

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
November 12, 2018
6:15 pm

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

Kurt Karlovich, Mayor
Elizabeth R. Kremer, Director of Accounts and Finance
Richard L. Reichner, Director of Public Safety
Christopher Reis, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Kevin Troup, City Treasurer
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Bradley Hare, Officer in Charge/Police Department
Paul Brown, Fire Chief
Terry Specht, City Clerk

Visitors present: 36

A moment of silent reflection was held prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Executive session was held Nov. 12th prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

Mayor Karlovich thanked all current and prior veterans on this Veteran's Day 2019.

Mayor Karlovich temporarily adjourned the meeting.

2018 CDBG COMPETITIVE GRANT FINAL PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Linda Sterling, Sunbury's CDBG Coordinator through SEDA-COG, stated this is the final hearing for the competitive grant for funding from the federal and state government to mitigate flooding on Reagan St. Council will be considering a motion to pass a Resolution requesting up to \$1,000,000 in CDBG Competitive funding. The city gets entitlement funding annually. 30% of the state budget for CDBG funding is set aside for large, urgent projects that municipalities cannot take care of on their own. It is a little harder to get these funds. Ms. Sterling said the problem to be corrected with this funding is when Sunbury receives rain in excess of 2" an hour which is not a lot, the existing 15" combined storm water/sewer line that runs along Reagan St. becomes inundated. The storm water backflows up through the storm drains and causes mild to severe flooding. The pump station can handle the flow once it gets there. The flooding creates delays for emergency responders, dangerous driving conditions and sanitary hazards for the city. The solution they are seeking to fund with this application is replacing the 15" line with a 48" line that will move storm water from 4th St. to the pump station. Once the project is complete the existing line will continue to be used for sewer purposes. The entire street will be paved and curbing and sidewalk will be replaced. Penn DOT has agreed to wait until after the project is complete to pave Reagan St. (originally on their plan to pave in 2019) so that is a savings to the project in the amount of approximately \$285,000. The estimated costs for demolition of the line and work described is just under \$2,000,000. Currently, 2019 CDBG funding in the amount of \$230,000, the competitive up to \$1,000,000 (will be funded dependent on how many applications come in and how the state perceives this project) and an application is in for Keystone Communities funding in the amount of \$400,000. The city has received word a grant in the amount of \$200,000 from flood mitigation funds has been awarded and the Sunbury Municipal Authority will be providing at least \$250,000 to get the work done. Of the \$1,000,000 in competitive grant funds being requested, \$930,000 will go the project costs, \$69,500 will be the contract amount entered into with SEDA-COG for administration of the funding. Ms. Sterling stated that letters of support are needed and extremely important for a grant application of this type. The application is due by the end of December but Ms. Sterling would like to have the application complete by the end of November. The Resolution gives Mayor

Karlovich the authorization to sign on behalf of the city and have Ms. Sterling complete and submit the grant application. In the event the grant is not awarded, there will be no charge to the city. Administrative funds are only taken by SEDA-COG if the grant application is approved. Ms. Sterling asked for public comment on the competitive grant:

Julie Brosius: Is it a 48” line from 4th St. to Front St.? Ms. Sterling said yes, from 4th St. to the pump station at Front St. Ms. Brosius said the city is on a slope and that area is a higher plane – by the recycling center is the lower area. Some areas have been paved that does not help the flooding situation. The 48” line will help to alleviate some of the Caketown problems. Ms. Sterling said she trusts the city engineer to adequately determine the diameter of the pipe to resolve the issue. Ms. Brosius asked if UPMC had any input in this. She said since July they have been getting their trauma certifications. Ms. Sterling answered they haven’t had any input but she is reaching out to them for a letter of support for the project.

Alan Bubb: How much oversight will the city have as far as the contractors scheduling work and blocking streets because the work on N. 4th St. was miserable? People should know in advance to avoid the areas. Councilman Eister answered that N. 4th St. is a Penn DOT project with the gas company and the city had no input in what they did. Reagan St. will be shut down for months because the line will be down 18’ to pick up the pump station on Front St. It is a major undertaking. The infrastructure was in place prior to the pump station on Front St. The pumps are massive and can handle the flow but the water just does not reach the pumps. There will also be a major line going up Susquehanna Ave. in another phase of the project. There will be public meetings to explain this to all citizens.

Julie Brosius: Is the city responsible for this project even though the Municipal Authority takes care of the water? Is there a consideration on N. 2nd St. to resolve the issue of silt and dirt going in the drains? She said that is a hazard as well. Councilman Eister said the old gut is in better shape than expected and it has been vacuumed out recently. There is an area to catch silt and they are considering building 2 areas to capture the silt to keep it out of the sewer plant and the river. In about 2022 another catch basin line will be built and provisions in the catch basin to catch the sediment before it gets in the lines.

Stephanie Sterner: Will there be other road construction at the same time as the Reagan St. project? Councilman Reis answered yes. It depends on when all the funding is allocated. Penn DOT is going to pave N. 4th St. in 2019 from Market St. to Shikellamy Ave. UGI said their projects are complete except paving. Councilman Eister also said the N. 4th St. and Arch St. intersection will be totally rebuilt in 2019. The light standards for the traffic signals take 6 months once ordered. Ms. Sterling said the funding for the Reagan St. project will not be available until about the end of summer 2019. The timing is determined by the funding.

Mayor Karlovich reopened the city council meeting.

RESOLUTION/AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF 2019 CDBG COMPETITIVE GRANT

Mayor Karlovich moved to accept the Resolution authorizing the submission of the application to PA DCED for FFY 2018 under the CDBG Competitive Program and authorizing the Mayor to sign all documents. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Karlovich presented a proclamation to Steve and Connie Lenig, coordinators and Becky Enders, floor ministry and picking up food items and Rev. Lisa Crouse, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Elijah’s Bowl Community Soup Kitchen (see attached). Ms. Lenig said the soup kitchen began on January 26, 1991 for the purpose of glorifying God and to love their neighbors. It grew out of a leader’s vision in hearing there was hunger in Sunbury. They are a mission of the First Presbyterian Church Sunbury and are overseen by the board of this church. They are entirely volunteer from the board to the coordinators and individuals who serve. A meal is served every Saturday from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. As of November 10, 2018, they have served 116,172 meals. In addition to the meals, day old bread and pastries donated by local grocery stores and restaurants and a bag of canned goods donated by churches and city groups are offered to each individual. All are welcome at Elijah’s Bowl to enjoy fellowship and a nutritious meal. No questions are asked and there are no forms to complete. Guests are single moms, families, elderly, single men and homeless. Everyone is welcomed into the Elijah’s Bowl Family. Volunteers come from churches, civil organizations, youth groups and individuals. Each group has a coordinator that recruits 12 individuals that serve on their Saturday. Setting up the dining room, cooking, bagging groceries and

serving the meal and cleaning up are their duties. Monetary donations and canned goods come from the same churches. Civic groups, foundations, individuals and an occasional grant offer the funding. The pantry has never been empty in 28 years. Many in the city cry out for help, asking for food for a friend and someone to care. With the generous help of the community and the First Presbyterian Church, God answers their cries for help. It has been a privilege for all of the founders to serve alongside such an incredible, caring giving community. Councilman Karlovich moved to accept the proclamation for the minutes. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The Minutes of 9/24/18, 9/26/18, 10/8/18 and 10/22/18 and available departmental reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Controller, Health Dept. (quarterly), Fire Dept., City Engineer, Code Office, Park and Recreation Department, Park and Recreation Board, Public Works Dept., Planning Commission, Redevelopment Authority (bi-monthly) and Police Pension Board (quarterly) are in the City Clerk's office for review. Motion to accept - Karlovich. Second –Reis. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at sunburypa.org.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

Alan Bubb: The vacant properties should be registered by square footage. Fees should be based on square footage.

Regina Russell: Why is the controller not in attendance at council meetings, especially as problems concerning the budget have been discussed most of the year? The controller is an elected position and that person is supposed to be responsible for financial statements, general ledger and payables/receivables. No one is mentioning the controller. She should be held accountable and answering questions to the public. Councilwoman Kremer said the issues have been discussed with the controller.

CHESTNUT ST. PROJECT

Councilman Eister announced paving would begin as soon as the prep work is complete, with the cooperation of the weather. There will be restricted parking on Chestnut St. during day time hours until the paving is complete.

2019 BUDGET/1ST READING ORD. #1285

Councilwoman Kremer said council and Mr. Troup worked diligently to present a balanced budget with no tax increase for 2019. 5 police officers will be hired on a staggered basis. Councilman Eister moved to pass the 2019 Budget on a 1st reading. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

2019 TAX LEVY ORDINANCE #1286/1ST READING

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pass on a 1st reading, the 2019 Tax Levy ordinance with no tax increase. Second – Karlovich. Unanimous vote.

WINTER TRAFFIC MAINTENANCE SERVICES AGREEMENT/PENN DOT

Councilman Reis moved to pass the Winter Traffic Maintenance Services Agreement with Penn DOT which requires the city to maintain a portion of Catawissa Ave. for a fee as agreed upon. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$31,330.14 from the General Fund and \$14,697.65 from Liquid Fuels. Second – Karlovich. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pass the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Karlovich. Unanimous vote.

FREE PARKING ON CITY STREETS

Mayor Karlovich moved to provide free parking on Market St. and all metered streets (not to include municipal parking lots) from Thursday November 22nd through January 1st. Second – Reis. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Alan Bubb: Bimbo trucks are using N. 2nd St. and Edison Ave. Mr. Bubb feels it is very dangerous to be on residential streets. The tractors park at the old door company property. There is a gate there and all they have to do is go directly into their property. They are not using the gate. There is a piece of concrete barrier there blocking the way. Council should take a look at that and get the gate open so they can get on their property.

Regina Russell: Thanked the council for resolving the budget issue. Also, she asked Councilwoman Kremer for a year to date total of the tax exonerations approved in 2018. Councilwoman Kremer said she would do that beginning in January. She has not kept a running total for 2018.

Julie Brosius: Is there an update on the camera debacle? Mayor Karlovich answered no. The city has not received any updated information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Street sweeping will continue through November 30, 2018.

Christmas decorating will begin November 13th. Santa parade is Friday, November 23rd at 6:30 pm.

The next city council meeting will be held on November 26, 2018 at 6:15 pm.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk