

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
February 13, 2017  
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 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  
Michael Kula, City Solicitor  
John Bakowicz, City Engineer  
Timothy Miller, Chief of Police  
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

Visitors present: 30

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

### **MINUTES AND REPORTS**

The Minutes of 1/9/17 and 1/23/17 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 Councilman Eister. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at [cityofsunbury.com](http://cityofsunbury.com).

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

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

### **CARING AWARD**

Mayor Persing explained that Stan and Penn Seiple through the Seiple Family foundation do things for the community that no one knows about because they don't seek recognition. It started with Stan's mother Rachel who cared deeply about Sunbury and Keithan's Garden. The Seiple's own the train station on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> commercial building to be lit with Edison's 3-wire bulb, one day after the City Hotel. They do a lot of good for children including renovations at the ice rink, pool and the YMCA. Mayor Persing thanked them on behalf of the city council and citizens of Sunbury for all they do.

### **SWEAR IN NEW POLICE OFFICER**

Mayor Persing issued the Oath of Office to Kevin Malukas, the new police officer that was hired at a previous meeting. Chief Miller congratulated Officer Malukas as they are ushering in a new chapter of the Sunbury Police Department. Mayor Persing said the 2<sup>nd</sup> officer hired at a previous meeting decided he would not be coming to Sunbury to work full-time.

### **SRI UPDATE**

Ms. Laurie Johnson reported SPARC is looking for flower basket sponsors at a cost of about \$100-\$150 each. The River Festival will be held on Market St. from Front St. to 4<sup>th</sup> St. due to the road construction in Northumberland. Details are still being worked out for all the events. The car show

may be held at the riverfront, the boat parade is cancelled because the fabridam will be removed the night of River Festival. She asked for volunteers to help with the Wine and Food Festival.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> READING/175-46 CB PARKING**

Mr. Rhoads explained a discussion was held regarding off-street parking in Central Business (see attached). The proposal is to remove residential from requiring off-street parking and adding bed and breakfasts that will need off-street parking. Councilman Reichner moved to pass the changes to Chapter 175-46. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> READING/175-90 RENTAL PROPERTY PERMITS**

Mr. Rhoads explained this is just for Central Business District and pertains to the fast track application approval process (see attached). Councilman Reichner moved to pass the addition of the sentence “This provision shall not apply to rental permit applications for properties located within the Central Business District.” Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> READING/35-2 POSITIONS WITHIN FORCE**

Mayor Persing moved to amend the language of this Ordinance to be in conformance with the recent contract arbitration awards and the police contract (see attached). The following language will be added “The council of the City of Sunbury shall have the authority to designate and fill such positions within the Police Force as it may deem advisable from time to time in the following ranks: Chief, Captain, Sergeant, Corporal and the remaining members to be patrolmen after serving as probationary officers. Any position above Sergeant shall be considered to be a management employee outside of the bargaining unit.” Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

### **PART-TIME HIRE/POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Persing moved to add the name Kiefer Bathgate to the list of part-time officers eligible to work in the police department. He is a correctional officer and is a part-time officer for Lamar Township and serves in the PA National Guard. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

### **PENN DOT ROAD CLOSURE**

Councilman Henry moved to approve the road closure request to close Market St. from Front St. to 2<sup>nd</sup> St. for the Shikellamy High School prom which is being held at the Elks building on S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

### **APPROVE ENGINEER INVOICES/CHESTNUT ST PHASE 2**

Councilman Eister moved to pay 2 invoices totaling \$4,690.95 to CES Engineering for Phase 2 utility work of the Chestnut St. project. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

### **GUN SHOW**

Councilman Eister moved to allow the Sunbury Youth Football program to hold a gun show at the Ice Rink on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote. The organizer, Attorney Joel Wiest, has already contacted ATF to see what needs to be done to hold the gun show.

### **HARB APPROVAL**

Councilman Reichner moved to approve the HARB recommendation for 821 Market St. to allow steps and a metal handrail be put on a building that was damaged in a vehicle accident. 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 \$69,228.34 from the General Fund and \$1,135.20 from Liquid Fuels. Second - Henry. Unanimous vote.

## **TAX EXONERATION**

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

## **DISCUSSION**

Mayor Persing explained that Fire Chief Russ Wertz is looking into the state's tax credit law for volunteer firefighters that are certified.

Mayor Persing said there are quite a few things going on in Sunbury and everyone will be hearing more about Partnerships. One of them will be a partnership with Norfolk Southern and the City of Sunbury for blight removal in approximately 7 locations in Sunbury. There is also a partnership forming with the recreation complex – the skate park may be moved to Memorial Drive and that would allow the promotion of that area of N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. for a restaurant or other commercial business.

## **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Mr. Dino Panagoulas: Owner of 370 Market St. said that in January Ms. Kremer was on the radio and stated that his building had problems including a sewer smell. Mr. Panagoulas said there is no sewer smell inside the building. He cannot control the odors outside the building as it is coming from the sewer. The building did have water damage that has been taken care of. He would like to see his building used to better the community and was wondering if it would be a good place to bring the Edison generators to and be a location for a museum. He loves Sunbury and has been here for 9-10 years. He has paid taxes on the building all that time and it has not been re-purposed yet. Mayor Persing said he would like to discuss this further with Mr. Panagoulas and will contact him.

Mr. Mark Gittens: Higher Hope International Industries, submitted the preliminary land development plans for the construction of their new church to be built on Market St. and asked council to support the project and help to move it along on a timely basis.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk