 per year. That does not include the Fire Company's budget through fundraising, grants, etc. President Getz agreed that the Borough needs to face a tax increase to remain sovereign; however, he also expressed that the Council must apply due diligence and investigate other options. After talking with Lower Allen Fire Chief Tom Ringling, he was directed to submit a letter to Rebecca Davis, Township Manager of Lower Allen Township, to review the possibility of contracting Lower Allen Township Fire Department as the Borough's primary provider of fire protective services. The letter emphasized the need for the Township to provide all costs associated with this initiative for future review by the Borough Council. Mr. Homer made a motion to submit a letter to Lower Allen Township as a method of verifying costs related to potential fire protection services. With a second from Mrs. Krpata, the motion was passed. Discussion continued regarding the funding of the loan by the Fire Company for the purchase of the P25 radio system. Fire Chief McCutcheon said he had not pursued the loan until he knew what support the Borough intended to give the Fire Company. Lengthy discussion followed where it was determined that the Borough would pay to the Fire Department \$6,000 for them to apply as the first six payments of the loan. Fire Chief McCutcheon will make Brian Hamilton aware the Borough will be providing support for the purchase of the P25 system. The remaining \$2,000 was to be held for unforeseen circumstances. Dr. Mullen-O'Leary made a motion to increase the Borough's donation to the Fire Department by \$1,000 a month for the next six months. With a second from Mrs. Krpata, the motion passed unanimously. In the interest of transparency, Fire Chief McCutcheon agreed to make full conditions of the loan available to the Council for review. President Getz had one final question on the financial report provided which included two deposits on the same date for \$1,007 from Pump Primers. Fire Chief McCutcheon reported that was an error. Mrs. Harris questioned if the Fire Department was using QuickBooks for reporting, since reports were coming in Word format. The Fire Chief said he would ask Amanda to provide the reports through QuickBooks. Ms. Watson asked if it was possible to receive the reports earlier than the day of the Council meeting. Again, Chief McCutcheon responded he would ask her to please do so.

Steve Bonacci, Account Manager at General Code, confirmed that the proposal remains valid for six months and that the company will honor the terms if the signed agreement is returned within that period. The performance payment schedule indicates it takes approximately 2 years to complete. If started immediately, it would be paid over 3 budget cycles: 2024, 2025 and 2026. Each performance gate would incur one of the 5 payments over approximately 24 months. Assuming the \$19,995 total project (without the gender-neutral option) the Borough's first payment would be \$3,999. If a different payment structure is needed, General

Code is happy to do so. Mr. Lane confirmed that payments would extend over three budget years, not three calendar years; however, the funding for this project had been included in the 2025 budget adopted in December 2024 by the Council. Ms. Watson made a motion to proceed with the recodification as presented. With a second from Mrs. Harris, the motion was approved.

The Solicitor provided an updated draft of the swimming pool ordinance to Mrs. Alloway for the Planning Commission's review prior to advertising.

MAYOR'S REPORT

July

Complaints Rec'd	37	Traffic	22
Criminal	1	Non-Traffic	0
Assist. Other Depts.	6	Verbal Warn	0
Traffic Accidents	2	Parking Tkts.	1
PD Revenue	\$728.53	Written Warn	1
		Faulty Equipmt.	3

Officer	Hours	Traffic Tickets/Arrests
Stoner	207.00	0
Montgomery	207.00	14
Shaughnessy	35.50	0
Yeager	52.00	0
McCoy	0.00	0
Hall	28.00	1
McMillen	18.00	0
Gelnett	38.00	7

Traffic citations for the month included:

- 15 for Speeding
- 5 for Expired Inspection
- 1 for Driving without a License
- 1 for a STOP sign violation

Officer Montgomery shared information regarding the laws surrounding the riding of electric bicycles and scooters. State law determined that electric scooters are not allowed on sidewalks or roadways; however, electric bicycles may be driven by anyone sixteen years of age or older on sidewalks and the street. He pointed out that the Police Department has been issuing warnings for the use of electric bicycles on sidewalks in the borough; however, state law supersedes all municipal ordinances.

Mrs. Getz stated she had been under the impression that on holidays where fireworks are typically used to celebrate, there would be two patrol officers on duty to issue citations to offenders. Officer Montgomery reported that he personally had responded to several incidents; however, some were set off in neighboring backyards outside police authority for issuing citations. Others were issued warnings. He also reported that schedules are posted ahead for part-time officers to sign up for shifts. While calls had been made, only one part-

time patrol officer had responded to work the July 4th holiday. He and Chief Stoner had worked alone on their shifts as well. He stated that many of the part-time patrol officers are retired or employed full-time elsewhere; they are not required to work for the Borough, but their services are needed by the Borough. It was expressed by several Council members that this was unacceptable, and part-time officers not willing to work on such occasions should be terminated. Mrs. Krpata stated that she was willing to push back on Officer Montgomery's explanation stating that if you compare the number of citations by the Chief of Police to the number written by the part-time officers, it was appalling. It was pointed out that police officers in Pennsylvania cannot be mandated by political subdivisions to issue a specific number of citations, as Pennsylvania law prohibits quotas for citations. Saying it is disgusting that the number of hours the Chief of Police works and the number of citations he writes is appalling. A verbal exchange between Mrs. Krpata and Officer Montgomery followed leading to Officer Montgomery asking the Mayor if she would like to say anything in defense of Chief Stoner and the Police Department. Mayor Dailey responded that she views the role of Chief as a figurehead that is not out trying to draw blood from the citizens of the Borough but is approachable and has a good rapport with the citizens, so that when issues arise, they feel comfortable talking with him. She has had citizens approach her to comment that both Officer Montgomery and Chief Stoner have made it easier for them to bring their complaints to the attention of the Police Department. Mrs. Krpata replied, "Yes, respectfully Mayor, he is everybody's friend, and that's problematic." Mayor Dailey stated that she does not see that as a problem; however, Mrs. Krpata contended that as a citizen of Shiremanstown she does when a call from the local daycare comes that a man is threatening a teacher and the Chief of Police shows up and states the man is having a bad day, it is a problem. The Mayor said she participated in that call as well, and the man was the boyfriend of the parent and had previously been picking up the child(ren,) the Mayor expressed that she feels Mrs. Krpata has personal issues with the police, which Mrs. Krpata denied. President Getz pounded the gavel to regain control and have time to cool down. Mrs. Krpata continued, so President Getz again slammed the gavel and commanded silence stating that the Mayor oversees the Police Department to which Mrs. Krpata interrupted saying, "And she sucks at it!" President Getz again appealed for silence as Mrs. Krpata repeatedly said, "She sucks at it!" adding "Put it on the record, don't care." You can put it on the record. Please put it in the minutes." To which Mayor Dailey responded, "Please do." President Getz took the opportunity to say that the discussion got a tad overheated and requested that the Mayor ensure that there are two officers on duty for the Labor Day holiday.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sheely had nothing additional to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Getz updated the Council on efforts to have the speed limit on Main Street reduced. He had set up a table at National Night Out in Memorial Park and gathered over one hundred signatures. Earlier, he had met with Senator Dawn Keefer in a meeting including other municipalities and passed the petition and resolution onto her for her use in trying to assist the Borough in achieving its goal. Stating it was an interesting meeting as the issue of the cost of smaller, volunteer fire companies was approached by Warrington Township followed by agreement from most municipalities serviced by smaller fire companies feel there will be. The general agreement was that small volunteer fire companies may disappear within three to five years, because they are unsustainable when looking at \$1.5 million for a new fire truck. He went on to say, "if you look at us, unfortunately, the newer apparatus will probably not fit

under the overhead door of the current fire house leading to additional costs for its accommodation.” Mr. Getz commended Fire Chief McCutcheon and Amanda for their participation and reaction to calls based on the results of the reports provided to the Council on calls and those participating.

Mrs. Harris reminded those who may not have had the opportunity to complete the park survey at National Night Out that it remains available online and the additional input helps in the planning process.

Three estimates had been received for the infield mix for the softball field at Memorial Park: New Enterprise for \$1040, Stadium Dirt Designs for \$1500, and Zimmerman Landscaping for \$1160. Susquehanna Storm has offered to pay fifty percent of the cost, so she has requested authorization to spend \$520 from her budget as the Borough’s fifty percent share of the cost. Ms. Watson made a motion to authorize the Parks and Recreation Department contract with New Enterprise with the understanding that the Susquehanna Storm softball team will pay an additional \$520. With a second from Mrs. Getz, the motion passed.

Mrs. Harris distributed a color copy of the initial plan based on the sixty-five responses already received through the survey. A team will meet on September 25, 2025, to solidify and finalize the plan in time for the Council to review in October and prepare for grants through DCNR. If anyone has any questions or concerns, they are welcome to contact Mrs. Harris.

NEW BUSINESS

The Secretary requested authorization to advertise the Budget workshop for 2026. It was determined that the Council would meet one hour prior to the November meeting (November 10, 2025) to review the budget for the calendar year 2026. Ms. Watson made a motion to authorize the Secretary to advertise the Budget Workshop. With a second from Mrs. Harris, the motion was approved.

Mr. Homer noted he was surprised to learn that leasing a fire truck costs around \$2,200 per month, compared to buying one for over a million dollars.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Watson has a neighbor concerned about a pothole on Chestnut. Mr. Getz stated that a request has been made for the area to be filled and overlaid with tar and chip.

Mrs. Watson informed the Codes Enforcement Officer that residents from the new development off South Locust Street are parking on Chestnut Street and using a newly created path located between the Borough and the development. This had previously been denied by the Borough to the contractor and Lower Allen Township. Mrs. Alloway made note and will reach out to the proper authorities.

Ms. Watson made a motion to accept the receipts and pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Getz and passed unanimously.

Ms. Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM. With a second from Mrs. Harris, the motion was approved.

SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL,

Janna E. Colechio
Borough Secretary