

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
December 12, 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:

Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer  
Lisa Martina, City Controller  
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police  
John Bakowicz, City Engineer  
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Inspector  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were fifteen (15) visitors present.

### **MINUTES AND REPORTS**

The Minutes of 10/10/2011 and 11/14/11 and the available departmental reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Controller, Health Dept., Fire Dept., City Engineer, Code Office, Park and Recreation Department, Public Buildings (Rink), Park and Recreation Board, Public Works Dept., Planning Commission, Redevelopment Authority and Police Pension Board are in the City Clerk's office for review. Motion to accept Snyder. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at [cityofsunbury.com](http://cityofsunbury.com)

### **CDBG UPDATE**

Ms. Jamie Shrawder gave council members the CDBG Application Preparation Schedule for 2012 (see attached). The project summary requests are to be returned to Ms. Shrawder by January 16<sup>th</sup>. Also, there will be a training course held at SEDA-COG for MBE/WBE (Minority and Women Business Enterprises), Section 3 and Davis-Bacon wages on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Shrawder suggested that council move \$16,654.45 from CDBG FY2009 Welcome Sign project to Demolition and move \$705.37 from Street Clock Restoration project and \$2,418.73 from Stroh Alley from CDBG FY2010 to the Welcome Sign project (there is a time limitation on when the annual funds must be used). Councilman Eister made the motion to move the funds from 2009 and 2010 as shown above. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

### **SRI UPDATE**

Mr. Bob Lagerman reported that the Hometown Veteran's Banner project has been launched and inquiries have been made about it already. Photos and sponsorships are being accepted by SRI until February 29<sup>th</sup>. Wolverton St. project will have a meeting December 13<sup>th</sup> and the design plans are available for public inspection. A representative of the Keystone Core Communities will be visiting to make an assessment of the Bitner Building. The Elm Street Neighborhood is in the process of updating its five-year plan. The SRI website will be updated in the near future and discussion has been held regarding a "feasibility study" meeting for a Neighborhood Improvement District (NID). The River Festival committee is reorganizing. Chief Mazzeo reported there will be significant changes to the Festival in 2012.

### **RIVER FRONT PROJECT**

Councilman Eister said there was high water last week but the project is moving along. The fishing pier sidewalls will be poured as long as the weather is nice.

### **2<sup>ND</sup> READING 2012 BUDGET ORD. #1268**

Councilman Snyder moved to adopt the 2012 Budget on a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading with no tax increase. Revenues and expenditures are equal at \$4,188,170. Second – Eister. Yes – Eister, Persing Snyder, Troup. No – Bartello. Motion carried. Mayor Persing thanked Councilman Snyder for the hard work he put into balancing this budget. He said at this time the essential services are at a minimum for the citizens and

council members should be trying to find ways to increase revenues without raising taxes to keep the services the citizens expect and enjoy.

### **SHIKELAMY HIGH SCHOOL TRAFFIC**

Mayor Persing said there has been an issue with traffic before and after school on Walnut St and the City is trying to cooperate with the school district to help alleviate the problems. Chief Mazzeo and Cpl Hare met with a committee from the school to decide what should be done to help with the traffic flow problems. There were 13 items suggested (see attached). Several of the issues must be performed by the City so any changes to traffic needed will be on a trial basis for 90 days to see if it helps the problem. If the street changes are to become permanent council will have to vote to adopt the changes.

### **716 PACKER ST.**

Mayor Persing stated that the Redevelopment Authority owns this property now and he asked if the city crew could take the house on the property down without having to get an excavator to do it. Councilman Troup said he didn't think they could but he would check it more closely. The distance between the houses is approximately 10'. Councilman Eister said the park and recreation crew started to clean the area up last week. The fence will be torn down soon. The garage has been removed and he feels the crew can tear the house down.

### **MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY BOARD COMPENSATION**

On request by the Municipal Authority Board Mayor Persing moved to increase their board compensation per meeting by \$20.00 per meeting. The last change was in Dec. 2002. Second – Eister. Yes – Persing, Snyder, Troup, Eister. No – Bartello. Motion carried.

### **LITTER/TRASH RECYCLING**

Mayor Persing explained that he has been looking through the ordinance book and wants to discuss some of the items with council. The code office and the police dept. have seen an increase during home inspections to rental properties where they find trash piled in basements and attics. He feels the vacancy list should be received from the Municipal Authority and match it to complaints received by the code office and police dept and use this as a way to find out who has refuse removal. Altoona has an ordinance that requires landlords to provide trash removal haulers names to the code office. An example is a property on S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St where the code office, police dept., Children and Youth and the School District have been there multiple times yet the property is a mess. The tenant and landlord have been notified that it will be added to the nuisance list if there is one more violation. Councilman Troup asked why it isn't already on the list and Mr. Rhoads said there is one ordinance that mentions 3 visits and the property is declared a nuisance and another that says 10 visits. That will have to be clarified. Councilman Bartello said the only way the trash problem will be cleaned up is if there is a single hauler for the City. Mayor Persing said he would like to have a work session with the Borough Manager of Berwick to find out what their successes have been with a landlord/tenant ordinance. The date will be made available when the meeting is scheduled.

### **202 WASHINGTON AVE**

Mayor Persing announced that a public inspection will be held at this property for interested parties to view the property on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. The intent is to gather information from anyone interested in renovating the property or tearing it down. An auction will be held in January for one of those purposes and there will be conditions for purchase of the property.

### **NEW HIRE PUBLIC WORKS DEPT**

Councilman Troup moved to hire Mr. Wesley Stephens in the Public Works Dept. on a 90-day probationary period to replace an employee that left for another job. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **VOUCHER'S PAYABLE REPORT**

Councilman Snyder moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$82,058.49 from the general fund as funds are available. Second- Eister Unanimous vote.

### **TAX EXONERATION**

Councilman Snyder moved to pass the tax exoneration list as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

## **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Mayor Persing announced that the public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan will be in conjunction with the Planning Commission's meeting on January 19, 2012. More will follow regarding this meeting. Kim Wheeler from DCED is going to be speaking to the Planning Commission to make sure they know their obligations as far as the Comprehensive Plan is concerned. Public comments will be heard until January 19<sup>th</sup> and any comments received will be incorporated into the plan by February 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Paul Yucha said he didn't see any development plans for the Hill Section which is the only organized neighborhood in the City. Mr. Yucha also said Mr. Grbenick made a comment that for the plan to work, the form of government will have to be changed (page 140) to a Home Charter Rule and he asked if there is a possibility for that to happen. Mayor Persing answered that as the project coordinator he thought it was Mr. Grbenick's opinion that would have to happen. There are some that think the form of government should change and some that don't. In 2009 the City tried to place the question for Home Charter Rule on the ballot but no one stepped forward to sit on the advisory board.

## **MORAN LETTER**

Mayor Persing said at the last meeting he said he would write a letter to Moran Industries to find out what was happening at that property. He tried to write that letter but couldn't decide how to word it. He instead called DEP directly and spoke to Mr. Pat Brennan about the property. Moran purchased the property and paid a company to demolish the buildings. Part of the property was sold to Norfolk Southern and that piece of property is being used to transfer the drillings from truck to railcar. The state is now in the process of deciding whether that area is to be considered a transfer station. There are no permits required unless the state says the site is a transfer station. At this time only residual waste is being hauled in and out. There is activity on the southern end of the property where they are putting garage doors on a building where a 3<sup>rd</sup> party is coming in to do vehicle maintenance type work involved with the Marcellus Shale industry. As far as testing any of the materials, it is not necessary since it is the same drillings or residual waste as has been hauled in from the beginning. If anything else is happening at that site the City will make announcements to that effect.

## **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Mr. Dave Whipple said his neighborhood organization in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward has started to collect canned goods to be donated to Haven Ministry or other soup kitchens in the City. He asked if it could be announced in the next newsletter that canned goods can be dropped off at city hall to make donations to these worthy places. He would pick them up and deliver them monthly. Mayor Persing said that can be added to the newsletter and a drop-off box could be placed at city hall to see how it works.

A discussion was held in regard to the work session scheduled for December 26<sup>th</sup>. It was decided it would remain at 6:15 pm.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht  
City Clerk