

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
September 14, 2015
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
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:

Kevin Troup, City Treasurer
Lisa Martina, City Controller
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Brad Hare, Police Chief
Michael Bordner, Public Works Supervisor
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were twenty-four (24) visitors present.

A moment of silent reflection was held prior to the beginning of the meeting. Mayor Persing asked for prayers for the family of Michael and Christy Apfelbaum. He said whenever you think of Sunbury and the Susquehanna Valley, you should think of Mike who had an impact on just about everything. There are health care clinics in Sunbury, redevelopment of city neighborhoods, youth training centers, celebrations at all levels, purchasing of vacant downtown commercial buildings for the purpose of revitalization, feeding the needy, creating sporting opportunities for kids of all ages and ability. There is Bucknell University and Susquehanna University and many more. He should never be forgotten.

Executive sessions were held on August 24th and September 14th to discuss personnel matters.

Ms. Randi Buehner explained the success of the Group Mission Work Camps that were in Sunbury in July. The goodwill and positive, uplifting relations built in the community and the work performed had such an impact on Sunbury. The majority of the homes repaired were in Sunbury city limits. There were 384 participants that came from 10 states from age 14 and up. There were also many volunteers from the community providing snacks and drinks at the worksites. There are 5 sites that were not completed due to the nature of the repairs needed and they are looking for volunteers to finish those jobs. Relations were established with the volunteers and the residents of the houses they performed work on. They even helped solve a hit and run accident. She has been contacted to have them back and that may be possible in 2 years. It was a positive event in Sunbury. Ms. Buehner said it is so disheartening to hear people downing this community and this has been such an uplifting experience. Sunbury is a wonderful community. When outsiders say that, you know that it is true. Ms. Regina Russell asked what the qualifications are for the program. Ms. Buehner answered they started with elderly, disabled and single-parent families. A pre-site visit is done prior to scheduling the work. There were 127 applications and 60 were selected. There is no waiting list they will start new in November 2016 for the program in 2017. Applications are available at the food banks, Area Agency on Aging and Children and Youth offices.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The minutes of 8/10/15 and 8/24/15 and available departmental reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Controller, Health Dept. (quarterly), Fire Dept., City Engineer, Code Office, Park and Recreation Department, Park and Recreation Board, Public Works Dept., Planning Commission, Redevelopment Authority and Police Pension Board (quarterly) are in the City Clerk's office for

review. Motion to accept was made by Councilman Eister. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at cityofsunbury.com.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Joe Bartello asked what department was discussed in the executive session and Mayor Persing answered police.

SRI UPDATE

Ms. Meghan Beck reported Zartman Construction has started construction on the elevator at the Albright Center. The Business Pitch competition is scheduled for November 14th. There are tickets available for the Wine and Brew Fest. There will be 47 vendors at the event. Old Towne neighborhood is working on a walking tour brochure. They have presented a Resolution to endorse PA's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan 2012-2017. Promotions committee has sold 80 discount cards for \$5.00/each. SPARC submitted a plan change to the bike path. Ms. Carol Mazzeo asked where tickets are available for the Wine and Brew Festival and how much they are. Ms. Beck answered they are at the SRI office or Brewer's Outlet and they are \$30/each. Online there is a small surcharge. Food is not included in the ticket price but water is.

PENNDOT ROAD CLOSURE

Councilman Henry moved to submit paperwork to Penn DOT for the road closure for the Fireman's Parade and Memorial Service and the New Year's Eve celebration. Second - Eister. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$116,963.42 from the General Fund and \$573.43 from the Liquid Fuels Fund. Second - Henry. Unanimous vote. Councilman Shipman asked all departments to remember that all expenses must be signed by the councilman in charge of their department. Councilman Henry moved to have all expenses, other than day to day expense, have John Shipman's approval before spending the money. There was no second to the motion.

TAX EXONERATION

Councilman Shipman moved to pass the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Bob Zimmerman: Can a study be done for vehicles traveling south on Market St. for the traffic light timing for left hand turns? The traffic is high on Market St. because Chestnut St. is closed. He discussed this with Penn DOT and they told him it was a city responsibility. The timing could be evaluated so southbound traffic could turn left before northbound traffic enters the intersection. Also, at the end of the cycle giving southbound traffic another opportunity for left turns. Councilman Henry talked to Matt Swartz from Penn DOT about that – he said several years ago they did a survey on that situation and the recommendation was to not have a left turn light. He said there would have to be an engineer to do a study and Penn DOT would decide if they would approve it. The red lights would have to be changed to a 5-head light with an arrow. It would also affect the timing on the other lights on Market St. The first phase of the Chestnut St. project should be completed by mid-October. Phase 2 will not begin until it is 100% financed. Councilman Eister said they should discuss this subject prior to Phase 2 starting. Mr. Zimmerman stated that when roadwork is started in Northumberland, all the traffic will be diverted to Sunbury.

Ms. Julie Broschious: Wal-Mart has a retaining pond in front of it. That is probably what is needed in Caketown to alleviate the water problem. But she wonders where they would dig because they would probably find underground pollution. Councilman Reichner said storm water management will be part of the new prison project before construction begins. A swale is going to be put in on the former Celotex property to try to divert water to Packer St. to try to keep it from going over the bank. Ms. Broschious asked why a storm water plan was not in place when the property was purchased by

Moran. Councilman Reichner said he was not here in 2012 so he could not speak to that. The information he received from the state was that the storm water management plan will have to be there once construction starts. She said since the Celotex buildings were taken down all of Caketown has a flooding problem in basements. The water was utilized for every day processes at the plant now it is going into the community and is 10' from her back door. Her property is being damaged and she is still paying taxes. She said no one on council would put up with that. Councilman Eister said he owns a property in that area and he has no water problems. The water table is what affects her basement. She said he just doesn't want to take the responsibility of enforcing storm water management.

Mr. Drake Saxton: Ms. Broschius is talking about codes. He has a letter from the SMA stating a plan should have been submitted and is a long standing problem at that property that has not been addressed. He said he prepared paperwork for a meeting that never occurred between the mayor and Councilman Reichner and himself showing the violations of all the codes. He said the codes have not been enforced back to Mayor Woodring. He said there is no requirement for construction but a maintenance agreement should have been in place before Moran took the building down. Councilman Reichner said the building was taken down before Moran owned the property. All the abatements are there and available in Ohio by the company that took the building down. Mr. Saxton said there were 45,000 tons of drill cutting waste hauled to that site that is still there. Councilman Reichner said it was fill from the transfer station construction. He has the Apex reports proving that. Councilman Eister said Apex tested in the area and found nothing. Councilman Eister said the county within the next 6 months will build a prison on that site. Storm water management will be in that design. It will all be addressed by the county during the prison project.

Mr. Gordon Lamb: When will the Chestnut St. project be finished and why is it taking so long? Councilman Eister said they are grading for sub-base to get ready for paving. The concrete work should be done this week from Front St. to 3rd St. The actual contract was through November but work should be complete by mid-October.

Ms. Meghan Beck: SRI has hired an executive director, Ms. Rose Stump.

PARKING REQUEST/GEISINGER CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Councilman Eister said the new Geisinger Child Advocacy Center is requesting 6 parking spaces in the Court St. parking lot and 6 in the lot by Cole's Hardware for employees. He will bring it back to council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lake Augusta Wine and Brew Festival – to be held on September 19th from 2 pm to 6 pm and tickets are still available.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk