

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
February 9, 2009
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
Kevin E. Troup, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks/Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Chad Betts, Fire Chief
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Ken Long, Asst. Public Works Supervisor

There were ten (10) visitors present.

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

MINUTES AND REPORTS

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.

PROPOSED SCOPE OF SERVICES

Mr. Bill Seigel reviewed the Scope of Services (see attached) for SEDA-COG to administer and manage the City's FY2009 Community Development Block Grant Projects. The total fee is \$49,700 which is not an increase over FY2008, and is for the life of the contract, which is 5 years. The total is a little more than one half what they City spent in the Community Development Office. There are administrative fees for the City to offset costs for personnel, advertising, etc. incurred with FY2009. A contract will not be signed until the grant is approved. Councilman Eister commented that Mr. Seigel has done an excellent job for the City since starting to manage the block grant projects. Mayor Woodring moved to accept the Scope of Services for FY2009 CDBG Project Funds as presented. Second Troup. Unanimous vote. The Scope of Services would not be ratified if the City does not receive FY2009 CDBG funds.

2009 CDBG REVIEW OF PROJECTS

Mr. Bill Seigel and Ms. Jamie Shrawder reviewed the projects submitted for FY2009 (see attached). The estimated FY2009 funds are \$356,000 with \$64,080 available for administrative purposes and the total available for projects is \$291,920. If council or the public has any comments about the projects they should contact Mr. Seigel or Ms. Shrawder at SEDA-COG. Projects will be selected at the February 23rd council meeting.

POLICE GRIEVANCE/3RD STEP JONES POST RETIREMENT HEALTH BENEFITS

Mayor Woodring moved to deny the grievance as presented by Sgt. Jones for post retirement health benefits on the basis that there is no obligation per the current collective bargaining agreement to provide those benefits to anyone hired after January 1, 1989. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

DEED TRANSFER/225 CHESTNUT ST-COLE'S HARDWARE

Councilman Eister moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the deed transfer for the alley, Center St., south of Chestnut St. to Cole's Hardware. Second Troup. Unanimous vote.

JONES/PENSION MEETING

Mayor Woodring reported that a Police Pension Board meeting was held on January 29, 2009 to review the process for Sgt. Joseph Jones' pension calculation. The entire board was present and Sgt. Jones was present as a guest. Mayor Woodring moved to accept the pension calculation as recommended by the Police Pension Board. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

TREASURER'S OFFICE WAGES FOR 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

The treasurer's salary must be set before nomination petitions can be circulated. A meeting was held with representatives of the county, school district and City to discuss this issue. The school district and county respectively approved 3% raises for the years 2010-2013. Councilman Eister felt that since raises are going to be based on merit, not an across the board raise, he would not support giving the treasurer's office employees 3% raises for 4 years. Councilman Eister moved that the treasurer and the employee's in the office would receive the same pay raise as other employees, based on the same criteria. Second Troup. Unanimous vote.

REQUEST FOR CLOSURE OF ALLEY BETWEEN AMERICAN LEGION & SUNSHINE CORNER

The Code Office received letters from the American Legion and the Fire Dept. and both were in opposition to the closure of the alley between 609 Market St and 613-621 Market St. They each cited safety reasons for keeping the alley open. Mayor Woodring moved to keep the alley open per the request of the Fire Department and American Legion. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

LAKE AUGUSTA GATEWAY PROJECT

Ms. Jeanette McBryan, from the SEDA-COG Community Resource Center, presented council members with a brochure entitled "Lake Augusta Gateway Project/The County-Municipal Prospectus-A Call to Participation." She reported the narrative has been presented to the counties and municipalities that are in the Lake Augusta gateway area. This project is a project that is being pursued by SEDA-COG through Appalachian Regional Commission Funds to bring together the stakeholders that have a recreational interest around Lake Augusta. They are seeking a contribution of \$2,500 from each participating county and municipality along with a letter of support for the project. Councilman Eister moved to participate in this project in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 with a letter of support from the City. The monetary contribution could be spread over a 2-year period. Second Troup. Unanimous vote. Councilman Troup asked if the FY2009 administrative funds could be used to support this project and Mr. Seigel answered yes, it is a planning project and CDBG funds can be used. Ms. McBryan also stated that the City could have representation on the Project's Board.

RESOLUTION/H2O GRANT

Mayor Woodring moved to accept the H2O Resolution as presented to council to apply for \$2 million in funds from the state for the Riverfront Project (see attached) and to authorize the Mayor to sign all documents pertaining to the grant. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION/CITY COMPREHENSIVE/STRATEGIC PLAN

Mayor Woodring moved to accept the proposal as received to participate in a cooperative project to create a Comprehensive Plan/Strategic Plan with PA DCED and authorizes SEDA-COG to make application for the grant on the City's behalf. Second Eister. Unanimous vote. This would include revisions to the zoning ordinance. The time-frame will be a 5-10 year plan instead of the normal 20 years. The last comprehensive plan was performed in 1986 and not implemented as it should have been.

FEBRUARY EXPENDITURES

Councilman Troup moved to accept the February expenditures as presented to council (see attached) in the amount of \$224,187.46 as funds are available. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

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

AUDIENCE COMMENT

The Step 3 grievance regarding Article 14 police over-time was given to all council members.

Mr. Brad Hare, representing the Sunbury Police Officer's Association (SPOA) asked when a corporal would be appointed since the grievance regarding this issue was withdrawn. There is now a sergeant's position open and an appointment to that position should be made within 90 days. Mayor Woodring explained that he would like to schedule a meeting with SPOA representatives, the Police Civil Service Board and himself to decide what the next step should be with this situation to avoid further grievances.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk