

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
February 23, 2015
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
John K. Shipman, Director of Accounts & Finance ***via telephone***
Richard L. Reichner, Director of Public Safety
Dale L. Henry, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Kevin Troup, City Treasurer
Lisa Martina, City Controller
Brad Hare, Chief of Police
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Michael Bordner, Public Works Supervisor
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were fifty two (52) visitors present.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Persing asked for public comment on agenda items and there were none.

SCULLIN OIL COMPANY/SUB-DIVISION FINAL APPROVAL

Mr. Mike Rhoads explained an application was received for a minor sub-division plan for Scullin Oil at their fueling station. They want to sub-divide the fueling station from their construction site. A storm water waiver has been submitted and previously approved by all concerned parties. Councilman Reichner explained when Mr. Scullin (the father) owned the business he had a lot of sub corporations that were leased. The sons are now trying to get all the companies business back to the way they should be. Councilman Reichner moved to approve the sub-division with no construction or expansion on site. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the invoices on the vouchers payable report totaling \$145,238.11 from the general fund and \$8,545.23 from the liquid fuels fund. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Mayor Persing explained there are 3 items to be discussed:

1. Grievance filed by the SPOA (police union) in regard to losing their 12 hour work shift to an 8 hour work shift. A meeting was held with SPOA members to hear their view of this topic and it was decided that the meeting is suspended until March 16th and a vote will be held on March 23rd. Before March 16th the mayor will look at other schedules to look for a compromise. A big issue is the number of days off on the 12 hour schedule.
2. An allegation was made from an employee at the 911 Center against a city police officer for the use of inappropriate language. The officer recognizes he should not have said what he did. There were interviews conducted and written statements were received. Mayor Persing said he discussed this with Commissioner Clausi to let him know the outcome. It has been agreed that the officer that was involved will have 1 week off without pay, a written reprimand in his personnel file, he is not allowed to enter the 911 facility unless mandated by

a supervisor relating to a specific case. The officer will also receive counseling. It is important to have a working relationship with the 911 Center.

3. An internal investigation was conducted in regard to allegations that a police officer was improperly behaving while working his assigned schedule. This is from a complaint received in the mayor's office against the officer. The findings as a result of the investigation were that the 2 parties were meeting on city time and having discussions that led to situations after working hours. There was no finding of proof that the 2 parties meeting on city time and having discussions led to anything other than the discussions. There were phone records available to look at to make this decision. Both parties agreed that meetings were arranged and the city patrol vehicle was used to make those meetings. At this time based on the facts, this officer will have 3 weeks off without pay, a written reprimand and no use of the city police vehicle to leave the city of Sunbury for any reason other than an emergency and mandated by a supervisor.

Mayor Persing explained these allegations have been taken seriously and if a time comes about that other facts come out about this situation, it will be handled. The city has been getting a lot of negative publicity in regard to these matters. The 2 officers clearly made mistakes and should know better. At this time, everything that can be discussed is a matter of public record. Ms. Roberta Rosancrans said she has seen this officer, on New Year's Eve, and out of nowhere he came up Route 147 with lights on in a cruiser, passing all the traffic to come back into town. She would like to know how that is allowed. Mayor Persing said he wasn't there and does not know, perhaps the officer was going to a life threatening call. He does not even know what officer that was. If anyone has a complaint, his office is open. Ms. Rosancrans asked why the state police did not do the investigation instead of their own officers. Mayor Persing said the information is there and a different decision could not be made. If there was more information perhaps the state police would have been brought in. Ms. Rosancrans said if other things are brought to the mayor, would it be looked at and he answered yes if there is proof.

N. 4TH ST. ADDRESSES

Councilman Henry introduced Eric, the 911 addressing coordinator and Keith their GIS specialist. Keith approached Councilman Henry when he noticed some addresses were not correct in the city in the area of Court St, Shamokin St and N. 4th St. Eric said some of the addresses are off, including some of the odds and evens on the same side of the street. He would like council members to look at them to see if the proposed changes look alright to council. General discussion was held in regard to some of the addresses. Councilman Henry said if someone calls in with an invalid address it will not register in the 911 system so responders would have to rely on the dispatcher's knowledge of the area which in some cases may not happen depending on the dispatcher and where they are from. Councilman Henry said with council's permission he would like to work on this project with the county and he would bring the information to council as available. Mayor Persing said that would work. Councilman Eister asked if they would be able to get maps of areas of the city in the future and the answer was yes, they can make maps for the city. Mr. Rhoads asked for the information to be imparted to the code office and Councilman Troup said the treasurer's office would need the information as well.

LANDLORD MEETING RECAP

Councilman Reichner said the meeting went well with approximately 60 people in attendance. There may be other meeting scheduled later in the year or early next year.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Ms. Becky Enders said there is an alley where Court St. comes from 11th St and meets Market St. The small alley before Market St. does not have a name or a stop sign. Chief Hare and Mr. Bordner will look into this area and see what can be done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk