

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
December 8, 2008  
7:00 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable Jesse C. Woodring, Mayor, presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

Jesse C. Woodring, Mayor  
John Shipman, Director of Accounts and Finance  
Mark Walberg, Director of Public Safety  
Kevin Troup, Director of Public Safety  
James R. Eister, Director of Parks/Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer  
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor  
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police  
John Bakowicz, City Engineer  
Michael Bordner, Public Works Supervisor  
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer

There were three (3) visitors present.

An executive session of council was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel issues.

### **MINUTES AND REPORTS**

Minutes of 10/13/2008 & 10/27/2008 and Reports of the Police Dept., Fire Dept., City Engineer, Code Office, Park & Recreation (rink), Public Works Dept., and Planning Commission were accepted on a motion by Mayor Woodring. Eister – second. Unanimous vote.

### **LEGAL SEMINAR**

Mr. Apfelbaum explained that the police pension fund is available by statute created in 1931 by the Commonwealth of PA. It was amended in 1945, the 1950's and in 1994. It allowed each City to create a free-standing fund for retirement money for uniformed police officers. Sunbury set up a police pension fund in 1968 and created the Police Pension Commission to monitor and operate the fund. The decision making power was given to city council based upon recommendations from the commission. There is no compensation to sit on the Police Pension Commission.

### **2009 BUDGET UPDATE**

Councilman Shipman announced that after the budget meeting, a balanced budget was issued with a total of revenue and expenditures of \$4,153,120 and will require a 2 mill property tax increase (reduced from 4.25 mill increase). The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the budget and taxes will be held at the December 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Councilman Shipman said he is in receipt of a memo from Robert Sabatini, Sunbury's Consultant for the Early Intervention Program, which listed several sources of revenue the City might consider. The code office fees are much lower than surrounding municipalities and Councilman Shipman asked Councilman Walberg to look at the fees to see if additional revenue could be realized from raising any of them. Building Inspection Underwriters charges other municipalities 65% of their code inspection fee and they charge Sunbury 85% of the fee. The code office should also charge the additional \$10 for all permits to go through National Geomatica so the website is updated with all residential/commercial improvements. The clerk in the code office will be instructed to gather all the permits that went through BIU to National Geomatica and to begin to charge the \$10 fee that all other permits are charged. The information should go to National Geomatica as any other permit would however, they would not issue the permit. There was also a question about whether the City could keep \$60,000 in drug funds that the police department is currently holding. Mr. Apfelbaum will contact Mr. Rosini to see if that is a possibility. Councilman Shipman said he read that municipalities are entitled to 25% of the drug seizure funds. Councilman Walberg asked what the Early Intervention Program has done for the City – Mayor Woodring answered that they are looking into all facets of the City to streamline the way the government works.

### **2009 TAX ANTICIPATION LINE OF CREDIT BIDS**

2 bids were received for the 2009 Tax Anticipation Line of Credit:

Susquehanna Bank	3.3% fixed, no fees
Northumberland National Bank	4.4% fixed, \$75 fee

Councilman Shipman moved to accept the apparent low bid from Susquehanna Bank after the Solicitor's review and allow the Mayor to sign all documents. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote. The other local banks stated that they would not bid the line of credit unless the general fund money would be moved to their bank for depository reasons. A special meeting will be scheduled for Monday January 5, 2009 to pass the Resolution and sign all documents for the tax anticipation line of credit for 2009.

### **DECEMBER EXPENDITURES**

Councilman Shipman moved to expend the funds in the amount of \$93,260.90 for December. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **TAX EXONERATION**

Councilman Shipman moved to accept the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **SHREDDER FEE PER HOUR**

Councilman Troup moved to charge \$120 per hour for other municipalities to use the shred-all. A Sunbury public works employee will operate the shredder. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote. A contract will need to be drawn-up for local municipality use of the shredder. The only municipalities that may use it are Northumberland, Point Township and Upper Augusta Township.

### **DISCUSSION**

\$10,000 2008 CDBG SIDEWALK PROGRAM – a decision still has to be made by council regarding the use of the funds for this CDBG project. Councilman Troup and Councilman Eister will meet to discuss this issue and contact SEDA-COG with the decision. Mr. Brad Hare asked if consideration would be made for the owners of properties that have to separate their water lines for the sidewalk program funds. Mr. Rhoads will check the list to see what properties are owner occupied and would be income eligible for the funds.

LANDLORD HALL OF SHAME – Councilman Walberg has not talked to anyone in Allentown yet.

NON-UNIFORM PERSONNEL POLICY – Councilman Eister stated that the Compensatory Time section should be updated before the non-uniform personnel policy is voted on. Councilman Troup and Ms. Specht will work on that before the next meeting.

PPL/UGI GAS ST. ALLEY – Councilman Troup, Mike Bordner and Mike Rhoads met with representatives from PPL and UGI in regard to the monitoring wells near 6<sup>th</sup> and Arch Sts. 6 more wells must be installed for proper monitoring. They will install the wells during the school Christmas break. There are no problems but they feel they need the extra monitoring wells to be sure they are properly monitoring the underground water.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 2 hour free parking on Market St and all metered streets until 1-2-2009
- Project summaries are due to SEDA-COG for 2009 CDBG consideration by December 12<sup>th</sup>

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht  
City Clerk