

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
September 26, 2016
6:15 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable Mayor David L. Persing, presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

David L. Persing, Mayor
Elizabeth R. Kremer, Director of Accounts and 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 E. Troup, City Treasurer
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Russ Wertz, Fire Chief
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were nineteen (19) visitors present.

A moment of silent reflection was held after the Pledge of Allegiance.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Councilman Eister introduced Deb Betz (parent), Lawrence Henry, Zoe Betz, Isaiah Betz, Heather Glessner, Amy Glessner, Sarah Shaffer, Caleb Shaffer, Nicole Keeley, Dakota Baker, Ravim Schevchenko and Missy Shaffer (parent). There were also kids that helped but unable to come to the council meeting. They all graciously volunteered their time to clean-out weeds from the Wolverton St. area and replace with landscape stone. Mayor Persing gave each a Certificate of Recognition for their volunteer efforts. Ms. Betz said the group has decided to mow grass for anyone that cannot do it for themselves. Councilman Eister also said he would give them each a family pass to the ice skating rink.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Persing asked for comments on agenda items and there were none.

FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT BIDS

Councilman Reichner said 3 bids were received for the extra radios the county is not providing to the fire department: Northumberland National Bank 2.73% fixed no fees 1st payment in 2017. Swineford Bank 2.47% fixed \$500 fees first payment in 2016. First National Bank 2.50% fixed no fees – no mention of 1st month of payback. Chief Wertz said the treasurer of the fire department was checking on a rate also. Councilman Reichner moved to have the solicitor review the bids and advise council which bank would be the best for the loan. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

PPL/LED STREETLIGHT CONVERSION

Councilman Reichner explained he has been working with PPL to convert the street lights to LED. Councilman Henry asked if there would be any cost to the city and Councilman Reichner said there would be no cost. Councilman Reichner moved to have the solicitor review the Agreement and authorize the mayor to sign the document after review. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Mr. David Whipple said Northumberland has the new LED lights and it makes a big difference in the ability to see.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$186,177.84 from the General Fund and \$17,066.14 from the Liquid Fuels fund. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Deb Betz: Have any letters been sent out to property owners regarding weeds along the street and curb. Mr. Rhoads said it was his understanding that DPW was going to handle that but they have been citing people for weeds on residential and commercial properties. Councilman Henry said DPW will be spraying streets at curbs for weeds in 2017 but not for properties or on the curb line.

Regina Russell, Community Activist: As president of ACLU there is some literature that may be useful to the youth in attendance at the meeting in interacting with the police. There is also an app they can download that would stream directly to the ACLU if they see someone's civil rights being violated.

Laurie Johnson: The skate park was vandalized over the weekend and the Coke machine was broken into and damaged. They think it is someone that does not use the skate park regularly. If there is more vandalism, the park will be closed until further notice. Ms. Julie Broschius asked if there are cameras on N. 4th St. that could be viewed and Councilman Eister said he didn't know but thought they might be too far away. The city's cameras in the area do not cover the Coke machine.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Persing said when Officer Hause was fired, he could appeal to city council but instead he and his attorney said they wanted to go directly to arbitration instead. Since they will not be going to city council for the appeal, Councilman Henry moved to uphold the firing of Scott Hause. Second – Eister. Yes – Eister, Kremer, Reichner, Henry. Abstain – Persing. Motion carried.

PENN VALLEY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Mayor Persing explained the manager of the airport discussed a new hangar project with him since Sunbury is one of the nine municipalities that are stakeholders in the airport. 10 airplanes will fit in the hangar and it is being funded with a loan and grants. If they default each stakeholder could be liable for up to \$69,500. Mayor Persing moved to send a letter of support for the new hangar project to the airport authority. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote. Councilwoman Kremer and Councilman Henry will attend the meeting on September 29th to represent the City of Sunbury.

SPARC SIGNS

A prototype of a wayfinding sign was shown to council and audience members. A meeting will be scheduled with Penn DOT to see if they will be approved by them for Penn DOT streets. Mr. John Shipman and SPARC have worked on this project for some time. There are approximately 25 sign locations that have been identified and the total cost for signs only is approximately \$4,500. That does not include bolts and poles.

2017 BUDGET

Councilwoman Kremer distributed initial 2017 budget worksheets to council members. She asked that the worksheets are completed and returned by October 21st. She and Mr. Troup will meet with council members to discuss their individual budgets and revenue. Councilwoman Kremer also mentioned that the departments should try to be conservative with spending in the next few months.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sunbury ice skating rink opens October 1st

Annual Fire Department Memorial Service and Parade is October 16th at 1:30 (parade) and 2:00 (service)

Pink in the Rink hockey game between Bucknell U. and Susquehanna U. at 4 pm on October 30th to benefit the PA Breast Cancer Coalition

Thursday October 29th at 7 pm at the Degenstein Library there will be a presentation on Human Trafficking

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk