

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
May 9, 2016  
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 & 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:

Kevin E. Troup, City Treasurer  
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor  
John Bakowicz, City Engineer  
Ken Long, Asst. Public Works Supervisor  
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer  
Russ Wertz, Fire Chief  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were thirty (30) visitors present.

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

An executive session was held at 5:30 pm to discuss the police contract.

### **MINUTES AND REPORTS**

The 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 and Police Pension Board (quarterly) are in the City Clerk's office for review. Motion to accept was made by Councilwoman Kremer. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at [cityofsunbury.com](http://cityofsunbury.com).

### **PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS**

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

### **SRI UPDATE**

Ms. Meghan Beck reported that a new executive director, Robert Roush, has been hired. They have submitted two grant applications for the Albright Center. The next Biz Pitch competition will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Rack cards are available with this year's events listed. The Promotions committee is working on another discount card and the deadline is Wednesday. Another meeting of the Riverboat committee was held with good attendance. The hanging baskets will be placed by the public works dept. and volunteers on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Shipman will review the directional sign project and distribute to city council members for their review. State Farm has been asked for a grant for the Teen Biz project, with the application prepared by the students. Wake the Lake is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> and it will be an outdoor show. The summer concert series will include movies to be shown at river front.

### **REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Councilman Reichner moved to appoint Aimee Buehner to the Redevelopment Authority Board to fill the term of Sue Morris who has resigned. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

## **EMS WEEK PROCLAMATION**

EMS week is May 15-21, 2016. Mayor Persing read a Proclamation honoring EMS workers (see attached).

## **ROAD CLOSURES**

Councilman Henry moved to approve road closures for Sunbury Celebration for July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, River Festival for August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and National Night Out for August 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 \$272,756.98 from the General Fund. Second -Henry. Unanimous vote.

## **TAX EXONERATION**

Councilwoman Kremer moved to accept the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Collection. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

## **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Ms. Julie Brosicous: What is happening with the railroad tower? Councilman Reichner answered the code office received information from the county pertaining to the railroad. Their information has no tower in Sunbury. The railroad has not gotten back to them yet.

Ms. Regina Russell, Community Activist: Is the code office being vigilant about people cleaning up their yards and not having standing water in their properties? The World Health Organization has named the zika mosquito the deadliest animal on earth. Also, when a new business is opened in a residential home, are other homeowners notified of the business? A bike shop opened on S. 4<sup>th</sup> St. that doesn't have off street parking. Mr. Rhoads said the business owner went through a zoning hearing and they approved his request with stipulations that the bikes are in the front of the property, not at the curb line, he could have additional space at KND's pizza shop and he may have 5 bikes in front of his property (not sure how many at KND's). When the applicant applies for a zoning hearing the property is posted with a placard that gives the reason for the zoning hearing, the time, date and place it will be held. It is also published in The Daily Item 2 weeks prior to a zoning hearing. He has parking at the rear of his property. Ms. Russell also asked if the Wire Rope building owners have been fined or notified to clean up the property. Councilman Reichner said he talked to the owners – there are 3 properties involved. Some of the buildings are used for storage. The items outside are metal plates that held the equipment before the fire. The shrubs and weeds will be taken care of soon. Councilman Reichner said he will meet with the owners to decide what they will do to clean it up. Tenants living at 317 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St. have a ramp and storing trash around it. Some of the trash is gone but an open wishing well is there, a broken step ladder and 3-4 baby car seats. Memorial Acres would not allow trash accumulation but it seems residential areas are allowed to. Councilman Reichner said he would check it tomorrow.

Ms. Julie Brosicous: The city purchased 2 vehicles and are they in use? Mayor Persing said they were going to gear them up so he isn't sure if they are in use yet or not. Ms. Brosicous said "word on the street" is that one of the vehicles will be stored for over a year and asked why. Mayor Persing said one of the vehicles will be stored for about 6 months so the rotation schedule gets back to normal. There is no need for 2 vehicles at the immediate time. Mr. Chris Wilkinson said you usually can get a better price if you purchase 2 vehicles together and the prices will go up next year.

Mr. Gary Pfleegor: The Good Will Hose Company is having a fundraiser by selling advertising to local businesses for "Sunburyopoly" boards. He will meet with the mayor to decide what pictures to put in the middle of the board. Special advertising is sold for the 2 decks of cards used with the board. This is the first fundraiser of this kind in the area. Mayor Persing said this is a good way for the Good Will Hose Company to raise funds and it is good PR for the city. Mr. Pfleegor said he received a list of businesses from SRI and some of them he didn't know were in Sunbury so it is definitely good advertising. The blocks are only \$225 and they get a free board. There will only be 500 boards made. People can place their name on a smaller section of the board for \$50.

## **DISCUSSION**

Councilman Reichner said the fire department wants to bill insurance companies for services. The chiefs asked him to present something to council. He asked council members to please review it and the city's insurance carrier and city solicitor are going to review it as well.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Persing announced that Sun Re Cheese will be rebuilding in the city. The entire Miller St/Keller St area will be looked at to make sure everything is cleaned up.

The mayor went on a tour of the old prison with county officials. The county is seeking ideas for the use of the area and will contact those that toured the prison and others for their ideas. If they decide to sell the prison they will have a timeline that something has to be done with the property.

A bike auction will be held at the Chestnut St. warehouse on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

The 2016 CDBG project request form is available and due on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht  
City Clerk