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
Joseph J. Bartello, III, Director of Public Safety
Kevin E. Troup, Director of Public Works** **by telephone**
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer
Steve Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Joe Swope, Code Supervisor
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were twenty-seven (27) members of the public present.

2013 CDBG

Ms. Jamie Shrawder introduced herself and discussed the 2013 CDBG program. The CDBG program was created by an act of congress in 1974. The funding comes from HUD to the state to entitlement communities. The purpose of the CDBG program is to assist municipalities with the opportunity to enhance the viability of non entitlement communities to fund projects that provide decent housing, a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities principally for low and moderate income persons. The estimated funds received in 2013 will be $300,000. The project review and selection will be held at the work session on 2-25-12 and the final public hearing will be March 25th with application approval at the same time. The Fair Housing Notice has been adopted by city council and is available for review in the city clerk’s office. Also, the Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan is in place. If anyone is displaced with a CDBG activity, housing for those individuals must be replaced. The Section 3 Preference Statement was provided by Ms. Shrawder. Ms. Shrawder provided a list of the 10 projects that have been submitted (see attached). Ms. Shrawder asked if there were other projects to add to the list and there were none. Ms. Regina Russell asked how to submit ideas for consideration. Ms. Shrawder said at the end of this meeting no more projects can be submitted. Ms. Russell also asked who is on the committee to approve the use of CDBG funds. Ms. Shrawder explained that city council members make the decision. Another question was where does the money come from and Ms. Shrawder said Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Ms. Shrawder asked if there are any questions about previously funded projects and there were none. Mr. Ed Quiggle asked if eminent domain was used to get possession of any of the blight properties and the answer is yes, sometimes it is. Ms. Julie Brosious asked how the demolition process went. Ms. Shrawder explained there is a process – an engineer is hired to create bid documents so all contractors are bidding on the same specs. They are going to try to have the city work force demo some of the properties if that is possible so engineers will not have to be hired and prevailing wages will not have to be paid. The city can hire expertise as city workers to do the work and the CDBG funds can pay for any rental equipment needed. Ms. Russell said she has seen properties with signs that say water shut-off and the signs have been there for a while and asked why they don’t come down. Ms. Shrawder said that would be a code issue. Councilman Bartello explained that is because the water has been turned off, the building isn’t necessarily condemned. The Municipal Authority tells the code office to post a sign on properties where the water is turned off. The FFY2012 Program Income Utilization has to be reallocated in the amount of $8,097.06. Ms. Shrawder recommended putting 30% to the clearing of blighted properties and the rest should be allocated to a 2013 project. That process will be discussed at the final public hearing. There being no further questions the CDBG public hearing was adjourned.

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mayor Persing said a meeting was held with some people from the north end of town and he thought it was a good meeting. He further explained that he asks people to come to the council meetings so they
hear the facts. He did want to straighten one issue out – Ms. Regina Russell passed out a flyer at the Municipal Authority meeting regarding Burn Pits – Trash and Human Waste Exposure. Mayor Persing said the indication at that meeting was that the City was in some way letting that come into the Moran site and he wants everyone to know that is not true. Ms. Russell said she wanted to bring attention to the pits that are out there and not necessarily accusing the City of permitting one. Mr. Gordon Lamb asked what is going on at the site. Mayor Persing answered nothing new is going on. At this time he is working with the Chamber of Commerce to bring business in. Clean Harbor is not doing anything because not much is happening at the drilling sites. There are no new applications or permits. Mr. Lamb also asked about a zoning application to rezone so pits can be put in. Mayor Persing no one has contacted him regarding DEP permits.

RELIEVE TAX COLLECTOR FROM COLLECTION 2012 TAXES

APPOINT DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR
Councilman Snyder moved to appoint Statewide Tax Recovery as the delinquent tax collector to collect the 2012 delinquent taxes. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

TURN DELINQUENT TAXES OVER TO DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR
Councilman Snyder moved to turn the delinquent 2012 taxes to Statewide Tax Recovery to begin the process of collecting the 2012 delinquent taxes. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

TURN DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES TO NORTH’D COUNTY TAX CLAIMS
Councilman Snyder moved to turn the delinquent 2012 property taxes over to Northumberland County Tax Claims. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

RIVERFRONT PROJECT
Councilman Eister moved to revise the match as passed April 26, 2010 to comply with the RDA-300 and amend the amount to $2,233 from $19,997. Second – Persing. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES
Councilman Snyder moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher’s payable report in the amount of $135,819.04 from the general fund and $4,536.55 from Liquid Fuels. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

PURCHASE OF VEHICLE
Councilman Eister distributed information about the 2001 used truck and a 2013 new truck to council members to make comparisons between the two. There is a $5,500 difference between the two trucks. Councilman Bartello said he is comparing a 2-wheel drive truck to a 4-wheel drive truck. Councilman Eister said the used truck is 12 years old with a 2-year paid warranty and the new truck has a 5-year warranty from the factory. Councilman Eister said he doesn’t understand why, with the difference of only $5,550 would you purchase a 12 year old truck instead of a new one. Councilman Bartello said it is to get into the places he needs to get into – a 2-wheel truck will be stuck everywhere he goes. It will be used to clean up properties and he doesn’t understand why you would purchase a new truck to throw garbage in it. Councilman Bartello asked why Councilman Eister was spending money in his department. Councilman Eister answered that Councilman Bartello didn’t even want a truck and the funding was put in his budget. Councilman Bartello asked why it was put in his budget – he would have put it in his budget if he wanted to buy a truck. Councilman Eister said that is not a problem they will switch the funding over. Councilman Eister then said the truck Councilman Bartello wanted to purchase was sold last week. Councilman Bartello said he would look for another one and he does not want a 2-wheel drive vehicle. Councilman Eister asked why he would waste taxpayer’s money. Councilman Eister asked Councilman Snyder to look at the numbers and give his opinion. Councilman Snyder said there is an additional $5,500 in cost and it is Councilman Bartello’s decision to make. As far as the transaction, it is off the table because the vehicle is sold (at this point the connection to Councilman Troup disconnected). Councilman Bartello said he would look for another vehicle. Councilman Snyder said if the used vehicle
Councilman Bartello was looking at is not available any more and there are CoStars vendors in Sunbury (Sunbury Motors and Zimmerman Motors) then it would be fair to get a price from each of them and get the best deal. It should be bid to all Sunbury based businesses. Mayor Persing said he would like to see something with less mileage on it. Councilman Bartello said he can’t see purchasing a new vehicle for $5,500 more for the taxpayer’s to pay.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Councilman Eister addressed Ms. Russell and said he has an email that she wrote to Councilman Bartello stating that he was purchasing properties with insider trader information. Ms. Russell said she did not think she accused him of anything but that he had information regarding properties that would be sold. Ms. Russell said he just purchased a property on N. 4th St. per the county assessor’s office and that she said he just recently changed the name the properties are being purchased in. Councilman Eister said he has not purchased a property on N. 4th St. and the other person’s name is his partner’s name.

Ms. Regina Russell said she was trying to make an example when pits are made they are not necessarily a burn pit – they could be covered with another type of coating that is just as toxic as if you were burning the trash in the pit.

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY LIBERTY ALLIANCE/ORDINANCE PROPOSAL

Mayor Persing said the information that was presented to council refers to the National Defense Authorization Act NDAA) of 2012 and is a US law specifying the entire budget and expenditures of the U. S. Department of Defense. Mayor Persing said he has not had a chance to look up Sections 1021, 1022, 1023. They are the Sections the organization is asking council to go against. Mr. Ed Quiggle explained in March of last year he signed a Resolution that sets the policy for his office that he will not cooperate with the enforcement of Sections 1021, 1022 or 1023 of the NDAA. There are links to the Sections in the Resolution he provided to council members. These Sections allow for the detention of any one without charge or trial by the US government. It is in violation of the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Amendment protections. He further stated that council members took an oath to the constitution that they will protect and defend it. It is not just a federal issue because a right to a trial by a jury of your peers goes back to before PA was part of the United States. The proposed ordinance says that no law enforcement department or employee or agent of the City will cooperate with the enforcement of the indefinite detention provision of the NDAA. He said the NDAA takes away constitutional rights and will be held under the Law of War. He said everyone should be alarmed by that. Council members should remember the oath they swore to uphold. The Sunbury Police Department should not cooperate with these provisions and neither should the county or constables in wards. There is support for this across the political spectrum to include ACLU, Oath Keepers and others. Mr. Quiggle said he has spoken to the top constitutional scholars in the country and this is not out of the blue. Cities across the country have already passed an ordinance or resolution to oppose and nullify the unconstitutional provisions. Elk and Fulton counties have passed similar legislation and so have many sheriffs’ departments. Mr. Quiggle said it is a dark day when elected officials are afraid to stand up for the right to trial by jury. Mr. Apfelbaum asked if city council passes this resolution/ordinance, what will happen different tomorrow. Mr. Quiggle answered if law enforcement and city employees cooperate with detaining someone with the military they would lose their position – it would be considered a violation of the oath of office and could face criminal charges. Mr. Apfelbaum asked Chief Mazzeo if the Sunbury Police Department is doing anything with the military and Chief Mazzeo answered no. Mr. Quiggle said this federal law is taking away constitutional rights. It would be preserving the right to trial by jury and he feels council members should stand up and uphold the oath. Mayor Persing asked if Sections 1021, 1022 and 1023 pertain to terrorism. Mr. Quiggle answered it pertains to indefinite detention provisions not just terrorists. He said they should not be afraid to pass a law that says they will uphold their oath and they will stand in defense of the Bill of Rights. Mayor Persing said they will keep this item on the agenda but they have to research it further. Mr. Bob Snyder said it is a part of the Patriot Act and Mr. Quiggle said the Patriot Act applies specifically to members of the Taliban. Mr. Snyder said it refers to any terrorist foreign or domestic, not the Taliban. Mr. Quiggle will give the links to the mayor so they can look this information up. Mr. Quiggle said Gilberton PA just passed an ordinance to nullify the gun laws. This is the same thing stating local government will not stand for unconstitutional laws and acts. Mr. Nick DePonte said he is with the PANDA Chapter in Williamsport. They are in the process with Lycoming County to nullify Sections 1021 and 1022 of the NDAA. The county solicitor has it right now. The solicitor gives an opinion of legality but it is not a decision to make up anyone’s mind. Mr. DePonte is sure this will pass and will interpose the sheriff and any dispute between the citizens and the military. Mr. DePonte said he took an oath, he is a veteran, and he takes the oath very seriously. Mr. David Dakota said this is a complicated issue and as a citizen he is
asking council members to get familiar with it because if someone is accused of suspicious activities, and you are then labeled as a potential problem, someone, either local or federal can just come and take you away. He said his grandfather is 95 years old and has always told him how lucky he is to live in the U. S. because that kind of stuff happens in places like Russia. The country is not set up to follow all the laws of the federal government. States have the most rights and local government is below that. Local government has a lot of power and he hopes council members will familiarize themselves with this.

Ms. Regina Russell said at the last meeting she asked council’s help with a property at 406 Walnut St. in Sunbury. It is owned by Councilman Eister. She said going back to the e-mail Councilman Eister mentioned the assessor’s office has another person’s name listed on the card under his name. She said that indicates it was either purchased by someone else or that is his partner. Councilman Eister answered it is his partner.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The brush pile will be closed until spring. If anyone has brush they can call 286-5761.

An alternate member is needed for the Zoning Hearing Board.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk