

Sharpsville Borough Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at 1 S. Walnut Street, Sharpsville, PA.

Mayor Gill offered a brief prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Roll Call: Roll call showed the following present: Patty Cardwell, Kim Fryman, Chris Combine, Nick Hanahan, Bob Piccirilli and Len Grandy

Also present were: Solicitor, John Alfredo, Mayor, Mark Gill and Borough Manager/Secretary Ken Robertson

Absent was: Tom Patton

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Piccirilli and seconded by Councilwoman Cardwell to approve the minutes of the Workshop Meeting Minutes on December 9, 2024, Regular Session Meeting Minutes on December 11, 2024 and EMA Committee Minutes on December 18, 2024. Motion Passed.

Correspondence:

None.

Comments from the Audience:

Mitch McFeely- Vice President, Business Development Officer for NexTier Bank: He came to speak to Council in regards to NexTier Bank and wanted to showcase all that they have to offer.

Dr. Valeri Roth: She came to speak to Council in regards to Sharon Regional and to advise everyone how invaluable their services are at this hospital. Cardiology, cardiologists, psychiatric services for adults/adolescents, etc. She stated that these types of services along with many others as a valley we cannot do without. She had nothing negative to say about UPMC except that some of the above mentioned services cannot be replicated at UPMC. The quality of healthcare in the valley is a "goldmine" and we need to keep it.

Debbie Yeager: She is a resident of the Borough and has been an employee at Sharon Regional Hospital for 45 years. Her main focus was on the heart unit of Sharon Regional and explaining that in the time of a crisis, time is of the essence. If someone was to come in with heart issues they would immediately be taken into the catheter lab, now they will most likely go to UPMC Farrell and then have to be transferred to either Pittsburgh or Cleveland and even though they are great hospitals that time is too precious to be wasting.

Cathy Womer: She is a resident of the Borough along with being a business owner of Golden Caregivers. She spoke to everyone in attendance about the residents of Mercer County that she deals with who have to go to Sharon Regional for several reasons, heart issues, strokes, etc., and it being close because they have no family members or their family members cannot drive them to Pittsburgh or Cleveland.

Jared Grandy: He is a resident of the Borough along with being the EMA Coordinator for the Borough of Sharpsville. He wanted to speak about item J on our agenda for the evening and emphasize how important it is to support this proposed deal with Penn Northwest.

He went on to point out that we as a valley are in a public health crisis. Physicians are leaving the valley, the Sharon Regional Emergency Room is closed, doctor's offices are being affected by having to close their businesses, etc. In one way or another we are all being affected by Sharon Regional having to shut down. He urged Council that it is their responsibility to keep the residents safe and healthy and in order to do that they need to work with other municipalities, organizations, etc. to come to the rescue of Sharon Regional by approving the 3-Year Working Capital Participation Loan with Penn Northwest.

Rod Wilt, Executive Director of Penn Northwest Development Corporation, Mercer County's lead economic development agency. He provided some background information in regards to the hospital's closing along with the local efforts that are taking place to find a new owner.

Below is some information that he touched on throughout his conversation with Council.

- Sharon Regional had been a self-sustaining hospital until 2022.
- Meadville Medical Center was trying to buy the hospital but that deal fell apart.
- 19 pieces of property within the valley have been affected by this closing.
- Tenor Health, projected new owner, met with the Attorney General's office on 12/23/24 and told them that they would need to muster up support along with bringing equity to the situation and then they would be able to help.
- Currently Tenor Health has no hospitals under their supervision as of now.

- Penn Northwest extended their lending limit to \$350,000.00, Hermitage & Farrell are proposing \$250,000.00 each, \$500,000.00 from the Mercer County Commissioners, along with others throughout the valley that are projecting to be able to contribute some sort of funds.

Len Grandy questioned as to if we do approve a pledge amount, how will the money be used? Rod stated that the money would be used for payroll, utilities, supplies, etc. but that there would be a five (5) member board governing the hospital. This board would be making sure that the hospital is clean, patients are being cared for, meeting the standard requirements that are needed and the board would be made up of: two (2) representatives from Tenor and three (3) representatives appointed by the community.

Ken Robertson asked if there would be an agreement established for all contributing municipalities to sign. Rod stated that there would be a set of rules that would be drawn up by all of the solicitors for the community members and municipalities to agree upon.

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

New Business:

EADS Group Invoice #243807-2024 Retainer: A motion was made by Councilman Piccirilli and seconded by Councilman Fryman to authorize payment in the amount of \$10,718.25. Motion Passed.

Authorization for the Home Notice on Hall Avenue: A motion was made by Councilwoman Cardwell and seconded by Councilman Hanahan to authorize payment in the amount of \$52,472.00. Motion Passed.

Poncho's Tree Service Invoice #2503 A motion was made by Councilman Combine and seconded by Councilman Piccirilli to authorize the payment in the amount of \$900.00. Motion Passed.

Shenango Valley Animal Shelter Invoice #1181-1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2025: A motion was made by Councilman Fryman and seconded by Councilwoman Cardwell to authorize payment in the amount of \$2,686.75. Motion Passed.

Resignation of Part-Time Office Joshua Natale: A motion was made by Councilman Piccirilli and seconded by Councilman Hanahan to accept Joshua Natale's resignation from the Police Department. Motion Passed.

Waltz Invoice #1474-Annual Retainer and Procurement Policy Review A motion was made by Councilwoman Cardwell and seconded by Councilman Combine to authorize payment in the amount of \$880.00. Motion Passed. Councilman Hanahan abstained.

Authorization to sign the Assessment Agreement: A motion was made by Councilwoman Cardwell and seconded by Councilman Hanahan to authorize the Solicitor to sign the Assessment Agreement. Motion Passed.

Resolution #2123- Designing Thornton Run Flood Mitigation Project Stream: A motion was made by Councilman Combine and seconded by Councilman Piccirilli to read the resolution. The resolution was read by the Secretary. A motion was made by Councilman Combine and seconded by Councilwoman Cardwell to adopt Resolution #2123. Motion Passed.

Approval of EADS to do a Hydraulic Study of Thornton Run: A motion was made by Councilman Combine and seconded by Councilman Fryman to authorize EADS to conduct the study. Motion Passed.

Approval of a 3-Year Working Capital Participation Loan with Penn Northwest Being the Lead Lender: A motion was made by Councilwoman Cardwell to send it to the Finance Committee prior to any decision being made on how much the Borough can contribute. This motion did not receive a second. Motion Failed.

A motion was made by Councilman Hanahan and seconded by Councilman Fryman to approve a 3-Year Working Capital Participation Loan with Penn Northwest being the Lead Lender.

A roll call vote was taken:	Name	Yes	No
	Patty Cardwell		X
	Chris Combine	X	
	Kim Fryman	X	
	Len Grandy	X	
	Bob Piccirilli	X	
	Nick Hanahan	X	Motion Passed.

The Finance Committee will schedule a meeting to discuss how much we will be able to contribute.

Rescheduling the February 2025 Workshop & Council Meetings: A motion was made by Councilman Piccirilli and seconded by Councilwoman Cardwell to combine the workshop meeting and the regular council meeting into one meeting. The new meeting day is Wednesday, February 5, 2025. Motion Passed.

Council Comments:

Kim Fryman: Thanked Rod Wilt for coming in and providing them with pertinent information regarding Sharon Regional and how the community can help.

Nick Hanahan: Thanked Rod Wilt for coming in to speak with Council along with all of the other guests that spoke in support of Sharon Regional, Jared Grandy, Dr. Valeri Roth, Debbie Yeager and Cathy Womer.

Patty Cardwell: Thanked everyone in attendance for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor, Mark Gill: Thanked everyone in attendance for coming in.

Borough Manager/Secretary, Ken Robertson: He extended his condolences to Bob Piccirilli for the loss of his mother.

Approval of Payrolls: A motion was made by Councilman Combine and seconded by Councilwoman Cardwell to approve the payroll of December 12, 2024 from the following accounts, in the following amounts:

General	\$	39,497.85	
Water		18,726.82	
Sewer		6,312.60	
Health & Sani		<u>1,518.58</u>	
Total	\$	<b>66,055.85</b>	Motion Passed.

Approval of Payrolls: A motion was made by Councilman Combine and seconded by Councilman Fryman to approve the payroll of December 26, 2043 from the following accounts, in the following amounts:

General	\$	39,784.65	
Water		11,581.28	
Sewer		5,904.32	
Health & Sani		<u>1,999.86</u>	
Total	\$	<b>59,270.11</b>	Motion Passed.

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

General	\$	13,740.72	
Water		718.04	
Sewer		708.85	
Fire		308.03	
Highway Aid		134.00	
Street Lighting		2,952.19	
Health/Sanitation		<u>159.00</u>	
Total	\$	<b>18,720.83</b>	Motion Passed.

An Executive Session was called at 8:33 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Fryman and seconded by Councilwoman Cardwell to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed.

  
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