

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
February 13, 2012
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
Lisa Martina, City Controller
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Joseph Swope, Code Office Supervisor
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Inspector & Fire Chief
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were twenty five (25) visitors present.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The Minutes of 1/9/2012 and 1/23/2012 and the available departmental reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Controller, Health Dept., Fire Dept., City Engineer, Code Office, Park and Recreation Department, Park and Recreation Board, Public Works Dept., Planning Commission, Redevelopment Authority and Police Pension Board are in the City Clerk's office for review. Motion to accept Eister. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at cityofsunbury.com

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE

Mayor Persing announced that Ms. Kula put a list together of all the blight properties the Redevelopment Authority is looking at. The Redevelopment Authority met regarding 202 Washington Ave – they are trying to coordinate tearing the building down and putting a new home up so they don't have to fill the hole and then remove it when the house is built. 349 Chestnut St is in the process of being turned over to the City. The property at 716 N 7th St has been torn down. The N. River Ave. property will be down soon. There are many different uses for the areas where blight properties are torn down.

SRI UPDATE

Ms. Mel Purdy reported the Hometown Banner project is moving along. Currently there are 25 banners sold and the goal is 60. There are 2 people looking for banner sponsors. Sunbury River Festival planning is underway. There will be some changes and they plan to use the amphitheater. The membership drive is in progress. SRI has been working hard at what they do and they offer some good value for their membership. Councilman Troup asked if the veteran's banner forms are on line and Ms. Purdy answered yes and they are available at a number of other places as well. The deadline is February 29th.

RIVER FRONT PROJECT

Councilman Eister said when the weather cooperates HRI is working. The projection for completion is the end of May 2012.

RESOLUTION/NEW LOCAL TAX COLLECTOR

Ms. Kremer explained that the county has hired a new earned income tax collector which is Berkheimer Associates. Councilman Snyder moved to adopt and authorize the mayor to sign the Resolution to allow Berkheimer Associates to collect the earned income tax for a period of one year. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

MOU/NORTH'D COUNTY CONSERVATION

Councilman Eister said Mr. Bakowicz is reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding with the county in regard to the North'd County Conservation District which also involves storm water. The Memorandum will be on the agenda after the City Engineer's review. It also allows for a fee to be adopted to review plans. Mr. Bakowicz said he does see some items that should be changed before passage. Councilman Eister moved to form a committee of Mr. Rhoads and Mr. Bakowicz to review the Memorandum and bring it to council to adopt. Second – Bartello. Unanimous vote.

ORDINANCE TO RESTRICT HELICOPTER LANDING IN CITY LIMITS

Councilman Snyder explained that he received more complaints about a helicopter landing at the Moran site. He drafted an ordinance he would like council members to review and discuss. It includes setback parameters for landing to distance themselves from residential properties. The FAA gives helicopter pilots a lot of freedom but the responsibility is on the community to set their own rules. It is happening more frequently and Councilman Snyder said he did witness it during the prior week. There are special exceptions noted for military or medical helicopters. Mr. Apfelbaum also drafted an ordinance for council to look at. Mr. David Whipple said before the helicopter landed at the property he flew all over the property and stones, dirt and dust were stirred up.

THROUGH TRUCK TRAFFIC/SAFETY ROUTE DESIGNATION

Councilman Snyder said this is a continuation with the concern regarding trucks travelling on City streets. He and Chief Mazzeo discussed ways that would be fair across the board for all truck traffic in the City. Most municipalities define commercial and truck routes and avoid residential neighborhoods as much as possible and where that is not feasible they dictate which streets can be used for truck traffic. There is a permit fee for different types of trucks utilizing City streets. Chief Mazzeo created a map highlighting the streets that are the most heavily utilized by commercial trucks. The intent is to be as friendly as possible to existing and proposed business in the City and also defining the routes best suited for trucks in the name of public safety. He is receiving more information from another municipality that has implemented this and will bring it to the next meeting. Councilman Eister asked if the route going in to the Moran property would change and Councilman Snyder answered the entrance at Susquehanna Ave would be changed because there is no turning lane. Councilman Snyder said they would be moved down further to more easily make the left hand turn. Councilman Bartello said it is his understanding that Minuteman will be using Julia St. Councilman Snyder said there is a turning lane there. Mayor Persing suggested that Councilman Snyder and Troup get together to make a recommendation. Mr. Whipple said 90% of the truck traffic is from Minuteman. Councilman Eister suggested contacting PA DOT to conduct a study of the area. Mr. Joe Swope said he spoke to Mr. Stroehmann and the plan is to bring truck traffic in on Shikellamy Ave but can't do it until they have the PA DOT and Norfolk Southern permission. Ms. Cora Campbell asked if Minuteman is the company bringing materials being dumped into railroad cars. She said they don't want them back on Julia St.

LANDLORD/TENANT ORDINANCE

Mayor Persing announced that a public meeting will be held on February 23rd at 7 pm to discuss other landlord/tenant ordinances to see what will work for Sunbury. A committee of landlords, tenants and council members will be appointed to discuss the final draft before voting on it by council. The purpose of the meeting is to review what the City has now and what should be changed/added.

PARKING SURVEY/WOLVERTON ST

Mayor Persing mailed to Wolverton St and E. Chestnut St. residents to find out if they would be interested in off-street parking if available and would they be willing to pay \$15 per month for a permit to park there. The survey results will be in by the next meeting. There is a house on Wolverton St. that could be torn down and the property made into off-street parking.

CITY OF SUNBURY FACE BOOK PAGE

Mayor Persing proudly announced that the City has a Facebook page titled "Sunbury's Mayor Dave Says" and he hopes everyone "likes" the City on Facebook. A Susquehanna University student through a work/study program will be setting the page up and monitoring it daily. It will consist of positive goings on in Sunbury as well as fun historical facts and a list of events. Councilman Troup thought there was a Sunbury page but that is not an official City of Sunbury site. Ms. Purdy asked if SRI could be linked to the City's Facebook page and the answer is yes.

STATE OF CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Persing's State of the City address is scheduled for February 29th at 7:00 pm at the Degenstein Library community room. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

VOUCHER'S PAYABLE REPORT

Councilman Snyder moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$90,251.63 from the general fund as funds are available. Second- Eister Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

Councilman Snyder moved to pass the tax exoneration list as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Bob Miller asked Councilman Eister how far out the amphitheater was going in the river. Councilman Eister answered that initially it was out further but the Waterways people made them cut it back. Fishing piers can go out further but music piers cannot. The pad is approximately 50'X30'.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk

City's 250th anniversary will be celebrated in 2022.