

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
February 8, 2010
7:00 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 Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
Stewart Graybill, City Administrator
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were nine (9) visitors present.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

Mayor Persing announced that the departmental reports of the City Administrator, Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Fire Dept., City Engineer, Code Office, Park and Recreation Department, Park & Recreation Board, Public Works Dept, and Planning Commission are in the City Clerk's office for review. On motion by Mayor Persing, Second Councilman Eister, the reports are approved as presented.

RIVERFRONT PROJECT UPDATE

Councilman Eister said that in a few days the committee should know if CDBG funds can be used to pay down the debt service. It looks good right now because the Army Corps' of Engineers report is extensive. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for February 18th. Councilman Snyder asked where the bid process stands for the 2nd phase of the project. Councilman Eister answered the meeting on the 18th is a final design meeting so the bids should be ready to let in March.

CONFLUENCE CELEBRATION

Ms. Julia Marano explained that she and Mr. Bob Snyder were attending the meeting to discuss some events taking place with the Friends of Shikellamy State Park and the Confluence Connections Coalition. A joint project including the Friends of Shikellamy State Park (FSSP), the Borough of Northumberland and the City of Sunbury would be to have movie nights, in Northumberland, Sunbury and at the marina or overlook area. The licensing fee is approximately \$250/night or \$2,250 for the nine week season. That fee would be shared by the 3 entities. The equipment will be purchased with a grant by the FSSP. They discussed having the Sunbury movies in the ice rink area so weather would not be a factor. There is a huge selection of movies and any family oriented movies could be chosen. Mayor Persing said he remembered going to the Good Will playground to watch movies when he was younger. The movies would be free-of-charge and businesses would be asked to help defray the costs. Mr. Snyder said they are looking for input as to what would work best for each community. Councilman Snyder asked if they were looking for monetary donations from the City and the answer is yes, as well as businesses in the area. Ms. Marano said that the local restaurants would be approached to have specials to coincide with the Celebration. Also, the 1st Annual Confluence Celebration Days will be held May 29th and 30th and it will provide an opportunity for area residents and visitors to explore, experience and celebrate the Confluence from the air, water and land. On Saturday May 29th there will be tethered hot air balloon and small aircraft rides at the Sunbury airport, canoe and kayak ventures on the river from the Shikellamy Marina and bicycle tours starting at Shikellamy State Park and touring the historical and interesting sites in Northumberland and Sunbury. Ms. Marano asked if a concert could be held in Cameron Park on Saturday May 29th with "Nate Myers and the Aces." Council members all agreed that would be possible. A brunch and watercraft parade and music will be held on Sunday at the Shikellamy Marina.

PARKING METER MACHINE/EDISON PLAZA

Mayor Persing asked if there was a study to see how many metered spaces and how many permit spaces are needed in the Edison Plaza. Councilman Eister said counts were taken in the past. The question is if you buy a permit to park in a lot, the permit is available for all lots. Councilmen Eister and Troup feel permits should be allowed in the Edison Plaza lot. Council agreed that permit parking should be allowed in the Edison Plaza.

COURT ST. PARKING LOT BID

Councilman Eister showed council a set of prints provided by Mr. Seiple for the parking lot area and the Moffit building plan. He asked whether the parking meters would be moved and Mr. Seiple answered that he requested that the bank of meters directly beside his building be made permit only parking. Councilman Snyder said there was a previous discussion regarding the employees in the building being able to park in that area with permits. Mr. Seiple said anyone with a permit could park in that area, it would not be reserved parking for the building. Councilman Troup thought the meters should stay and allow permit parking. A discussion was held regarding the use of permits in the parking lot. Mr. Seiple said he would like to have one meter removed to have an area where people can walk in to the main entrance to the building. Councilman Eister asked about leasing the 5' area on a long term lease for \$1 per year. Councilman Bartello said he is not in favor of leasing it for \$1 per year. Mr. Seiple said a lease is fine. Councilman Eister told Mr. Seiple that any costs incurred would be Mr. Seiple's responsibility. The building renovations are being done for the Department of Defense to operate a call-in center. The National Guard and Army Reserve are also involved. It will be a call-in center for the entire United States. A ribbon cutting will be held at a later date, perhaps the last week in March or first week in April. Councilman Eister moved to lease the 5' area in question for 25 years for \$1000, renewable upon request of the tenant. The tenant will maintain the area and all costs incurred will be the tenant's responsibility. Mr. Seiple's bid was the only bid received for 5' area of the parking lot. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

CODE OFFICE MOVE TO THIRD FLOOR

Councilman Bartello provided a floor plan for the 3rd floor area. Councilman Eister stated that Councilman Bartello has some great ideas to make the code office more effective and it is very critical that the code office becomes more proactive. He said Councilman Bartello should have the opportunity to follow through on his plans to move the code office forward. Mayor Persing said a lot of money was spent on the 3rd floor to renovate that area and he feels it should be promoted as office rental because the City could use the increased revenue stream. The code office will only need about 1/3 of the space. Councilman Bartello moved to move the code office to the third floor. Second – Eister. Yes – Eister, Snyder, Bartello, Troup. No – Persing. Motion carried.

HIRE THOMAS MCBRYAN PA DOT APPROVED INSPECTOR/RFP

Councilman Eister stated that Mr. Bakowicz was approached about being the engineer for Phase I of the Riverfront Project. He did not feel that was in his area of expertise and did not feel comfortable committing to it. Mr. Bakowicz suggested Tom McBryan. PA DOT was contacted and they certified Mr. McBryan to be the inspector on the project, after reviewing his credentials and resume. Mr. Bakowicz added that he assisted council to negotiate the proposal for the engineer of the project. A PA DOT inspector would have charged travel time as well as actual time and expense worked on the job. Mr. McBryan is semi-retired and lives just outside of Sunbury and it would be much less expensive for him to act as inspector than using a PA DOT provided inspector. Councilman Snyder asked if that position should have been put out on an RFP and Councilman Eister answered no, that was not necessary because it was professional services. Mr. Bakowicz has worked with Mr. McBryan on some other jobs and his work was exemplary and he was very professional. PA DOT had to approve anyone that was chosen for this job. Councilman Eister moved to hire Tom McBryan as the inspector for Phase I of the Riverfront Project at a rate of \$32. per hour, not to exceed \$32,000. and under the stipulation that documentation is received from SEDA-COG verifying that they know Mr. McBryan is the inspector for the project. Mr. Bakowicz stated that his situation has changed as well because he is no longer considered a part-time City employee, he is a consultant through his engineering contract with the City. Councilman Eister amended his motion to include Mr. Bakowicz, in the event his expertise is needed on the project, at his contracted rate. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

STATE POLICE/CITY SERVICES

Mayor Persing explained that there is legislation in Harrisburg to address the rural areas of PA that do not have their own police, or regional police, services. He is going to send a letter to the neighboring municipalities offering the police services of the Sunbury police department, in the event that the state police start to charge municipalities without police services for state police services. He feels the City can provide that service at a lower cost than the state police would charge. Councilman Eister asked if

that would put a burden on the City's police department as well as finances, because the City's department could use more officers.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CERTIFYING OFFICER/CDBG, DCED AND HUD FUNDED GRANT PROGRAMS

Councilman Eister moved to appoint Mayor David Persing as the Environmental Review Certifying Officer for CDBG, DCED and HUD funded grant programs. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

SALE OF T-TAG AND OLD POLICE CRUISER

Councilman Troup moved to sell the old t-tag and police cruiser that have been sitting at the City garage for several years. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

SALVAGE OF OLD GOOD INTENT FIRE TRUCK

Councilman Eister explained that this fire truck has been sitting at the city garage for many years since the Good Intent Fire Co. closed. No one knows anything about who has the title. Mr. Dick Simpson will be contacted to apply for a duplicate title. Mr. Graybill said they should apply for a salvage title because the truck has no value.

FEBRUARY EXPENDITURES

Councilman Snyder moved to authorize the expenditures for February in the amount of \$134,345.02. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

Councilman Snyder moved to pass the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Norm Gessner, representing the Hill Neighborhood Safety and Security Committee, asked where the street lighting updates that he and Mr. Ken Romberger presented to council stood. Councilman Troup answered that Mr. Graybill is working on that in conjunction with the Hill Neighborhood Improvements Project.

Ms. Diane Petryk from The Daily Item asked whether anyone from council has seen the contract with the Defense Dept. regarding the Call Center. The answer from council is no. Mr. Seiple has been asked to update council in regard to the new business when the time is appropriate.

Mr. George Gallick lives at 495 N. 11th St. – he said the speed limit near his home, which is within City limits, is 55 miles per hour. His dog was hit and killed recently and he is worried about his teenage children turning into their home with cars going 55 mph behind them. Councilman Troup said he would contact PA DOT to do a study and hopefully have the speed limit lowered. The speed limit in the other direction goes from 40 mph to 25 mph coming into city limits.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk