

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
November 14, 2016
6:15 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable Vice-Mayor Elizabeth R. Kremer presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

Elizabeth R. Kremer, 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
Lisa Martina, City Controller
Michael Kula, City Solicitor
Timothy Miller, Chief of Police
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were thirty (30) visitors present.

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

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The Minutes of 10/10/16 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 and Police Pension Board (quarterly) are in the City Clerk's office for review. Motion to accept was made by Councilwoman Kremer. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at cityofsunbury.com.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

Councilwoman Kremer asked for comments on agenda items and there were none. Officer Steve Mazzeo gave council members a Step 3 Grievance from Cpl. Jamie Quinn.

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mr. Kula said the deed was executed on Friday for the property at 7th and Packer St. sold at auction previously.

CDBG

Councilwoman Kremer introduced Ms. Linda Sterling, the city's new CDBG contact at SEDA-COG. Ms. Sterling explained to council members that a project was submitted for \$12,500 for a fire hose washer. DCED said that request was for maintenance and not equipment so it is not an eligible project. The \$12,500 will be put into purchasing fire hose for the trucks instead of the washer. Ms. Sterling received 1 quote at this time for fire hose and she needs 3 for CDBG regulations.

SRI UPDATE

Ms. Meghan Beck reported the Albright Council was awarded \$12,500 from BB&T Bank for neighborhood revitalization efforts. They have been working with Rocky Baer on the lower level plans to use the funding from the PA Historic Commission. Biz Pitch competition awarded Eclipse Craft Brewing with the first prize of a package worth \$12,000. Second place went to Crafted Café that will be going in to 438 Market St. The Christmas decorations are up. The Veteran's banners

have been taken down. The New Year's Eve committee is still working on the plans for a fun New Year's Eve in downtown Sunbury. Late Nite Shoppers is scheduled for December 1st. Windows will be decorated between Nov. 14th and 23rd. The Hill Neighborhood tree lighting is scheduled for Nov. 28th at 7 pm at the tree near the hospital and their holiday open house begins Dec. 4th from 2 pm – 4 pm at 1180 Line St. The SRI general meeting is next week and new board members and officers will be elected. Ms. Beck said her term as president of SRI will be complete at the end of December.

1ST READING LEVY TAX

Councilman Henry moved to pass on a first reading the ordinance to levy taxes for 2017. The tax levy ordinance shows an increase of 1.75 mils to correspond with the budget. Council members are still working to balance the budget without a tax increase. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

TAX ANTICIPATION BIDS

The following bids for the 2017 tax anticipation note were opened: First National Bank 1.34% fixed, Swineford Bank 2.21% fixed, Northumberland National Bank 1.15% fixed and West Milton State Bank .99% fixed with a fee of \$500. Councilman Eister moved to accept the apparent low bid and authorize the mayor to sign all documents pending review of the city solicitor. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

NOISE ORDINANCE

Councilman Eister moved to pass a Resolution (see attached) to waive the noise ordinance and open container ordinance for SRI for the New Year's Eve celebration for 2016. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

FREE PARKING/ALL METERED STREETS

Councilman Henry moved to allow free parking on all metered streets from Nov. 25th to January 1st. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote. This does not include parking lots.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$66,579.88 from the General Fund and \$129,905.96 from Liquid Fuels. Councilman Henry said the street paving bids came in around \$119,000 but the increase in the bill is due to some streets being paved for the Municipal Authority who will be reimbursing the city for their share of the bill. Second - Henry. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Ms. Meghan Beck: The general membership meeting for SRI is being held at the Packer House at 12:00 noon on Tuesday Nov. 15th.

Ms. Carmen Campbell: The wall at the Hunter House cemetery is falling down and she wanted to know if the city is responsible for repairing it. The city cuts the grass there but that is all they have ever done. Councilman Henry said he would research it and get back to her.

Ms. Janet Bingaman: Has attended several meetings with complaints about her neighbors with ongoing issues. She feels nothing has been done. Captain Bennick explained to Ms. Bingaman that the police must have a victim and be willing to testify if arrests are made. Ms. Bingaman is fearful to do that because of retaliation by the neighbor. Mr. Rhoads explained the property in question has been turned over to the city solicitor to decide how to handle this situation. The occupants of the house have been cited numerous times.

Ms. Donna Swanger: Has also been to council meetings regarding the property beside theirs. Over the weekend there were about 35 people in the street having a brawl. The police were called. The Swangers have called code and the police regarding this property. It too should be named a nuisance property. This is the second brawl that occurred within the past months. There are too many people living in the house but code has not personally observed this. A person that lives there yelled across the street to a neighbor that he was going to get his glock out. Ms. Swanger is afraid something

serious will happen if nothing is done. The property is 120-122 11th St. Mr. Swanger does not think code inspectors properly. Councilman Reichner said he will check the files but he feels the code officers have done their job there and would not let it slide. Mr. Swanger said a smoke detector has been beeping there for over a year. There have been 30 or more tenants living in that property since the current owner purchased it. There are also exposed wires in the basement. A privacy fence was installed and no permit was obtained. Ms. Swanger said Mr. Rhoads has been great. Mr. Rhoads said the code office was there on Feb. 4th when the Swangers complained about over-crowding and children. When he followed-up there was no evidence of over-crowding. Ms. Swanger said they watched all the mattresses being removed from the property on top of cars. Mr. Rhoads said they should take a picture or video so the code office has evidence. Mr. Swanger said he has a surveillance camera up in the alley because his vehicles were getting scratched. On Aug. 23rd they found tires and mattresses on the front porch and sent a notice of violation and the issue was corrected. On Oct 25th there was a complaint of garbage on the back porch and that was corrected. Mr. Rhoads re-inspected that property on 10-5-16. It did meet the standards of the Property Maintenance Code which includes smoke detectors and carbon monoxide monitors. There were 2 incidents with evidence in 2016. There were prior incidents – one in 2014 and one in 2015. Chief Miller said the speakers are describing quality of life issues. He said the police can only file charges in certain circumstances. If they do not observe the crime happening, they cannot make an arrest. The victim must be willing to press charges. Chief Miller recommends a meeting to discuss the issues with the property owner and have the people making the complaints available as well. Captain Bennick said he spoke to the DA's office about these problems and they said they absolutely would prosecute these cases but there must be a victim. Councilwoman Kremer said a meeting to discuss these issues would be scheduled as soon as possible.

Ms. Regina Russell, Community Activist: The bicycle shop at 353 S. 4th St. now has a hand written sign entering Spruce St. and the alley is not wide enough to get a vehicle in there. The do not enter sign is leaning and needs to be secured.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Santa parade will be held on Friday Nov. 25th at 6:30 pm.

Budget meeting scheduled for Nov. 21st is cancelled.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

A zoning appeal hearing was held immediately after this city council meeting for the property located at 202-206 Arch St.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk