

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
October 24, 2011
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
Joseph J. Bartello, III, Director of Public Safety
Kevin E. Troup, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Joseph Swope, Code Supervisor
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were eighteen (18) visitors present.

An executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

HARB APPROVAL

Councilman Bartello moved to approve a metal roof replacement over shingles at 216 Arch St. owned by Scott Adams. Mayor Persing asked why a metal roof on Arch St. The HARB recommended the approval to council. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Snyder moved to pay the invoices listed on the vouchers payable report in the amount of \$98,631.31 from the general fund as funds are available. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. David Whipple told Councilman Eister there are 9 street lights out on Front St.

Ms. Carmen Campbell asked if there were further plans for a New Year's Eve celebration at 4th and Market St. Councilman Eister said yes it is still being planned on a small scale since it is so late for planning an event. There will be a "light bulb" drop or raise at midnight.

Mr. Donald Heilig said he lives at 630 N 7th St. and wants to find out how to make a complaint about a police officer in Sunbury. He said he has mentally handicapped people living in his house. He wants to purchase a house that may come up for sale by the City to house more handicapped individuals. He stated he has heard he is under investigation but he is completely innocent. After more general comments from Mr. Heilig Mayor Persing told him to put his complaint in writing and bring it to the office for his review.

YODER PROPERTY ON MEMORIAL DRIVE

Mayor Persing said in 1985 council passed a Resolution regarding this property in which Mr. Yoder addressed council and stated "the development of the land must be developed within 1 year of the date of acceptance by council or July 17, 1987." In 2011, Mr. Yoder has requested a Zoning Hearing to seek a variance to put a mobile home park in that area. He purchased the property for \$12,500. Mayor Persing made a motion to seek council approval for him to speak on behalf of council at the Zoning Hearing. Councilman Eister asked Mr. Apfelbaum if he did not adhere to the development timeline, would he lose the property and Mr. Apfelbaum said no, it is not clear. The zoning at this time for Memorial Drive is R-2. Councilman Snyder asked if the minutes were clear as to council's wishes at that time. Mr. Apfelbaum answered that it is not clear and that is part of the problem. Councilman Snyder also said it sounds like the development plan was to develop homes like the 2 that are in that area now, not a mobile home park. Councilman Bartello asked if there were deed restrictions on the property and Mr. Apfelbaum answered no the only restriction is what the zoning covers. Councilman Bartello also asked if zoning permits that usage and Mr. Apfelbaum said he did not want to answer that question because he has not researched it. Mr. Apfelbaum said under Article 175-36 of the *Code of the City of Sunbury*, a special exception use for R-2 is F- Mobile Home Parks but only if it is residential in

character or in keeping with the character of the neighborhood in which it is located. Other special exceptions are group dwellings, mortuaries and undertaking establishments, lodges and other fraternal organizations, professional offices, minor auto garages and home occupations. A mobile home park is not in keeping with the character of the neighborhood. Mr. Scott Johnson asked if HARB would be involved in the decision making and Mr. Apfelbaum answered that they wouldn't because there is a specific historic district that their expertise is restricted to. Second – Eister. Yes – Troup, Eister, Persing, Snyder. No – Bartello. Motion carried.

TASTE OF SUNBURY

Mayor Persing announced that November 1- 12 has been designated as “A Taste of Sunbury” in the City. Mayor urged everyone to visit a restaurant in Sunbury that they have not tried before instead of going across the river to eat. Restaurants will be listed in the fall newsletter.

BUDGET MEETINGS

Budget meetings are scheduled for Nov 7th and 21st and Dec. 5th if needed at 6 pm in the 1st floor meeting room.

OPG BALL FIELD

Mayor Persing explained that Councilman Bartello sent him a note regarding the OPG ball field and people letting their dogs use the field and not clean up after them. Locks will be put on the gates of the OPG ball field. The police have been told that if they see anyone with dogs on any fields to fine them immediately. There are signs at all the fields saying no pets allowed.

SIGNS/PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission wrote a letter to council members regarding signage for area businesses. They are requesting that if a sign does not change in size, that it not have to go before the Planning Commission. The zoning officer should use his judgment to grant approval. This change will help business owners because it will take much less time for a decision to be made. Any projects that are not staying within the original frame parameter would still go before the Planning Commission. Councilman Bartello moved to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission that all signage issues will be the responsibility of the code office unless there is a special exception which will go to the Planning Commission when an advisory opinion is needed. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

CENTRAL PARK

Mayor Persing announced a kick-off dedication ceremony on Thursday October 27th at Central Park. The Self-advocates of North'd County are installing raised beds to grow flowers and vegetables which will be designed for wheelchair bound people and will be used beginning in the spring of 2012. Mayor Persing showed a picture of the raised beds. Some of them are already installed. This project was started by Brian Habermehl and Ben Apfelbaum.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk