

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
October 27, 2014
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, Vice-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:

Brad Hare, Chief of Police
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Ken Long, Assistant Public Works Supervisor
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were eighteen (18) visitors present.

AUDIENCE COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

CDBG UPDATE

No report.

KEYSTONE COMMUNITIES

Mayor Persing explained that council previously passed a motion to provide the Keystone grant administrator so the position is funded. The grant administrator will be Cheryl Delsite and she will spend 24 hours/week as Keystone Manager. Ms. Delsite explained the 5 programs under the Keystone funding criteria: Safe/Clean and Green, Asset Enhancement, Community Marketing/Design and Organization. The goals for each of those categories are listed on the grant application. If anyone wants further explanation they can contact her at the office. At this time a co-operation agreement must be passed and signed by the City of Sunbury and SRI to be sent with the grant application (see attached). The agreement specifies what the City and SRI each will be responsible for if designated a Keystone Community. Mayor Persing moved to pass the Keystone Communities Program Cooperation Agreement as presented. Ms. Delsite said DCED emphasized there is no more funding for 2014 and what happens with the election will determine how much funding is available in the future. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote. Mr. David Whipple asked if anyone would be hired in the mayor's office to replace her hours in the mayor's office and the answer is no, some of her duties will be passed on to others.

SRI UPDATE

Ms. Meghan Beck said the Veteran's banners will be taken down and cleaned after Veteran's Day and returned to the sponsors.

BLIGHT PROPERTIES

Ms. Kula explained the first Resolution (see attached) for adoption by council is in regard to acquiring the property at a private sale of 314 S. 3rd St. in lieu of condemnation proceedings. That means the Redevelopment Authority will be working with the property owner to have the property transferred to the City instead of going through the court system through eminent domain. Also, when the Resolution is passed it can be claimed as tax exempt because it is in lieu of compensation.

Councilman Reichner moved to pass the Resolution. Councilman Henry asked how much the property would cost and Ms. Kula said approximately \$1,000-\$1,500. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

Councilman Eister moved to pass the second Resolution (see attached) which will ratify and affirm the public sale of 434 Reagan St. and 608 S. Front St. and the purchase of 245 Chestnut St. Second Reichner. Unanimous vote.

ROAD CLOSURE/HALLOWEEN PARADE

Councilman Henry moved to approve a road closure permit for Raspberry Ave. from 10th St. to Awl St. for a fundraiser being held at the Daily Item press building. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Councilman Reichner asked if anyone received permission from The Daily Item to use their property and Councilman Henry answered yes.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the invoices on the vouchers payable report totaling \$46,121.74 from the general fund and \$995.80 from the liquid fuels fund. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

SIDEWALK PROGRAM

Mayor Persing said during the winter months the city will be looking at sidewalks for those that need repairs as part of the blight clean-up program. There are many sidewalks that were dug up for the water meter project that were not repaired or replaced. Ms. Regina Russell asked whose responsibility that will be and Mayor answered the property owner. She said this is where she is asking to use the grants in the school zone to help improve the sidewalks. Most of the homeowners in her neighborhood are seniors and it will be a burden to them. She said Ms. Shrawder said the grant money is going to Chestnut St. and she has not heard a commitment saying the new grant when it is open will be used for that purpose. Mayor Persing said there is no grant for that. He also said he does not know how a school zone is designated and he is talking about a city-wide project not just in school zones. Ms. Russell said it is the foot traffic where the children are going to school. Councilman Henry asked if that was everyone and Mayor Persing said yes. Councilman Henry said liquid fuels funds can be used for ADA curb-cuts only.

SUNOCO LEASE

Councilman Eister explained he has been working with SUNOCO for several months regarding their upgrade to the station at N. 4th St. and Arch St. Mr. Mike Kula explained the city's version of the proposed final amendment to the existing lease from 1995 to provide for an expansion. The 11,093 sq. ft. would have a rent of \$10,206 the first year (for the additional parcel) with a built in increase of 3% per year and the original lease will be \$6,000 in 2015 and goes up \$500. each 5-year period through 2035. The only outstanding issue is indemnification for the city if there may be an environmental issue. Also, there is a clause that deals with a cross easement agreement for the common drive area for the SUNOCO and Burger King properties. Councilman Henry said he is not prepared to vote on this because as of Friday he was told there wouldn't be a vote. Mayor Persing said they are not voting on the agreement but on whether SUNOCO adopts the changes made by the city. Councilman Eister said council should move on it. Councilman Shipman asked if this was an amendment to the existing lease and Mr. Kula said yes. Councilman Eister said the original agreement from 1995 does not change. Mr. Kula said SUNOCO is anxious to start the permitting process. Councilman Shipman asked about the hold harmless clause and Mr. Kula said that is on a more recent version of the amendment than council has. Councilman Shipman moved to authorize Mr. Kula to get the final document prepared and send the amendment to council members and SUNOCO and let them sign it first and return to the city for signatures. Councilman Reichner asked if they are aware of the stipulations the city added and Mr. Kula answered yes. There are no plans yet for the final drawings until the amendment is signed. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. David Whipple: When will street sweeping end? Councilman Henry answered it is around the 14th of November.

Officer Steve Bennick gave the mayor a 3rd step in the police grievance procedure. Mayor Persing said it is a personnel issue to be discussed in the future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Budget meetings will be held on Nov. 3, 17 and Dec. 15 at 6 pm and Dec. 8 at 5 pm

SMA Flood Training Exercise scheduled for Nov. 6th from 6 pm to 8 pm

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk