

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
May 23, 2011
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:

Lisa Martina, City Controller
Stephen Mazzeo, Police Chief
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were eighteen (18) visitors present.

AWARD IT SERVICES BID

Councilman Snyder explained that 2 bids were received at the last council meeting for IT services. At this time, there is an existing contract with Harris Software for software and this bid is for general IT services. Councilman Eister moved to accept the low bid of \$85/hour from MePush of Lewisburg. Second – Troup. Yes – Persing, Bartello, Troup, Eister. Abstain – Snyder. Motion carried.

2ND READING ZONING CHANGE

Mayor Persing moved to accept on a second reading a zoning change to Article VII Section 175-46 for Front St from Race St to Church St to be zoned Central Business District. Also, from Chestnut St. to Penn St through the 3 residential properties to Church St. to be zoned Central Business District. This change allows businesses to be opened on Front St. on the riverfront which will aid with economic development purposes. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

POLICE PROMOTION

Mayor Persing announced that Officer Jamie Quinn had the highest score on the combined written and oral exams for promotion to corporal. He administered the oath of office to Ms. Quinn, whose father pinned the corporal badge on her uniform.

PHMC/ZONING GRANT

Mayor Persing stated that this subject has to do with the grant application council voted to have Mr. Tom Grbenick submit to PHMC (PA Historical Museum Commission) to revamp the zoning and subdivision ordinances to Smart Code. The City's share of the grant match would be a minimum of \$25,000. with a maximum of \$38,000. It is a month until the grants are awarded and Mayor Persing said he would like to let Mr. Grbenick know if the City is willing, or has the funds, to commit to the project and if council decides they don't, Mr. Grbenick can contact PHMC to pull Sunbury's grant submission from consideration. The funds used would be from 2012. Councilman Bartello said council could do it themselves piece by piece like the zoning change on Front St. Councilman Eister said Mr. Grbenick suggested he could procure other funds to put toward it and he doesn't feel that is going to come through. Mayor Persing moved to inform Mr. Grbenick to tell PHMC to pull the grant application from consideration for funds. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

PAYMENT REQUEST #9/HRI PHASE 2/\$219,648.64

Councilman Eister moved to make payment #9 to HRI as funds are available for work completed on Phase 2 of the riverfront stabilization project in the amount of \$219,648.64. Second – Persing. Unanimous vote.

HIRE LIFEGUARDS/SNACK BAR/PLAYGROUND COUNSELORS/GROUNDS KEEPERS

Councilman Eister moved to hire the summer help needed to run the pool snack bar, lifeguards, playground counselors and grounds keepers. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

ADDITIONAL ROAD CLOSURE

Councilman Troup moved to close Market St. between 2nd and 3rd Sts for the River Festival car show as requested by the River Festival committee. This is in addition to the road closure requested from Front St. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. A letter will be sent to PA DOT.

WAIVER OF STORM WATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS/DEMPSEY

Councilman Troup explained that Mr. Bakowicz and the Sunbury Municipal Authority discussed the project of paving the Dempsey parking lot. Councilman Troup moved to waive storm water management requirements for this project with 3 conditions:

1. The parking lot preparation (including some milling) and paving will be such that the final paving along the inside edge of the existing sidewalk along Edison Ave does not flow over that side walk.
2. That the parking lot be paved in such a manner that will direct the surface drainage to the north (John St and to the NW corner of Edison Ave/John St) so that all parking lot flow will be directed to Edison Ave and flow southerly along the eastern curb gutter of Edison Ave
3. That the applicant coordinate the parking lot paving with the City (Mike Bordner) so that both paving projects can be coordinated to achieve #2 above

Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

VOUCHERS PAYABLE REPORT

Councilman Snyder moved to pay the vouchers payable in the amount of \$123,341.96 from the general fund as funds are available. Councilman Eister asked if Councilman Snyder would speak to the accounts payable clerk to keep a spread sheet of the utility bills with the amount of the bill and the usage. There is a spread sheet set up for this purpose but it is not being completed at this time. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Bob Miller congratulated Councilmen Eister and Troup for winning the primary election to be reelected to another term.

Mr. Miller also asked what was going on with 202 Washington Ave. There were signs up that the property was going through an eminent domain process but the signs are no longer there. Mr. Miller said this has been going on since 2007. Mayor Persing explained that the Redevelopment Authority is working toward obtaining the deed for this property and at this time it is in the court system. Someone else tore the sign down but Councilman Bartello will have the code officers put it back up on Tuesday. The front grass has been cut by the code office but not the back yard.

Mr. Ruell Whipple said the run-off water always goes into his property on Edison Ave when it rains. He lives near the Dempsey plant and is worried the paving project will cause more run-off damage. Mayor Persing said Mike Bordner, Councilman Troup and the Municipal Authority will take a look at the problem and see what can be done to correct it. Councilman Troup said the drainage in that area is not able to handle large amounts of run-off because the drainage pipes are too small.

Mr. Brad Hare asked everyone to keep the citizens of Joplin, Missouri in their thoughts and prayers as well as local property owners in Point Township and Winfield that were hit with tornadoes.

Councilman Bartello told Councilman Eister that entire blocks of lights on Market St. are out at different times. Some people were breaking into the panel boxes so possibly they are turned off.

DISCUSSION

Councilman Snyder summarized the budget meetings held in May. He said there are some short term opportunities that can be implemented immediately to help reduce expenses. They also discussed short term and long term ways to increase revenues: Short term - knowing gas prices continue to increase to reduce transportation costs departmental car-pooling can be implemented, funding for electric vehicles or small utility vehicles for the park/recreation and code departments in future budgets, making sure unnecessary lights in the buildings are turned off as well as monitoring temperatures in offices. Revenue production – change website to create a business directory and sell advertising to local businesses. Concrete pads could be added to the riverfront to allow small businesses to be there seasonally with kayak/canoe rentals, food vendors, etc. It might be feasible to bring in amusement rides for the summer to increase park and recreation revenues. Long term fixes discussed included changing the zoning on N 4th St to be included in the business district. Also, creating an entertainment district to attract entertainment oriented business.

Councilman Troup announced that PA DOT will be resurfacing several areas in Sunbury this summer. The areas affected will include a section of Front St between Church St and Shikellamy Ave, a section on Snyderstown Rd between Rte 61 and Reagan St and between the railroad bridge and Norfolk Southern railroad tracks at the southern end of the City.

Mayor Persing announced the “Sunbury Challenge 4 Health” sponsored by the City and Sunbury Community Hospital. This will be a weight loss/healthy living challenge and the amount of pounds lost will be donated to Haven Ministries and Elijah’s Bowl in pounds of food donations. The goal is 1,000 lbs in 1 month. The challenge includes walking at least 3 miles per week and losing 5% of body weight per participant. A map has been made up of different walking routes in the City to aid participants in their walking challenge. The kick-off is May 31st with weigh-ins and blood pressure checks at the Sunbury Community Hospital. Each Thursday participants should weigh-in and have their blood pressure monitored at the hospital as well.

Mayor Persing is making arrangements to have Memorial Drive cleaned up for the summer.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk