

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
April 27, 2009
6:15 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 K. Shipman, Director of Accounts and Finance
Kevin E. Troup, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks/Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer
Lisa Persing, City Controller
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were forty-two (42) visitors present.

An executive session was held prior to the work session to discuss personnel issues.

EARLY INTERVENTION PRESENTATION – ROBERT SABATINI KEYSTONE MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Mr. Sabatini again presented to council in regard to the City's financials

FINAL DESIGN/CAMERON PARK

Mr. Bill Seigel of SEDA-COG explained that "city squares" are becoming a thing of the past and he appreciates council's desire to make Cameron Park a better place in this era where parks are being paved over and/or replaced. City squares were designed as a focal point around community development, a place for citizens to meet, to memorialize special individuals and groups and community events took place in city squares. The Penn State landscape architectural students spent several semesters in the City and completed their work with a master plan. The focus of the study was to make Cameron Park the facility that it should be and honor all people in the community. Mr. Seigel stated that he has been contacted in regard to moving the canon to the other end of the park. Stahl-Shaffer has recognized the importance of the canon and it has been left in the design, even though the Penn State study did not incorporate it into their plan.

Mr. Rod Stahl of Stahl Shaffer Engineering introduced Mr. Dan Jones of Dan Jones Landscape Architecture. The drawings being shown at this meeting are not engineered drawings which will come later in the process. Mr. Jones presented his drawings to the audience and explained that parts of the park are in good condition, others, not so good. The historic fountain that was in the park and removed several years ago would be nice to incorporate into the new design. There are drainage issues in the eastern part of the park. The grass doesn't grow in several areas in the park. The seating is uncomfortable and unsightly. The war memorials/monuments are in different locations in the park and are not easily seen and can be improved on. Some of the trees in the park are not streetscape trees. The island at the west end of the park can be improved upon. The large flag pole at the east end of the park should be relocated to the west end since it impairs the view of the Cameron monument. It should accommodate the history and continue to accommodate the fairs and festivals. The views from within and outside the park should be beautiful, whether walking in the park or driving by. The park has changed quite a bit over time. They are proposing to upgrade the general condition of the park (the grass should grow, the trees should be the proper trees, the seats should be nice). The park should retain its formal organization. Distinctive rooms could be created in the park such as another brick patio for festivals so stands do not have to be put in grass. On the eastern side, the sidewalks could be removed and a permeable paving system could be installed to help with the drainage problem and a nature room could be created. The third room could be a room where the memorials and monuments would be consolidated and create a meditation area. The canon would be in the front where it would be visible. The war memorials would be behind the canon with flowers, shrubs and behind that would be the Cameron monument. One of the questions that came up while they were designing this area was how would the Cameron monument look with the canon in front – the answer is it would look good but the large flag pole detracts from the Cameron monument. That flag pole would be removed to the western end of the park and a smaller set of flag poles would be put in at the meditative area near all the monuments. There are many other proposed items for Cameron Park. Mayor Woodring asked for questions regarding the summary given by Mr. Jones.

- Mr. Dan Brehm, past commander Post 201 – asked what plans were being made for the large flag pole at the western end of the park. Mr. Jones answered there would be a curb around the entire island. Mr. Brehm asked how they would prevent vandalism to the new items being placed in the park (especially the picnic tables). The picnic tables shown in the drawing are tables with 4 fixed chairs which are movable. They could be high ones to stand at or as described above and would be made of extruded metal and would not easily be vandalized.
- Mr. John Deppen asked Mr. Stahl and Mr. Jones if they ever met Garry Leister, the gentleman that spearheaded the fundraising efforts to restore the Cameron monument and the canon. They had not. The gazebo is named after Mr. Leister. Mr. Seigel thanked Mr. Leister for his commitment to the monument and the canon. He explained that the City has done a lot of outreach regarding this project. The reason was to get public input. Mr. Deppen asked the members of the audience in attendance from Post 201 whether their input had ever been solicited regarding the renovations to Cameron Park. They had not. Mr. Seigel explained it was not the City’s responsibility to contact anyone in regard to the design work for the park. There were many public meetings held to discuss the same that anyone could attend. Mr. Deppen felt Mr. Leister and veterans from Post 201 should have been personally contacted. The fundraising committee would not have raised money to renovate the canon if they would have known it was going to be moved. Mr. Deppen stated that there is skepticism and cynicism in the way government conducts its affairs and he is troubled that at no time no one called Mr. Leister to seek his opinion. Mayor Woodring explained that at no time were talks about the renovation of the park done in privacy and all meetings were conducted in a very transparent way. All meetings were public and the public was invited to attend through ads placed in The Daily Item. Mayor Woodring told Mr. Deppen that he resents him saying that about this council. Mayor Woodring is also a veteran and a lifetime member of Post 201 and a life member of the Historical Society. The efforts in the park are to enhance the canon in the park, not to take anything away from it.
- Mr. Garry Leister stated that he is not in opposition to the improvements of Cameron Park and the relocation of the flag pole, just to moving the memorials and canon. He is afraid the Cameron monument will not be visible with the fenced-in canon in front of the Cameron monument. He doesn’t think 2 fenced-in areas will look right at one place and isn’t sure there is enough room for the canon to be fenced-in at the east end of the park. He is afraid the memorials will hide the front of the Cameron monument. Mr. Leister stated that at a city council meeting on June 2, 1925, a request was made to issue the City of Sunbury 1 or more of the German trophies of war, preferably 2 77mm guns or 1 155 mm gun. It should be turned over to Post 201 to be placed in a park where it can be properly displayed. On July 6, 1926 the Post asked that the canon be placed on a concrete base instead of the concrete pedestal that it had been placed on. The reason it was restored was because it had sunk into the ground 6-8”. Councilman Troup explained that this project is in the development stage – he feels the input from Mr. Deppen, Mr. Leister and members of the American Legion Post 201 will have an impact on how the project proceeds. Mr. Leister said he thinks Cameron Park should be left alone and leave the canon in its present location. Mr. Leister said putting a water fountain in the park will be a maintenance nightmare. If it has to be put in, he thinks it should be in the area where there is a drainage problem between the gazebo and the Cameron monument. Mr. Jones reiterated they are not moving the canon to place the fountain in that area, rather they feel the canon would be more visible at the east end of the park. Mr. Deppen said it would have been good for the Penn State students to sit down with Mr. Leister and learn the history and his knowledge of Cameron Park for them to incorporate that into the new design. Councilman Shipman explained that the students were in Sunbury over the course of 1 year, there were 3 public meetings held where the community was invited for them to see the work of the PSU students. Input was solicited by the students. In addition to the Cameron Park project, there were other studies throughout the City done by the students. Councilman Shipman apologized to Mr. Leister for not being personally invited.
- Mr. Charles Hogan, past commander of Post 201, on behalf of Garry Leister and all veterans that served, wants it on the records “that we are not in favor of moving the canon or the monuments.”
- Ms. Regina Russell asked if the canon was used to defend Sunbury at any time. The answer is no. She agrees that if the canon was originally put where it is, it should stay there with a flag pole erected near it.
- Mr. Leister stated that the Cameron monument is facing east because when the monument was erected from 1874-1879 there was a lot of train traffic in Sunbury and they were so proud of the monument they wanted to people riding the trains through Sunbury to see the monument. Mr. Leister reiterated that the canon is a German canon and a prize of war that was transported to the US after the war.
- Mr. Vincent Wolheiter has been involved with installing some of the monuments in Sunbury and he is concerned that the monuments may be damaged when they are moved. The World War I monument is the only monument that is old and he is very worried about it being damaged. Mr. Seigel said an assessment would be made of the monuments, especially the

World War I monument would be made by experts in the field before they are moved. He asked Mr. Jones to draw-up a ground view of the monuments moved to the east end of the park.

- Mr. Stahl said he sees there is a strong census in keeping the canon and monument. He is pointing that out because when his firm was engaged they were asked to take what the student's study required and take the master plan and turn it into a construction set. As part of that Mr. Jones noticed the canon was removed from the original master plan. They did see that it was important to keep the canon in the park and their plan as presented, had it not contained the canon at all, would have been much more difficult.
- Mr. Brehm asked if a study had been done to close off the turn around area at the east end of the park and extending the park. Mr. Seigel answered that closing both ends were discussed early in the project but because it is a PA DOT traffic way it would be too expensive and time consuming. The impact on the traffic flow would be very detrimental. PA DOT was consulted and they were not in agreement with changing the traffic flow at either end.
- Mr. Leister asked if sidewalk would remain in front of the Cameron monument. The answer is at this time, the sidewalk has been removed. This will be part of the final design discussion.

There being no further comment, Mayor Woodring moved to move into the final design portion of the Cameron Park Renovation project. As part of the motion Mayor Woodring also added that there should be some research completed prior to the final design being presented regarding moving the monuments by an expert in that field. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

POLICE PENSION BOARD MAKE-UP CHANGE

As part of the upgrading of the Police Pension Board ordinance per IRS standards, the board make-up was inadvertently changed. Mayor Woodring moved to change the board make-up to its original make-up – the Mayor, the Director of Accounts & Finance, 2 police officers and an outside financial expert. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

PARKING METER MACHINE

Ms. Jamie Shrawder stated that the City has been working on putting a parking meter machine in the Edison Plaza that would be similar to a parking garage machine. Several vendors presented their machines to a committee to look at. There could be prepaid cards that could be used in the machine, instead of having to add coins each time. Councilman Eister moved to go out for bids for a parking meter machine, to be funded with CDBG funds, for Edison Plaza. Second – Woodring. Unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION FOR GATEWAY PARK DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO DCNR \$250,000

Mayor Woodring moved to pass the Resolution needed to applying for a grant from DCNR in regard to the Riverfront Project (see attached). Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

2008, 2009, 2010 AUDIT BIDS

Bids were opened for the above named audit years as follows:

Larson, Kellett & Associates, P.C. 2008 \$17,600, 2009 \$18,100 2010 \$18,600

Lewis Barlett Klees, P.C. 2008 \$16,000 2009 \$17,600 2010 \$20,400

Parente Randolph, LLC 2008 \$17,500 2009 \$18,375 2010 \$19,300

The bid documents will be given to the City Solicitor for review and an award will be made at the next council meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE/STRATEGIC PLAN

Mayor Woodring announced that the City has applied for a grant to complete a Comprehensive/Strategic Plan for the City.

1ST READING FINE INCREASE/2009 BUDGET

City council passed a fine increase with the 2009 Budget, however, District Magisterial Judge Bolton said it must be passed separately from the budget in order for him to enforce the increase. Councilman Shipman moved to increase the following fines: Street sweeping to \$20, Parking meter to \$10 and Handicap parking to \$50 – all to double after 72 hours. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

HARB APPROVAL

Councilman Troup moved to approve the recommendation of HARB regarding the property at 235 Chestnut St. This project includes painting the building and the detached garage exterior, replace the

front door and garage doors and windows as well as removing the canopy in front and installing siding to match. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

APRIL EXPENDITURES

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the April bills in the amount of \$130,652.11. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Woodring announced that the volunteers from the Jesus Christ Church of Latter Day Saints were very successful with their beautification project in Sunbury. There were over 200 volunteers at many City sites. Good friends to the City were made during this project.

Mr. Craig Inns asked Mr. Eister to consider a monument honoring Revolutionary War fallen. They will discuss the matter further at a meeting.

City-wide clean-up is scheduled for April 28 and 30 and May 5 and 7 at the Transfer Station.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk