

The Borough Council of Shiremanstown, Pennsylvania held a special meeting on June 1, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. at Borough Hall, One Park Lane, Shiremanstown, Pennsylvania.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Bryan Homer, Council President
Jeffrey Bland
Mary deCoen
Anna Harris
Amanda Kendall
Stevie Krpata

BOROUGH OFFICIALS PRESENT

Andrew Sheely, Solicitor
John Getz, Mayor
Janna Colechio, Secretary

CITIZEN'S REPORT

CITIZENS PRESENT

Mark Rosnick
Nancy Trowbridge
Gary Rhoads
Jodi Alloway
Joan Runkle
Jeff Pechart
Darlene Cline
Lorene & Lee Mylin

ADDRESS

203 East Main Street
309 West Maple Avenue
495 Nauvoo Road
14 West Vine Street
4 Walnut Street
10 Sherwood Drive
110 West Vine Street #C
304 West Green Street

Mr. Rosnick announced the new leaf machine was delivered to Stephenson's last week and will be brought to the Borough for training, etc. within two weeks, then the older equipment will be placed on Municibid.

Ms. Trowbridge recounted witnessing close encounters of young people under the age of sixteen driving e-bikes with most of those not wearing helmets. She feels the public lacks education in this area and would also like to know what is being done to enforce the law. Another concern is she would like to know if they may be driven on sidewalks and streets. She stated that Hampden Township enforces the state law with a \$500 fine. The Solicitor recommended that this matter be referred to the Police Department regarding helmet issues and operation of a vehicle. Mayor Getz assured Ms. Trowbridge that he will discuss with the police officers noting that typically what happens is once enforcement begins, word gets around and offences decrease. He will also check into the issue regarding riding on sidewalks.

Mr. Rhoads identified himself as a member of the Public Works Department and a graduate of the Williamsport Area Community College now known as Penn Tech. He reported he has heard reports of a full-time position which would affect the Public Works Department. He explained it would be nice to know what is happening so that he may make decisions for his life. Mr. Homer responded, saying there is a draft ordinance, and the Council is awaiting fiscal feedback from the Borough Treasurer. Once everything is approved, the Borough will be advertising the position as they do any other positions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Homer turned the discussion of police hiring and promotions over to the Mayor. Mayor Getz stated there are some confusing issues in the discussion, and offered insight into any the Council may not completely understand. Stating that any police department with three or more full-time officers requires an independent Civil Service Commission, which necessarily means hiring a full-time officer ahead of Chief Stoner's retirement is not an option. To facilitate training, however, it is his recommendation that three part-time officers be appointed and upon the Chief's retirement one be promoted to a full-time position. The candidates are:

Matthew Shapley has six years' experience as a full-time officer with the Carroll Township Police Department. He left the Department on his own due to personal issues with his older brother who also works for the Carroll Township Police Department. There are no disciplinary issues and comes with high recommendations from both the Sergeant and Chief of Police in Carroll Township. He received a lifesaving award for saving a victim who cut herself, and as the first officer on scene, stopped the bleeding by himself. He is familiar with working as a solo officer, has no issues with on call or weekend shifts or the current work schedule of the Shiremanstown Police Department.

Nathan Lee has eleven years' experience as a full-time police officer with the Capitol Police, the State Parole, and currently is a Corporal with the UPMC Police Department. He also has military experience with the Pennsylvania National Guard and the US Air Force. He is a drone pilot, SRT member, Honor Guard member and Riot Team member who received the "Top Gun" award in his Police Academy class. He received high recommendations from past employers and is willing to work weekend shifts.

Christian Norris has eight years' experience with Eastern Adams Regional Police Department and the City of Hazleton Police Department, he left due to an injury. There are no disciplinary issues involved. He was a M1A1 Armor Crewman for the for years with the U S Army. He is a grant writer and is willing to work weekends.

Mrs. deCoen questioned the current complement of part-time officers the Police Department currently has. The Mayor responded there are currently four who are paid only for the hours worked. He noted that there are times with conflicts in their full-time work schedules or holiday schedules, which has made it difficult to complete the monthly schedule. One other question Mrs. deCoen presented was if the candidates are local. Mayor Getz replied that some are and some are fifteen minutes' drive from Shiremanstown.

Mr. Bland asked what expenses would be incurred with additional officers. Mayor Getz responded that various sizes of uniforms are currently in the Borough's closet, and the Department maintains ammunition for qualifying, so start-up costs would be zero to minimal.

Mrs. Harris confirmed with the Mayor that the candidates would be filling in gaps when the full-time officers need coverage.

Mrs. Krpata asked if when offers are made to part-time candidates is the Borough guaranteeing minimal hours per month. The Mayor responded they are not.

Mr. McCutcheon commented that he has had the pleasure of working with Mr. Shapley in various incidents. He reported he is very hands on and community minded.

Mr. Bland made a motion to hire the three part-time officers at \$25 per hour for the ninety-day probationary period ending September 29, 2026. Upon successful completion of the probationary period, the rate will increase to the 2026 budgeted rate of \$26.75 per hour for part-time officers. With a second from Mrs. Harris, the motion carried.

Mrs. Krpata inquired if any of the current part-time officers expressed interest in the full-time position. The Mayor responded that no interest was indicated as some are more interested in pursuing other law enforcement positions, such as Officer McCoy who is interested in park ranger type work rather than municipal work.

The Mayor requested that upon Chief Stoner's retirement on July 2, 2026, that Mr. Shapley be considered to fill the vacancy of full-time officer at a probationary rate of \$67,000 until he successfully completes his probationary period on September 29, 2026, at which time his pay will be increased to \$70,000 along with normal established benefits. The Mayor noted this would result in \$13,000 savings for the fiscal year.

Mr. Bland made a motion to promote Mr. Shapley from part-time officer to full-time officer upon the retirement of Chief Stoner as outlined by the Mayor. With a second from Mrs. deCoen, the motion passed.

The final request of the Mayor was the promotion of Officer Devin Montgomery to the position of Chief of Police effective July 2, 2026. As a veteran full-time officer for the Shiremanstown Police Department, Officer Montgomery is currently earning \$83,000 per year. The Mayor recommended his salary remain the same throughout the ninety-day probationary period, to be increased to \$98,750 which is the amount currently paid to the Chief of Police.

Mrs. Krpata questioned how many interviews have been conducted for the position of Chief of Police. The Mayor responded that to his knowledge none. She questioned why, and the Mayor replied that because they were looking at a promotion from within as part of a succession plan. Mr. Homer concurred that he has no problems with Officer Montgomery, but he would have preferred he be in attendance as there has been no police presence since January. Mr. Bland asked if when Chief Stoner was made Chief if he started at the lower rate. The Mayor responded there are no lower rates as he and Mr. Bland had experienced while working for the Federal Government. The Salary is affixed to the position, and not the person. Mrs. Harris asked if the position had been advertised when Chief Stoner was promoted from full-time officer. The Secretary responded that it had not been advertised as the former Chief passed away while in office, and the Council determined to promote Officer Stoner to the position of Chief.

Mr. Homer confirmed that this is an appointed position, meaning it is the Council's decision to advertise or promote within for the position.

Mrs. Krpata expressed doubt that Officer Montgomery wanted position, because she had talked with him once and he had stated in no uncertain terms that he was not interested in the Chief's position, and he absolutely was not interested in the Borough Manager position. She conceded that Officer Montgomery is the logical choice. Mr. Homer asserted that the benefit of a full-time position is there is a succession plan in place, so this is not a bad thing,

and it is why it is good to have full-time positions. Officer Montgomery put in for the LPR and there were twenty-two citations so far, so it is good to see him advancing the Department in some ways.

Mrs. Runkle requested permission to speak. She stated that when she had talked to Officer Montgomery socially, that he was not interested in a position that included Chief, Codes Enforcement Officer, and Borough Manager; however, he was interested in Chief of Police. He is already looking at all types of improvements and new developments in law enforcement. Mayor Getz agreed.

Mr. Homer said that Officer Montgomery has never expressed that to Council, and Mrs. Krpata suggested having him come to the June 8, 2026, meeting clarify to the Council his desire to be Chief and present his vision for the Police Department. Discussion was tabled until the regular meeting of council on June 8, 2026.

The Mayor agreed to meet with Officer Montgomery the following day.

The two full-time positions being considered by Council were discussed. The Borough Manager would encompass the roles of Secretary, Zoning Officer, and Grant Writer. Mr. Sheely had drafted an open-ended draft ordinance modeled after the one in use by New Cumberland Borough and cautioned the Council they should tailor it to their specific needs. The secretary position including appearing at each meeting of Borough Council and preparing the minutes along with other duties associated with that position, the Zoning Officer responsibilities of reviewing permit applications and when necessary, submit to the third-party building codes inspector, and whatever other duties you would want them to do. He encouraged the Council to be as creative and as inclusive as you want to be with the intention of minimizing roles and having one person do all. Mr. Homer confirmed that was correct adding that the positions assigned to Council at reorganization could also be included. The Council would still be responsible for making decisions. Mr. Sheely concurred reminding the Council of the difficulties encountered during the February snowstorm could have been avoided by having a Borough Manager who would have had appropriate businesses on call for such emergency rather than the Council having to find a company with twenty-four hours of the event. Noting that many of the Council members are busy and have outside responsibilities, this position poses merit. However, it is something that is something that must be compared to the financial considerations. Mr. Homer agreed, stating the funding is available. He went on to say that many times when there have been times when he and the Mayor were the only ones who showed up to meet with officials outside the Borough, because of their full-time jobs and other outside commitments. Mrs. Harris advised that she did not recall seeing any emails regarding upcoming meetings in the past, so she recommended that it may have been a lack of communication with various Council members.

Moving onto the position of Public Works Director, Mr. Homer addressed the Liquid Fuels Fund currently has a balance of over \$500,000 which is replenished at the rate of \$44,000 each year and the Borough is eligible for more than that. He asked questions of PennDOT in a meeting where he, Mayor Getz, and former Council Person, Lucy Getz attended and learned that these funds can be used to pay 70% of salary and benefit costs of road crews or employees performing work on municipal roads. The municipality must thoroughly document these costs with daily time records (MS-907 or its equivalent), indicating type and

location of work performed. Meaning this would only pertain to the salaries if they were doing the work, not administration. The remaining 30% would be paid from the Borough's General Fund. He envisions a plan for paving streets on a regular rotating basis. Mrs. Harris questioned whether the Maintenance Supervisor had ever been instructed to devise a plan by comparing it to her responsibility to review a maintenance plan/schedule for the parks which she needs to communicate with the Maintenance crew. Mr. Homer replied no, but standard work needs to be established to improve services. Mrs. Harris asked if Mr. Homer believes that a full-time position and one part-time position could manage all the various tasks completed by the three part-time positions. Mr. Homer answered by outlining the hours of three workers working 20 hours per week to a full-time position of 37 hours per week and one part-time worker being fewer hours per week. Mrs. Harris clarified she was speaking of tasks which may involve more than two workers such as hanging the flags, putting lights on the tree for the annual Tree Lighting, etc. Mr. Homer responded that he is pushing aggressively because these are conversations that have been going on since 2012, and progress will never be made if an initial step is not taken and oversight provided for the projects. Mrs. Harris questioned if this were not something the Borough Manager would be tasked with doing.

Discussion ensued regarding push-back on the idea of full-time employees with Mrs. Harris stating she would like information on the plan where in the budget the positions fit, etc. Mr. Homer assured Mrs. Harris that by having these positions, it allows the Council to focus on policy. Mrs. Harris said she understood that; however, she questions if for tasks and the budget if it makes sense. She feels that she is missing something in the conversation, for instance is this for this year only, and if not, is it sustainable in the future. Mr. Homer expressed he has been patient and is frustrated by opposition in creating this position. He confirmed that Mr. Lane has been contacted regarding the financing.

Mrs. Krpata suggested that what she was hearing from the conversation is that Mrs. Harris feels out of the loop of communication, in part, due to the Council's fear of violating the Sunshine Act. However, when individuals meet, they are accused of having secret meetings. Mrs. Harris confirmed that she often hears that. Mr. Homer interrupted to question what it is Mrs. Harris hears. She responded that she receives calls stating, "I heard that or I heard that," Mr. Homer questioned who, and Mrs. Harris said she is not revealing as she does not take it to heart. Mr. Homer related that he is the Fire Department liaison, so he meets with Fire Chief McCutcheon, he meets with Ms. Kendall, and he meets with Mrs. Krpata. Further, he has never violated the Sunshine Act by meeting with more than three council members present. Mrs. Krpata said she feels the opposition to new ideas is a lack of trust within the Council. Mrs. Harris stated she has questions without answers and would like that clarification prior to being expected to vote.

Mrs. Krpata introduced means that she had investigated to better communicate between meetings without suspicion of violating the Sunshine Act, one of which she believes would be helpful, is Drop Box where no discussion, only information or updates on individual projects would be available to all Council members. No comments or decisions would be made outside of Council meetings, only information that would make it simpler as Council to function. She asked the Solicitor if this is something that would be allowable. Mr. Sheely replied stating the Sunshine Law deals with meetings and decisions and sharing ideas in a common box does not seem to be a violation, but if it would reach the point of deciding

outside a public meeting, it would be a problem. This is why a Borough Manager position is important to eliminate the meetings that you need to function and the Sunshine does require now that you almost need a person to be talking to Council members independently of the seven council members talking, otherwise situations occur where the Council is handcuffed to get anything done between meetings so having a person in a position to accomplish Council's policies is important. The more that can be added to a description, the easier the job of being a Council member will be.

Mr. Rosnick added that part of the situation caused by the February snowstorm occurred because from December 1 through April 1, Mr. Pechart is laid off as a seasonal worker leaving Mr. Rhoads and himself working two mornings a week. Additionally, they were left with just one truck which hindered snow removal. He added that Mr. Rhoads came in ahead of the storm and slept two nights sleeping in the Borough Hall to be available as he and Mr. Rosnick relieved each other's shift.

It had been brought up to Mr. Homer the positions held by each Council member can be changed if so desired. He polled the Council.

Bryan Homer	Fire Department Liaison
Jeffrey Bland	Emergency Management Coordinator & Solid Waste
Mary deCoen	Representative to Council of Governments
Anna Harris	Parks and Recreation
Amanda Kendall	Streets and Pavements
Stevie Krpata	Mechanicsburg School District Liaison
Cindy Watson	Main Street Corridor

Mr. Bland requested to be removed as the Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Homer agreed to accept responsibility and asked the County to be notified and the process for transition begin. Mr. Bland also agreed to assume oversight of the maintenance/road crew.

Mrs. Krpata requested she be removed as School District Liaison to be the contact for Main Street Corridor; however, Ms. Watson was not present to state if she wished to be removed from that position to another.

No other changes were requested.

Mr. Bland asked for clarification from the Solicitor regarding the next solid waste contract. Mr. Sheely responded saying talks should commence in October as the contract expires on March 31, 2027. A bid package is necessary once the Council determines what services they wish to include and should be advertised by the end of the year.

Fire Chief McCutcheon warned that the County dislikes constant change in positions. Mr. Homer took that into consideration and agreed to accept the position.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bland reiterated the doors for the Borough garage are to be installed on June 21, 2027.

NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor reported that discussions of fireworks being set off in the Borough on May 26, 2027, on the Shiremanstown 150 Facebook page. The Police Department investigated this, and the fireworks were being set off in the rear of The Bosnia & Herzegovina Islamic Center of Pennsylvania, which is in Hampden Township and were legal due to the distance at which they were being set off.

Mr. Homer asked if any Executive Member wished to be changed. There were no changes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Secretary questioned if the Council had selected a person to function as her successor, since she would not be there in July when the June minutes are presented to the Council and put into the books or uploaded online. Mr. Sheely was asked for his opinion. He responded a Council member may volunteer or be appointed at the next meeting to take the minutes and suggested the discussion be kept to a minimum to ease the undertaking. He added that a third-party entity may be engaged to take on the various responsibilities short-term if desired. Mr. Sheely reminded the Council that in his letter the previous month he had asked the Council to be much more articulate in their decisions noting that this Council has been very generous about getting into dialogue with members of the public in your discussion and decision-making period. Dialogues are very difficult to keep minutes of, and the President must be responsible for one person speaking at a time. Mrs. Krpata mentioned that Council was accused on social media of not allowing the public ample opportunity to speak. Mr. Sheely said that most of what he has relayed was taken from the Supreme Court decisions, and if the Council wishes to add an additional time for public comment near the end of the meeting, which was their option. He reiterated that for record keeping purposes, one person speak and dialogue be eliminated in consideration of the next person who will be responsible for the meeting minutes.

Mrs. Krpata made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM. With a second from Mrs. Harris, the motion was approved.

SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL,

Janna E. Colechio
Borough Secretary