

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
August 25, 2014
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 & Finance **via telephone**
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:

Brad Hare, Chief of Police
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Ken Long, Assistant Public Works Supervisor
Ken Kipple, Fire Chief
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were seventeen (17) visitors present.

AUDIENCE COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

CDBG UPDATE

Ms. Jamie Shrawder stated there was a meeting to discuss the Chestnut St. Project. The drawings are almost finished and Lee Zeger of CES Engineering is working with Mike Kerstetter on the storm water and sewer work. He will meet with Scott Debo regarding the water lines. Plans for permits have been submitted and the PA DOT HOP was submitted for the Front St. crossing. An easement is needed for the parking lot at 10th St. The pipe sizes will all be increased to 12” lines and the Front St. crossing will be a directional drill rather than tearing up Front St. Sewage discharge may be moved from the rear of homes to the front into the system. They are still discussing the laterals to the homes to see how far they should go. They will probably go to the other side of the sidewalks so they don't have to be torn up again. The estimate for the project is \$3,686,132 which includes engineering, construction, grant admin, labor standards enforcement and audit and environmental review. The request for the PA DOT TAP grant has been reduced to \$750,000 from \$1 million since the CDBG competitive grant could be increased to \$750,000 from \$500,000 to make up the difference. The competitive application is submitted. A letter of support was received from Senator Gordner and Representative Culver. The funding awards are scheduled for September 9th for the Multi-modal Transportation and the PA Storm Water and Sewer Grant. The PA DOT grants should be announced sometime in September. If all the funding is not received Front St. to 3rd St. will be started with the money that is already in hand. Ms. Shrawder said there is a list of addresses for anyone to send a letter of support for this project. Letters from the public are highly recommended. Mayor Persing asked if the 4 empty lots where the houses burned down could be tied into the project. Ms. Shrawder said that would have to be separate. Ms. Regina Russell asked if the residents should write a letter and Ms. Shrawder answered yes. A discussion was held about the PA Safe Route to Schools grant that is now part of a PA DOT Transportation Alternative Program grant. Ms. Shrawder said when that grant opens the next time the City could decide if they want to apply for funding from it.

APPOINTMENT TO HARB BOARD

Councilman Reichner moved to appoint Aimee Buehner to the Historical Architectural Review Board to replace Ms. Frankie Jones who resigned. Second – Shipman. Unanimous vote.

LEASE CODE VEHICLE

Councilman Reichner explained that 1 of the code vehicles cannot pass inspection for less than \$1,500. He received bids for a 2-wheel drive pick-up truck from 3 Sunbury car dealerships that participate in the Co-Stars program: Alexander's bid was \$23,600, Zimmerman's bid was \$22,501 and Sunbury Motors bid was \$19,700. Councilman Reichner made a motion to purchase the vehicle through Sunbury Motors and to enter in to a 4-year lease with Northumberland National Bank with the first payment coming out of the 2014 budget. The other 3 years will be in future budgets. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

AWARD BID/PHASE 2 MARKET ST. PROJECT

Mayor Persing said there was a bid put out for this project by the Hill Neighborhood group. 4 bids were received: Buchart Horn \$58,900, CES Engineering \$36,500, Larson Design Group \$47,800 and Mid-Penn Engineering \$36,000 with direct expenses from \$800-\$1,600. The funding runs out in June 2015. Ms. Meghan Beck said the Hill Neighborhood and the SRI board made a recommendation to hire Mid-Penn Engineering. Councilman Eister said CES is the firm doing the Chestnut St project, is doing work for the Municipal Authority and the county. There is \$500 difference between the quotes and since CES is in Sunbury doing other work it will keep some of the expenses low. Councilman Eister moved to hire CES for Phase II of the Market St. project. Councilman Reichner said the direct costs would put Mid-Penn over CES's bid. Councilman Henry said they are also doing the engineering study for the ARLE grant for the 4 new traffic lights. Ms. Shrawder said there is no requirement for the procurement of professional services. Plus you do not have to choose by price you choose by qualifications and relevant experience. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

SRI UPDATE

Ms. Meghan Beck reminded everyone the Renaissance Faire will be held Saturday August 30th and there are tickets for the feast at the Elks still available. The Wine & Brew Festival will be held on September 20th and tickets are going fast but are still available.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Henry moved to pay the invoices on the vouchers payable report totaling \$63,560.06 from the general fund and \$459.31 from the liquid fuels fund. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

NON-UNIFORM PENSION MMO

Councilman Shipman presented the 2015 MMO for the non-uniform pension fund. The 2015 obligation will be \$130,034 which is \$6,000 higher than 2014.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Ms. Regina Russell, Community Activist: Congratulated SRI on the successful River Festival. The home owners in her neighborhood and others in the community are grateful for the attention given to blighted properties by the Redevelopment Authority. She asked Councilman Shipman what accounting description legal fees would be charged to. Councilman Shipman answered there are legal fee line items in the departments. She asked how much the city spent on legal fees defending mayor and council for abuse of actions. Councilman Shipman said not at this moment but he can get that information. Ms. Russell said that would affect insurance costs too. She asked if the city is over or under budget on that item and Councilman Shipman said he cannot say at this point. Councilman Shipman said she would not need a Right-to-Know request. Ms. Russell told Councilman Reichner he is doing a fantastic job. She asked what future plans he had for her neighborhood that is close to the school for sidewalks. Councilman Reichner said there are no plans for the sidewalks other than at 420 Walnut St. where the sidewalk problem has been remediated. The trees are forcing the sidewalks up so nothing can be done until they are taken care of by the property owner. Ms. Russell said she is confused because the grant had provisions for sidewalks in proximity to the school to be repaired. Councilman Reichner said there are no grants except for Chestnut St. Ms. Shrawder said that is correct and perhaps future funding could be used for other areas. Ms. Russell said when funding is received for PA Safe Grants to School she thought it had to be used for areas near schools. Ms. Shrawder said there is no PA Safe Grants to School funding any more it was rolled into the

Transportation Alternative Program. The Safe Routes to School program was eliminated. Ms. Russell asked how long the city had the grant and Ms. Shrawder said it has not been awarded yet and the awards will be announced in September. Ms. Russell said the foot traffic for students is increased since school started. She asked why Councilman Reichner refuses to enforce the parking ordinance at 354 Walnut St. Councilman Reichner answered it is not his ordinance to enforce. He said former Chief Mazzeo said there is nothing wrong with the way the vehicles are parked. The property owner also came to a council meeting and had information from the state showing she was perfectly legal to park her vehicles there. Councilman Reichner said there are no code violations or safety violations. Ms. Russell said it is a clear and present act of defiance and demonstrates complete disregard for any rule or law that is on the books. She said what type of message that sends to the people living in the house or students that walk the path. He is the director of public safety and she does not understand why the children cannot walk without a safety hazard on a public sidewalk. Councilman Reichner said for the final time, there is nothing illegal about the way the vehicles are parked and it is not a code issue. If she thinks it is a parking violation it is a police issue. Ms. Russell asked if Councilman Reichner is related to or dating the property owner. Ms. Russell said finally that she does not believe it would be happening in any of council's neighborhoods.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPARC is still looking for tree stumps that need removed. Call 570-286-7820.

Music in the Park – final event is Tuesday August 26th at 6 pm – Billie D & Rosie

Route 147 south of Sunbury will be closed so a new barrier wall can be built beginning September 15th.

Redevelopment Authority auction of 152 Bainbridge St. will take place on August 26th at 6:00 pm

Mayor and council are on top of what is happening at the Friendship Hose Co. Mayor Persing said the city could not survive without the volunteer fire company.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk