

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
 Sunbury, PA
 October 22, 2012
 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 ** (via telephone)
 James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer
 Lisa J. Martina, City Controller
 Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer and Fire Chief
 Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were twenty-five (25) members of the public present.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERA BIDS

Councilman Snyder opened the following bids for surveillance cameras:

	Pole Mount	Camera 1	Camera 2	Camera 3	Dome a	Dome b
Global Surveillance System * Chantilly VA 1 free for 20 purc.	99	1198	1119	1119	186	136
ABP International Inc * Dallas TX	97.28	1214.48	1138.48	1138.48	112.48	188.48
Americas Computer Company San Antonio, TX	120	1277.2	1250.08	1250.08	194.36	110
North American Video Inc Brick NJ	199	1275	1298	1298	121	105
Genesis Security Integrations Pittsburgh PA	120	1200	1215	1215	119	190
Open Systems Integrators Englishtown NJ	130	1407	1440	1440	115	220
M3T Mechanicsburg PA	108.86	1351.89	1377.27	1377.27	210.94	125.88
Keystone Communications Northumberland PA	131.28	1639	1669.88	1669.88	254.38	151.81

He explained the bids were based on quantities of 100 units of Mobotix cameras. Based on the bids received Councilman Snyder moved to accept the bid as received by Global Surveillance System. Second – Eister. No – Bartello. Yes – Troup, Eister, Persing, Snyder. Motion carried.

Councilman Snyder also moved to purchase 20 network video recorders with 6 terabytes of storage with a redundant drive at \$1,500/unit for a total purchase price of \$30,000 from Global Surveillance System and 24 wireless networking routers at \$322.99/unit for a total price of \$7,751.80 from Verizon Wireless & Cradlepoint Technologies which is a sole-source. Both items are under the bid threshold. Second – Eister. Yes – Eister, Persing, Snyder, Troup. No – Bartello. Motion carried.

SUB-DIVISION APPROVAL

Mr. Mike Rhoads explained that the New Creation Assembly of God Church requested a sub-division at 245 Chestnut St. It has been approved by the county planning commission, Municipal Authority and the City’s planning commission recommends that council approve it. Councilman Bartello moved to approve the sub-division plan as presented. Second – Persing. Unanimous vote.

NEW HIRE/PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Troup moved to hire Mr. Michael Dickerson as a full-time employee in the public works department to run the street sweeper and be a general laborer at a rate of \$11/hour. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION TO PA DOT

Councilman Eister moved to prepare and send the Special Events permit to PA DOT for the Holiday Parade to be held on November 23, 2012. Second- Persing. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Snyder moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$107,508.43 from the general fund and \$115.00 from Liquid Fuels as funds are available. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. David Whipple thanked Councilman Troup for having streets paved in the Caketown section of the City. Ms. Cora Campbell also offered her thanks.

Mr. Ed Quiggle, Jr. asked why the networking equipment was not bid. Councilman Snyder explained that the only source for this type of equipment is Verizon Wireless and will go through their network. Mr. Quiggle also asked what authorized a councilman to be present through a tele-communications device at a meeting. Mayor Persing explained that a Resolution was passed at a prior meeting to allow this.

Ms. Julie Brosius said rock and silt has been running into the street near 842 Edison Ave. Mr. Joe Swope said he has been in touch with Mr. Jeff Streetman from Moran Industries – they put small riprap in to try to stop the water run-off but since it did not work they will put more stone in the area and if that does not work they will try something else to help to alleviate the problem. Mayor Persing said this has been an on-going issue for many years and to date a solution has not been found.

Mr. Bob Miller asked if the City owns the property at 217-219 yet. Councilman Eister answered that is still in the court system and the City does not own it yet. There are small trees growing out of the rain spouting and Mr. Miller is afraid they will make the rainspout tear off the house. The City cannot do anything about that yet due to liability issues.

Ms. Laurie Johnson said a few weeks ago there was an investigation regarding 3rd Asst. Chief Rick Sinko at the Rescue Hose Co. and that issue was to be put forward to city council. She has heard they do not have proper evidence and is concerned for Mr. Sinko. He has been a volunteer with the Sunbury Fire Dept. for 27 years and she is not sure he is being treated fairly. Mayor Persing said that is still with the Rescue Hose Co. and they are handling it through their by-laws. Mayor Persing said it is his understanding that he was suspended and he has 30 days to appeal the decision. There is a police and attorney general's office investigation on-going at this time. Ms. Johnson asked if there was anything city council members could do to make this issue move forward and Mayor Persing answered no, their by-laws state they have a 30 day appeal process and Ms. Johnson can come back to the next meeting to see if anything has been done. The date of the letter is October 9th and the fire department was notified on October 11th. Mr. Bob Snyder explained that each fire company is autonomous and what happens within their own departments does not come through city council. If it was a matter of responding to fires or training, city council could be involved but not for an internal investigation. Mayor Persing said it is city council's responsibility to be sure the fire company follows their by-laws and he wants to be sure Mr. Sinko is given his due process. Mr. Sinko also has legal rights for himself. Fire Chief Mike Rhoads explained that since Mr. Sinko was expelled from the Rescue Hose Co. for life, he is no longer a member in good standing with a fire company and therefore he has been put on administrative leave from his position of 3rd Assistant Chief in the fire department until the investigation is complete. Mr. Francis Scarcella asked what happens if he is found not guilty but has been expelled for life from the Rescue Hose Company. Fire Chief Rhoads did not know as this situation has never come up. Councilman Snyder said he thought the by-laws would state if you are found not guilty you should be able to be reinstated as a member of the fire company. Mr. Sinko could join another company in 2 years, per fire department by-laws.

TRANSFER LIQUOR LICENSE

Mr. Matthew Slivinski explained that Mr. Matt Olson is purchasing a liquor license from Mt. Carmel Borough and would like to transfer it to Sunbury. He is opening an up-scale sandwich shop and 6-pack store and will be selling 6-packs and customers could have a drink while eating in. The restaurant is in the former Brewer's Café on N. 4th St. Mr. Olson also owns a sub shop in Selinsgrove called A Taste of Philly. Councilman Snyder moved to allow the transfer of a restaurant liquor license to M & T Beverage, LTD located at 1139 N. Fourth St. in Sunbury from Mt. Carmel Borough. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Council members thanked Mr. Olson for bringing a business to Sunbury.

NEW RENTAL FEE/1340 SUSQUEHANNA AVE.

Councilman Bartello said this is the property discussed at the last meeting. He feels that since it is not a new rental he should not have to pay the \$1,000 fee. Councilman Bartello wants to recues himself from the vote because he was a former tenant of the property. Councilman Eister said they discussed it and a suggestion was made to handle this situation like it was a new rental and make the owner pay the \$1,000 new rental fee with no penalty. Councilman Troup said if it is excused it puts more of a burden on the tax payers. Councilman Bartello replied the owner is a tax payer too and would prefer that the owner puts the money back into his building. Mayor Persing said Mr. Underkoffler (attended a previous meeting asking to be excused from the \$1,000 fee) had to pay the fee also. Mr. Swope said he feels the owner did not know about rental permits because he called the code office for help removing a tenant and was surprised when the code officers told him it was not listed as a rental property. Councilman Snyder moved to tell the owner to pay the \$1,000 new rental property fee with no penalty. Second – Eister. Yes – Persing, Snyder, Troup, Eister. Abstain – Bartello. Motion carried.

SATELLITE DISH ORDINANCE

Councilman Bartello said he would like to have an ordinance which would require old satellite dishes to be taken down when they are no longer functional. If council is interested in pursuing this he will work on putting something together. Mr. Bob Snyder asked how anyone would know that it isn't active. Councilman Bartello answered that you would check into it. Councilman Eister said in the prior administration Mr. Walberg tried to impose a permit fee for installation of satellite dishes but found out it is illegal. Councilman Bartello will put something together and bring it to a council meeting. Ms. Meghan Beck said the City is behind the times in satellite dish enforcement and there should be guidelines where they should be placed. Mayor Persing said there has to be a way to enforce it if enacted. Mr. Rhoads said that is another problem – if there is a vacant property, they can't always find the owners since owners walk away and mortgages change hands all the time. The City cannot take them down due to liability issues.

PENN VALLEY AIRPORT

Mr. Bob Snyder explained that he represents the City of Sunbury on the Penn Valley Airport Board. Many good things have happened there in recent years. Many businesses in Sunbury use the airport as their home base including Weis and Sunbury Textile Mill. The City has contributed \$2,100/year for the past 5 years as part of a commitment to the upgrades at the airport. Mr. Snyder said the airport has been forced to double the commitment from sponsor municipalities while they (federal gov't) continue to give their original amount. Mr. Snyder asked council to include a payment to the airport for the next 5 years in the 2013 Budget and increase the amount if at all possible. Another suggestion would be to asses a .50 fee per capita. Mayor Persing said they would note that in the 2013 Budget and hope it stays in the budget to the end.

202 WASHINGTON AVE.

Councilman Snyder stated the new house at this property has been set. There will be an open house scheduled when the house is complete and an auction to sell it to follow. Councilman Bartello asked if the selling price is still \$150,000, even though code permits show cost estimates in the code office are closer to \$175,000. Mayor Persing said a reserve will be set for the auction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Snyder handed budget worksheets to all council members. The first budget meeting is scheduled for October 29th.

Councilman Snyder said there is a position open in the finance department with the resignation of Brenda Fogelman. That position will be advertised and filled as soon as possible. Councilman Troup asked if the position would be filled soon since a busy time for taxes is coming up. Councilman Snyder said he does not want to fill the position hastily so he is sure the right person is chosen for the position. Ms. Fogelman will continue to do finance work on-line remotely on a part-time basis.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk