

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
November 14, 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
Michael M. Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Kenny Long, Public Works Assistant Supervisor
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Inspector
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were thirteen (13) visitors present.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The Minutes of 10/24/2011 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 Eister. Second – Troup Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at cityofsunbury.com

SRI UPDATE

Ms. Kristen McLaughlin told council that several members of SRI toured the Lock Haven riverfront area and received information regarding bands they use for their summer concert series. The Wolverton St. project is moving forward. The survey work is complete and in January there should be a stakeholders meeting that will include Wolverton St. residents and public officials to discuss the project. There is an organization called Core Communities with which the City submitted information on several vacant properties. A property chosen for the feasibility study was the Bitner building at 4th and Market St. and it is still being considered. Kristen explained the Hometown Veteran's program that SRI is undertaking. Kristen has met with the local veteran organizations and they are very supportive of the project. At this time, Lycoming and Clinton counties have the same program. Businesses, organization or families or individuals will sponsor a banner for a veteran or serviceman currently serving. The banners will be hung on Front St and Market St. The person's name, branch of the military, when they served, their hometown and the sponsorship information or the families message. There is a cost of \$200 per banner. The banners will hang from Memorial Day to Veteran's Day and then taken down, cleaned and given to the veteran or veteran's family. This will be a county project and anyone with a tie to Northumberland County will be eligible. The program has been very well received in other counties. Lock Haven provided all their information to Kristen to start the program. Rileigh's Décor has been involved with the other counties programs so that is the banner company SRI will use. There will be an unveiling ceremony no later than mid-May. There are 66 light poles on Front St and 99 on Market St. including Cameron Park and Edison Plaza. Kristen asked for council's approval in the use of the light poles. Councilman Eister moved to allow SRI to use the city owned poles for the Hometown Veteran's program. Second – Troup Unanimous vote.

RIVER FRONT PROJECT

Councilman Eister reported that they are pouring the footer at the Marina wall and then the fishing pier will be started. After the fishing pier is complete the rest of the project will be on dry land so water levels won't make any difference to a finish date. The WPA wall had 2 blow-outs during the flooding in September above the area they are working on now (above Race St). It was caused by extreme head pressure on the wall and old terracotta pipes. Terry and Cheryl met with PEMA/FEMA representatives to report damage during the flood event and included this in reporting to those agencies.

2ND READING/POLICE PENSION PLAN IRS CHANGES

Mayor Persing moved to pass on a second reading changes to the Police Pension Plan recommended by Conrad Siegel Actuaries that address the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (HEART) (see attached). Second – Eister Unanimous vote.

2012 TAX ANTICIPATION LINE OF CREDIT

The following bids were opened for the 2012 Tax Anticipation Line of Credit in the amount of \$250,000:

First National Bank 2.6% fixed	Susquehanna Bank 2.15% fixed with soft costs
Northumberland National Bank 1.29% fixed	Swineford Bank floating at 65% of prime

Upon review by the City Solicitor, Councilman Snyder moved to award the bid to the Northumberland National Bank at 1.29% fixed rate for 1 year 1-1-2012 thru 12-31-2012. Second – Eister Unanimous vote.

DESIGNATION OF AGENT RESOLUTION/PEMA

Mayor Persing moved to pass the Resolution naming Cheryl Delsite as the PEMA Agent of Designation. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

DESIGNATION OF AGENT RESOLUTION/HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

Mayor Persing moved to pass the Resolution naming Cheryl Delsite as the Agent of Designation for the PEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (acquisition of property). Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

APPOINTMENT TO VACANCY ON APPEALS BOARD

Mayor Persing moved to appoint Mr. Gary Wolfe to fill the vacancy on the Appeals Board. Second – Eister Unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION/PREMIUM ONLY PLAN (POP)

Councilman Snyder moved to pass the Resolution as requested by the health insurance cooperative for the City's Premium Only Plan (POP). This plan allows for pre-tax deductions for health insurance co-payments made by City employees. Second – Troup Unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION/HRA ADOPTION AGREEMENT

Mayor Persing moved to pass the Resolution to adopt the Health Reimbursement Agreement as requested by the health insurance cooperative for the City's health plan as part of the Health Care Reform Act. This is so retired police officers on the City's health insurance can be reimbursed for their prescription deductibles per the contract that was in place at the time of their retirement. Second – Eister Unanimous vote.

PA DOT STREET CLOSURE/DEC 4TH CARRIAGE RIDES

Councilman Troup moved to authorize the closure of a portion of Market St (Route 61) between 2nd and 3rd Sts. as required by PA DOT for carriage rides in conjunction with an event at the Masonic Lodge on Sunday December 4th. Second – Eister Unanimous vote.

PA DOT STREET CLOSURE/DEC 31ST NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Councilman Troup moved to authorize the closure of a portion of Market St. (Route 61) between 4th St and 5th St on December 31st for a New Year's Eve celebration. 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 \$117,151.27 from the general fund and \$111,643.50 from the liquid fuels fund as funds are available. Second- Eister Unanimous vote.

1ST READING 2012 BUDGET

Councilman Snyder explained the revenues projected for 2012 are a reduction of just over \$50,000 at \$4,170,170. The budget deficit as first projected was over \$600,000 short. At the conclusion of the first

budget meeting, \$500,000 had been cut from the initial figures. He said he went through the budget again looking at items considered discretionary and those that could be shifted from the general fund to short term debt using the debt reduction tax to pay for those items. Making those changes, the shortfall is now at approximately \$60,000 or a 1 mil tax increase to balance. Over the next few weeks council will work together to clear the remaining shortfall and have no tax increase for 2012. Council should think about ways to explore new and creative ways to bring in new revenue while thinking about expenses and deleting those that are not needed. Councilman Bartello asked about keeping the tax increase out of the 1st reading of the budget and remove something else. Councilman Snyder that could be done, however at this time it's easier to have a first reading in this manner. Mayor Persing said there are items that he is still looking at and everyone should still be looking at their departmental budgets on items that can be cut. Mr. David Whipple asked what a mil equals and the answer is \$60,000. Mr. Brad Hare asked about departmental phone charges and he asked for a clarification. The answer is the line items are phone lines into the offices including cell phones for other departments... The police dept. is the only department showing cell phone charges on a separate line item. Councilman Bartello said he thought the cell phone charges were included in the phone charges line item. Councilman Snyder thought that charges may be decreased by using VOIP. After general discussion regarding the 2012 Budget, Councilman Snyder moved pass the budget with a 1 mil tax increase, with the intention of eliminating the tax increase before the 2nd reading. Second – Eister. No – Troup, Bartello. Yes – Eister, Persing, Snyder. Motion carried. Mayor Persing announced that budget meetings are open to the public and there will be a lot of changes to it before it is passed on a final reading. Councilman Snyder said he has no expectations of voting for a budget on a 2nd reading with a tax increase.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Councilman Troup told council that he was asked by the school district to look at the parking in front of the school. Since the Middle School students are now in the high school building there is a major traffic flow problem before and after school. Chief Mazzeo and Councilman Troup decided that there would be no parking on Walnut St. from 6th St to 10th St during school hours. Anyone that lives on Walnut St between 6th and 10th Sts will be given a parking space by the school district in the school parking lot during school hours. Cpl Brad Hare said the police department is there a lot because there is so much traffic and they have so many problems. Councilman Troup moved to have no parking on Walnut St. between 6th and 10th Sts from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Councilman Troup will talk to Dan Saxton to let him know about council's decision. A notice should be given to the people that reside in that area. Cpl. Hare said the school district should do something about the flow of traffic while parents are picking up and dropping off students. Parents should pick up their children at a location other than in front of the school where the busses are.

Councilman Troup announced that the street sweeper schedule has been suspended for the season and will resume in April.

Mr. David Whipple said a tariff should be put on trucks coming in to the Moran property and that could go toward the \$60,000 shortfall. He also asked if Moran has a permit for what they are building on that property. Mr. Rhoads said the only permit they asked for lately was a permit to install a privacy fence around the property. Councilman Troup said it looks like they were putting in some type of tarping facility. The code office will check that on Tuesday. Mr. Whipple also asked if the newsletter could be printed every 2 months and have advertising in it to offset the costs. It could highlight the businesses in the City that people do not know are here. Mayor Persing said the fall newsletter was the first one that had any advertising in it and the goal is to sell enough advertising to have it pay for itself. Councilman Snyder said emailing the newsletter or posting it to the website would also save costs. Mr. Whipple said a discussion was held a few months ago about people walking across Julia St to get to Weis. He said it is an area that was a street at one time, although it does not show on any of the current maps. The official map of the City is dated in the early 1900's. That map does not show Julia St going through. Ms. Carole Mazzeo asked how they could be legal addresses but not be considered a legal street. Mayor Persing said there are streets that were used as streets but they are no longer maintained by the City. She said the City may have stopped maintaining it but that doesn't mean residents have stopped using it to get to Weis and CVS or the 4th St area. Councilman Troup explained there is an area on Highland Ave. near 12th St that is the same situation – it shows as a City street but the City hasn't maintained it for years so the property owner parks his vehicle there and that is perfectly legal. Ms. Mazzeo also asked where the fence was going to be built on the Moran property. Mr. Rhoads answered that it surrounding the property but doesn't remember if there is fence around the Julia St. side.

Ms. Cora Campbell asked what kind of fence it will be. Mr. Rhoads answered it will be a 6' chain link fence with privacy panels. She also asked if it was legal to land a helicopter in that area. A helicopter landed there twice this summer. Councilman Snyder said he doesn't think you can land a helicopter for non-emergency purposes just anywhere. If they are landing a helicopter in that area he feels it is an issue. Mr. Apfelbaum will look into that issue.

Mayor Persing moved to authorize him to write a letter to Gov. Corbett to release funds that Gov. Rendell put aside for the Route 61 by-pass project. This money would be used for acquisition to make way for the through-way project. Second Eister Unanimous vote.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk