

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
April 10, 2017  
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 Troup, City Treasurer  
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor  
John Bakowicz, City Engineer  
Timothy Miller, Chief of Police  
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer  
Stephen Bennick, Captain Police Dept.  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

Visitors present: 23

A moment of silent reflection was held prior to the beginning of the meeting.

**MINUTES AND REPORTS**

The Minutes of 3/13/17 and 3/27/17 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 Henry. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at [cityofsunbury.com](http://cityofsunbury.com).

**PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**CDBG UPDATE**

Councilman Eister moved to accept the 2017 CDBG preparation schedule as presented by Ms. Linda Sterling. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

Mayor Persing moved to make a budget modification certification transferring \$19,549.37 from the 2013 demolition project into the Chestnut St. project. The Redevelopment Authority is unable to spend the funds before they expire on June 30, 2017. The Redevelopment Authority can apply for additional funding in FFY 2018. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

**REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Ms. Kula presented a Resolution (see attached) to declare 341-343 Pennsylvania Ave. a public nuisance. Acting as the Board of Health, Councilman Reichner moved to pass the Resolution declaring this property a public nuisance. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

**SRI UPDATE**

Ms. Laurie Johnson announced that SRI is still taking requests for Hometown Hero banners. Mr. Chris Reis asked council to allow SRI to use Cameron Park for "1<sup>st</sup> Friday" celebrations allowing businesses that do not have a building on Market St. to set up in the park. Councilman Henry moved

to allow the use of the park beginning in May through November, as well as stop ticketing parking meters at 3:00 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **MENSCH VACATE ALLEY**

Ms. Kula stated Edward and Sue Mensch requested that the city vacate the alley bordering their business. The city does not maintain the alley. Today will be the 1<sup>st</sup> reading to vacate the alley and also creating an ordinance vacating the alley (see attached). It must be advertised 3 times prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. The addition to Ordinance Section 145-48 will vacate and discontinue a portion of N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Councilman Henry moved to pass the 1<sup>st</sup> reading allowing for the vacation of the alley. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> READING/REVISE JUNKYARD ORDINANCE**

Ms. Kula explained this article is being updated to correspond more closely with the state statutes. The update to 175-4C updates the definition of junkyard and adds definitions for abandoned vehicle, junk, non-repairable vehicles, recycling, recycling center, repair or towing business, salvage vehicle, screening, trailer, truck-camper, vehicle and vehicle salvage dealer. Prohibited Uses Article 175-70 excludes junk yards anywhere in city limits except Highway Commercial or Industrial Park zoned areas. Articles 175-38 and 175-59 were updated to allow recycling center, vehicle salvage dealer and repair or towing businesses to be established in IP or HC zoned areas with restrictions. Included is a grandfather clause for those businesses already established with the Comm. of PA and following all applicable Penn DOT regulations. Mr. Joe Bartello asked how this would affect garbage haulers and the answer is it would not because they are outside this category and the definitions followed the PA regulations. Haulers are regulated by the state. Section 175-4C Reichner/Eister Unanimous vote  
Section 175-38 Reichner/Henry Unanimous vote.  
Section 175-55 Reichner/Henry Unanimous vote.  
Section 175-59 Reichner/Henry Unanimous vote.  
Section 175-70 Reichner/henry Unanimous vote.  
The ordinance revision will go into effect in 10 days. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

### **STONE CASTLE BOND**

A Resolution was going to be passed lowering the amount of the bond for the former prison site from \$250,000 to \$125,000. Mr. Walberg sent council members a letter from his attorney requesting that the bond not be required. He wants to have the closing on the property completed so he can start work as soon as possible. Councilman Eister moved to not require a bond in any amount. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote. A letter stating the waiver of the bond will be forwarded to the county solicitor.

### **AWARD CHESTNUT ST. PROJECT PHASE 2**

Councilman Eister moved to award the Chestnut St. project phase 2 to G & R Charles in the amount of \$1,085,191 as a base bid. There were several alternates which total \$1,556,612.00. Different funding will be used for alternates. Alternate #3 concerns the Sunbury Municipal Authority. Second Kremer. Unanimous vote. A meeting for the contract and utilities is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> and there will be another public meeting before construction begins in 30 days.

### **NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Persing introduced the new librarian Ms. Melissa Rowse at the Degenstein Community Library and presented her with a Proclamation for 2017 National Library Week.

### **HIRE PT POLICE OFFICERS**

Mayor Persing moved to hire Jeff Paulhamas as a new part-time police officer for the city. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

Mayor Persing moved to hire Retired SWAT Commander Roy Snyder as a new firearms instructor for the city and to bring the department to a statewide certification. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

## **PT HIRES CODE OFFICE**

Councilman Reichner moved to hire Mr. Darwin Feger and Mr. Roy Douglas as part-time code officers at up to 20 hours/week and Ms. Robyn Garinger as a part-time clerk at 20 hours/week. They will all make \$10.00/hour. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

## **1<sup>ST</sup> READING SOLICITING AND PEDDLING ORDINANCE**

Ms. Kula presented some changes to Section 124 Soliciting and Peddling. Some of the changes include updating language to include organizations and individuals. It also gives the code office the authority to handle the licensing requirements needed. 2 forms of ID will be required and the police department will perform a criminal background. The license fee will be \$100/day. Anyone with a soliciting license is not authorized to enter anyone's home. The license must be visible at all times. The license will be suspended if the licensee fails to comply with the standards of conduct established in Section 124-3. Exempt entities will include farmers engaged in selling only the produce of their own farms, any proceeds that will be going to a charitable or philanthropic purpose and property owners conducting yard sales, etc. The fines have been increased to not less than \$100 and not more than \$300. Ms. Russell asked if this means electric companies that are door-to-door knocking are legal. The answer is yes, if they are licensed through the code office. The license must be visible at all times. This does not include sports teams soliciting funding. Any business doing door-to-door soliciting will be required to have a peddling license. Councilman Reichner moved to pass the amendments to Sections 124-1 through 9 on a first reading. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

## **APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES**

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$209,092.34 from the General Fund and \$4,310.41 from Liquid Fuels. Second - Henry. Unanimous vote.

## **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Mr. David Whipple: The LED lighting in the intersections on Market St. looks good and it brightens the area. He asked if council can make the owners of store fronts cleanup their properties. That is not something council can do but it was suggested that SRI discuss this issue with their members.

Mr. Mark Walberg: Asked if SRI or the city would be interested in another stump grinding project and he offered \$750 to fund it. General discussion was held and the city will take that project on. Councilman Henry said he would contact companies to see what their prices would be.

Ms. Ann Marshall: The trees on the 400 block of N. 8<sup>th</sup> St. near her home are still dropping dead limbs onto her property. PPL has been called but told Ms. Marshall they will not touch the trees unless they bring the electric wires down. She had a picture of a large pile of debris that she cleaned up for pickup by the street department.

Mr. Greg Oyster: Gave council members information regarding the noise ordinance from other areas.

Mr. Joe Bartello: How many bids were received for Phase 2 of the Chestnut St. project? Councilman Eister answered there were 4 bids received out of 11 bid packets that went out to contractors.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The city-wide clean-up will be May 1 through 6 from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm at the transfer station for city residents only.

One of the city's police officers that was off-duty recovering from a job related injury fell and hurt himself at home and the city received a letter from his doctor stating he would not be able to do his job as a police officer again.

Mayor Persing went to a meeting regarding the Lake Augusta development plan which includes for Sunbury, sidewalks and lighting on Front St. to the bridge. It also involves Shamokin Dam and Northumberland and Point Township. A master site plan is needed to get Phase 2 completed.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk