

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
July 24, 2017
6:15 pm

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

David L. Persing, Mayor
Elizabeth R. Kremer, Director of Accounts and Finance
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:

Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor
Timothy Miller, Police Chief
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Russ Wertz, Fire Chief
Ken Long, Asst. Public Works Supervisor
Terry Specht, City Clerk

Visitors: 32

A moment of silent reflection was held after the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

Joan Norris: Is council going to discuss the closing of Race St. tonight? Mayor Persing stated Race St. is not on the closure list.

2016 FFY CDBG ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT

Mayor Persing explained the 2016 Administrative Services Agreement was voted on in June 2016. The amount was \$49,130 however in the documents that were sent to the city from SEDA-COG there was a clerical error which read \$40,130. Mayor Persing moved to amend the grant budget to the previously approved amount of \$49,130. The additional funds would come from Program Income to be reallocated (\$3,994.75), a small surplus (\$2,500) remaining in the completed Fire Hose Purchase project and a small reduction in the Chestnut St project line item (\$2,505.25). Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

CHESTNUT ST. UPDATE

Councilman Eister stated the project is on schedule. The contractors are almost to Awl St. From 5th St. east all the laterals are in and they are getting ready to pave. The rain does hold the project up.

Councilman Eister moved to pay the contractor, G & R Charles, the amount of \$71,991.20 for Invoice 1. The funding source will be a grant. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

Councilman Eister moved to pay CES Engineering in the amount of \$27,379.00 for 7 invoices. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

1ST READING/CHAPTER 166 VEHICLES INOPERABLE AND CHAPTER 163 PARKING OF OVER-SIZE VEHICLES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Ms. Kula explained the proposed revisions to Chapter 166 (see attached) includes updates to definitions aligning the ordinance to the PA Vehicle Code, which is a goal for many of the ordinance updates. It references parking inoperable vehicles on public streets as well as on private property being prohibited. Councilman Reichner moved to accept the changes on a 1st reading. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote. Ms. Kula further explained that Chapter 163 (see attached) includes updates

to definitions aligning the ordinance to the PA Vehicle Code and deals with over-size vehicles. Also, R-3 was removed from the ordinance because there is no R-3 zoning in Sunbury – it was changed to NB or Neighborhood Business. The commercial vehicle is defined as a vehicle with a registered gross weight exceeding 11,000 lbs. or an overall width exceeding 8’ or overall height exceeding 8’ or overall length exceeding 20’. This definition is from the original ordinance but stated clearly in Chapter 163. Councilman Reichner moved to pass these ordinance changes on a 1st reading. Second - Eister. Unanimous vote.

PUBLIC NUISANCE PROPERTIES

Ms. Kula said 131 N. River Ave. is a Redevelopment Authority public nuisance. This property has received numerous citations, warnings and correspondence from the City of Sunbury code office for unsanitary conditions, failure to maintain the exterior of the structure, the water has been turned off, the property has been declared unfit for human occupancy, and the property has been vacant for more than 3 years. Councilman Reichner moved to pass the Resolution declaring this property a public nuisance. Second- Henry. Unanimous vote. Ms. Kula also said 314-316-318-320 S. 10th St. is a city nuisance project. The tenants are mostly the problem with receiving numerous citations, warnings, and correspondence from the code office for unsanitary conditions, failure to maintain the pool and exterior structure and multiple complaints by neighbors to the code office and the police department. Councilman Reichner moved to pass the Resolution declaring this property a public nuisance. Second - Eister. –Unanimous vote. The property owners will have 30 days to bring the properties to compliance and if they don’t the next step will be taken.

INVOICE REPAIR/MILLER INVESTIGATION

Councilman Eister moved to pay the invoice in the amount of \$13,609.91 to McNeal Steel, LLC for repairing the damages made to the home in Milton involved in the Miller investigation. A release will be drafted for the owner of the property to sign when they are satisfied with the repairs. Chief Miller said the property owner was very helpful and consented to everything that was done. He too would like to see closure for the family of Barbara Miller. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher’s payable report in the amount of \$65,390.19 from the General Fund and \$891.59 from the Liquid Fuels fund. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Regina Russell: Read a statement apologizing for her behavior at the June 26th council meeting – “I firmly believe every citizen has the right to appeal to government for redress. At the same time I am also very aware of the power of words to harm people and relationships. I am sorry for the words I used to express my frustration at the June 26th Sunbury city council meeting which I attended in the hopes that the city council would respond to my concerns. I apologize to all in attendance and to all who may have been alarmed by my comments. Going forward I pledge to do my best to use appropriate language to communicate my concerns and if necessary my frustrations. I especially want to apologize to 1337 Holdings LLC because the information provided to me when I went to the court house told me they were the owners of the property at 355 S. 4th St. the bike shop that I have been complaining about. I now know from the code office records that the homeowner does not own the bicycle shop. So thank you elected officials for allowing me to finish my apology.” Councilwoman Kremer told Ms. Russell she appreciates her apology.

Rudy Frazier: A pole was hit on Race St. by the street cleaner and it is about to break. PPL said it is a Verizon pole. Verizon will not replace a pole unless it is completely down. He is worried it will hurt someone if it falls. Councilman Henry said he would check it but the street sweeper has no damage so it could not have been hit by the street sweeper. It is near 345 Race St.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Reichner thanked Kenny Long, Craig Long, Mike Rhoads, Russ Wertz, Eric Long and Roy Douglas for their quick response to the collapsed building on S. Awl St. today in the rain storm.

Music in the Park continues on Tuesdays in Cameron Park from 7-8:30.

The city band will perform on Monday July 31st.

Movies on the River with the theme “Christmas in July” will be held Tuesday July 25th.

National Night Out is Tuesday August 1st from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk