

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
December 28, 2015  
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  
John K. Shipman, 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:

Kevin Troup, City Treasurer  
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor  
Brad Hare, Police Chief  
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

An executive session was held prior to this meeting regarding police personnel.

There were sixty-five (65) visitors present.

A moment of silent reflection was held after the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Persing asked everyone to remember the good work of the Salvation Army over the holidays.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Persing asked for comments on agenda items and there were none.

**MARKET ST. UPDATE**

Councilman Eister explained this project is complete. There were 2 minor problems with the walk through that will be taken care of.

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING 2016 BUDGET ORD. #1278**

Councilman Shipman moved to pass the 2016 budget on a second reading. It is the same budget as several weeks ago. The revenues and expenses are balanced at \$4,391,670. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

**2016 TAX LEVY ORDINANCE ORD. #1279**

Councilman Shipman moved to pass the 2016 tax levy ordinance with no increase in taxes. Second - Henry. Unanimous vote.

**MOU/CITY AND COUNTY**

Councilman Eister explained this agreement is in regard to the RACP funding that was applied for several years ago. If there is RACP money in the new state budget, the agreement for it would be between the county and the city for the parcel formerly known as the Celotex property. Second – Reichner. Yes- Eister, Persing, Shipman, Reichner. Abstain – Henry. Motion carried. Councilman Eister said the RACP funding is like a voucher, the city gave the voucher to the county so they can apply for this grant. The \$4,000,000 has to be matched and the city does not have that funding.

**FEE SCHEDULE AND RESOLUTION #28**

Councilman Shipman moved to pass a fee schedule for 2016 with the following increases:

1. Daily permit will be \$2.00 (formerly \$1.00) and can be used to park on metered streets as well as municipal parking lots.
2. Residential housing, including hotels and boarding houses and high rises will be \$50.00/unit per year.
3. Zoning hearing board fees will be \$500.00 (formerly \$300.00)
4. Utility cuts (street excavation) will be \$100.00 permit fee and \$25.00 per square foot of cut.

Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

### **SUB-DIVISION/MERTZ REAL ESTATE PROPERTY**

Mr. Rhoads explained final approval is needed to sub-divide the land owned by Mertz Real Estate at 300-310 Packer St. into 2 parcels. The parcel the bowling alley is on will be sold to the owners of the bowling alley. County planning, the SMA and the storm water waiver were all previously approved. Councilman Reichner moved to accept the sub-division. Second- Henry. Unanimous vote.

### **APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES**

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$105,772.00 from the General Fund. Second –Henry. Unanimous vote.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Mr. Jim Snyder: Asked Councilman Reichner for a report on how many people got contractor's license at the SUNOCO project. Councilman Reichner said he is not sure but the clerk said Mr. Snyder was in the office asking for that information. He asked the clerk to get the information to Mr. Snyder. Mr. Snyder said there are 10-15 sub-contractors working there. Mayor Persing said that information will be available at the next council meeting.

Ms. Aimee Buehner: Is there discussion to the amendments to the fast track rental permits? Mayor Persing answered that is not on the agenda tonight but will be addressed with the new council.

Mr. Justin Strawser: Will the sergeants and corporals be compensated financially for what they will be doing? Mayor Persing answered no, they will continue to do what they are doing now. He also asked how Chief Hare's resignation will affect the budget. Mayor Persing answered it won't because he will be receiving a little less in salary.

### **POLICE INVESTIGATION**

Mayor Persing stated that Chief Bradley Hare has resigned and will remain as a Corporal with the Sunbury Police Dept. He will pursue hiring a chief from the outside but in the meantime he will spend more time with the officers. There are still issues with the investigation that have not been resolved.

Cpl. Hare thanked everyone for their support. He took the job very seriously for the 17 months that he held the position that he respects. The officers are a great group of guys. He felt there were too many on council that doubted his abilities.

Sgt. Taylor handed-in a 3<sup>rd</sup> step grievance.

General discussion was held regarding the internal police investigation.

### **DISCUSSION**

Mr. John Shipman told council members that it has been a pleasure working with them and they haven't all agreed on the issues but everyone is a friend and that is more important. He also thanked the citizens for the privilege of serving them.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

New Year's Eve celebration will be in the downtown area on 12/31. Children's events are in Cameron Park from 6 – 8 pm. Adult events begin at 8:00 pm. Tickets are still available for VIP tent.

Frozen Ice Skating Party on January 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4 pm to 6 pm. \$10.00 per ticket.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk