

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 27, 2012

6:15 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable David L. Persing, Mayor presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

David L. Persing, Mayor

Todd E. Snyder, Director of Accounts and Finance

James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Lisa Martina, City Controller

Stephen A. Mazzeo, Chief of Police

Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer

Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer and Fire Chief

Officer Steve Bennick, Sunbury Police Department

Cheryl E. Delsite, Adm. Asst

### **202 WASHINGTON AVE.**

Mayor Persing informed council that times and dates are being coordinated with Steinbacher's for the demolition of this property and the building of the new house. The mayor hopes to have drawings for the next meeting.

Michael Rhoads mentioned the fire department will be doing some training at the Washington Avenue property later this week. The neighbors have been informed.

### **CODE SOFTWARE**

Councilman Snyder informed council that two different software options were evaluated by the Code Office. One by Iworks and the other is by Harris that would integrate in to our current software system. Mr. Snyder was under the assumption that one of the programs was already being use by the office but as it turns out is not the case. Mr. Snyder was informed by Joe Bartello today via an email that Councilman Bartello is implementing the Iworks software and the Code Office personnel have begun training on it.

Mr. Snyder noted the Harris solution is more expensive of the two options. The Iworks is a web based program and will cost about \$2,800 a year for licensing fees. It was not clear if there would be additional training cost. There would be additional personnel costs because of the extra steps necessary to transfer and monitor the data being moved from one system to another. The Harris program to purchase and to integrate in to our existing software package would cost about \$22,000 this year and another \$14,000 next year. He noted while the Harris program would be more expensive but from an audit standpoint it would put everything in one system.

Mr. Snyder decided to re open this discussion because he was not aware until today that anything was in the works. He wants to make sure that the correct decision is made concerning the software package for the code office. His concern is that the software works well for the in office as well as the field work and a system that will tie into the city's current software. He noted the web based Iworks would work but it will require extra steps like exporting the information in to Excel and then importing that information into the current system. The imported information would then have to be checked to make sure it is correct and everything was carried over.

Mr. Snyder believes from a cost standpoint it may be more to purchase the Harris system but it would save man power/hours in the transferring of information and the auditing of

the information to make sure the information is correct. Mr. Snyder asked Mr. Rhoads for his thoughts on the programs.

Mr. Rhoads stated that anything the Code Office gets is better than what they have now. He said it does make sense to have a program that is supported by what the city has in place. The Harris system will not only support the Code Office but it could be used by the Police and Fire Departments. There are more features on the Harris system than Iworks.

Mayor Persing expressed concerned over the cost difference. Mr. Snyder explained that the Harris costs were once and done while the Iworks fees would be ongoing yearly fee and could be increased at anytime. He also noted more personnel time would have to be dedicated to converting the Iworks files to the Harris system. Each file that is transferred would have to be manually transferred and checked to make sure everything is correct. This work would have to done on a regular basis whether it is daily, weekly or monthly. And if the information is not correct there would be a process to correct it. Since the city already is using Harris the additional steps would not be required. He doesn't want to cause any more work for the Treasurer's office and City Clerk's Office

Mr. Eister asked where the funds would be coming from to pay for the system. Mr. Snyder said it would be split between the 2012 and 2013. He would use some of the fiber optic funds and adjusting the Treasurer's office budget for this year and then budget the balance for 2013. If the decision was his, Mr. Snyder would go with the Harris package.

Mr. Rhoads mentioned there are several people trained on the Harris system and could help if problems would arise. But with the Iworks system, only those in the code office would have the training. He also mentioned that Linda Danley has already begun her training on the system and he and Joe Swope would begin their training later this week. If council is considering not purchasing the Iworks program should they continue with their training?

Mr. Snyder said the training is part of their sales process and is not costing the city anything. Mayor Persing said to inform Iworks that a final decision will be made about this purchase at the next council meeting in September and let them decide if they want to move forward with the training.

Councilman Snyder is not interested in intruding on Councilman Bartello's department but he wants to make sure the software that is purchased has the ability to properly track all the necessary information for the reports - council needs to make decisions. Councilman Eister commented that he is relying on Mr. Snyder's computer expertise to make the right decision for city.

Councilman Bartello will be notified that a decision will be made at the next council meeting.

### **FIXED RATE GENERATION COSTS FOR ELECTRIC**

Mayor Persing announced the city has been looking at the electric generation cost and locking in a price. To date, nine companies have bid on it. Constellation is our current carrier.

The mayor made a motion to accept Constellation's bid for the 49 month term. Council man Eister seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

### **ALEXANDER DEALERSHIP REMODEL PROJECT**

Councilman Eister explained the dealership will be doing a major renovation of their showroom building. They are requesting permission to remove a tree that is directly in front of the doors. In return Mr. Alexander will replace the tree at another location. Councilman Eister made the motion to allow Alexander's to remove one tree and replace it with one or two trees at another site for their remodeling project. Mayor Persing seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Persing thanked Mr. Alexander for making the investment in the City of Sunbury. He also assured Mr. Alexander the city will work with them during this project.

### **SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION TO CLOSE STREET FOR FIREMAN'S MEMORIAL SERVICE**

The Sunbury Fire Department has scheduled their memorial service for October 14<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Eister made a motion to prepare and submit the necessary paperwork to the state to close Market Street for the service. The motion was seconded by Councilman Snyder and the motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES**

Councilman Snyder mentioned that council members should have received up to date reports on where their department budgets stand. The budget process will be beginning very shortly and they should be receiving their budget worksheets shortly.

Mr. Snyder reminded the council members to put the brakes on spending as much as possible until the end of the year. Mr. Eister informed Mr. Snyder that he will be replacing some furnaces for cost savings. He also mentioned several companies have done energy audits on the police department and the ice rink for lighting.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to pay the invoices of \$70,041.79 from the General Fund and \$1781.71 from the Liquid Fuel account. Mr. Eister seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Gordon Lamb would like to know if the city is considering enacting a cat ordinance like the Borough of Northumberland. Mayor Persing responded the city has no way to enforce such an ordinance without hiring someone. The mayor noted once the cats are caught, you have to take care of them. He believes this is not cost effective. He is interested in how Northumberland will handle their ordinance and the costs associated with it. He wishes them the best with it.

Mr. Lamb noted there is a problem with cats at his step daughter's home on Walnut Street. There is a neighbor who feeds the cats every night and there is cat fecal matter everywhere. Mr. Lamb also noted the person is dumping used cat litter in the alley. He would like to know if is something could be done through the ordinances. Mayor Persing said the person would be responsible for cleaning up after animals the person would own. Mike Rhoads asked for the address of this property so he could investigate Mr. Lamb's complaints. Mr. Lamb informed him that the address is 459 South Awl Street. Mr. Rhoads will look into the situation.

An unidentified gentleman in the back of the room had several questions concerning the software programs. He questioned who would be using the software and if the city would have to pay more for each license if it is used on more than one machine. Mr. Snyder responded that the Iworks would be strictly for the Code Office. It would not be useable by the Police or the Fire Departments as it stands. Mr. Rhoads interjected that Mr. Bartello is having a section developed for the Police Department but Mr. Rhoads is not aware of any additional costs. Mayor Persing noted he was not aware of this action as Mr. Bartello did not mention it to Mayor Persing.

Mr. Snyder noted since he has not seen any agreement or cost associated with this project he is not sure what Iworks would be requiring for payment or server space. The unidentified gentleman wanted to know if the city would be renting the Iworks but if they went with the Harris system would they own it.

This gentleman is a retired state employee and noted from personal experience with state how the state spent money on a rental system like the Iworks but still had to incorporate their old system to get it to work properly. He believes it is much better to own the

system with a one time fee rather than rent it. He noted Iworks could increase their fees annually.

Mr. Dale Henry asked Mr. Snyder which system he has seen. Mr. Snyder responded that he has seen more of the Harris system than the Iworks. But he noted that Mr. Bartello, Mr. Rhoads, Mr. Swope, Brenda Fogelman and Terry Specht have looked at both systems. (Mr. Bartello walked Ms. Fogelman through the Iworks.) Mr. Snyder is relying on the recommendations of Ms. Fogelman and Ms. Specht because they will be involved the most with the day to day data activity. Both of them have recommended the Harris system. From an auditing stand point, Mr. Snyder would like to keep everything consistent with the Harris system.

Mr. Henry questioned the difference in price between the Iworks and Harris. Mr. Snyder explained the Iworks is a template based system that a lot different companies are using the exact same set up. The Harris system is custom built to the company that is buying it which is why you pay more and it can be integrated with the city's current financial system.

Mr. Henry noted with a template based program, the city would be stuck with what they provide. It could not be customized to suit the needs of the Code Office.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Eister reviewed the list of sponsors of the River Front Dedication luncheon. He would like to publicly thank all the businesses who donated to the event and all the city employees that were involved.

Mayor Persing also thanked the River Festival volunteers for their efforts. He recommends that everyone check out the cardboard boat regatta next year.

Mayor Persing is looking forward to more events along the River Front.

Mayor Persing commented to the person who screwed a yard sale sign into a tree in the middle of Cameron Park that it will not happen again or the police department will be visiting your residence. There is a city ordinance against posting signs on poles and trees.

Mayor Persing noted that PA DOT is looking into the accidents that were on the Veteran Bridge to see if they can find a solution to traffic problems.

Mayor Persing informed council members he would like to have a first vote on the police contact at the next meeting on September 10, 2012.

Mayor Persing informed those in attendance that the next Music in the Park would be August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm with Dawson performing. September 4<sup>th</sup> will be Cat Herman; September 11<sup>th</sup> will be Jim the Singing Mailman; September 18<sup>th</sup> will be Smooth Country. All the performances will be at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl E. Delsite  
Administrative Assistant