

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
August 11, 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, 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:

Kevin E. Troup, City Treasurer
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor
Bradley Hare, Chief of Police
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Michael Bordner, Workforce Supervisor
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were twenty-five (25) visitors present.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The minutes of 7/14/14 and 7/28/14 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 Eister. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at cityofsunbury.com.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

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

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mayor Persing showed a picture of a property at 314 Vine St. and read a letter thanking everyone involved with the HOME grant for bringing their property up to code. He said it is a successful program.

Ms. Kula said there is 1 property located at 618 N. 5th St. to be declared a public nuisance by the Board of Health. Councilman Reichner moved to pass the Resolution (see attached) to declare 618 N. 5th St. a public nuisance. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote. The owners will have 10 days to bring it to code compliance.

SRI UPDATE

Ms. Meghan Beck reported:

Business & Economic Development Committee- awaiting further collaboration with the NCIDA regarding the marketing project funding they requested. Mayor Persing asked if council could help in any way with the grant and Councilman Shipman answered he would like to wait one more month before asking council to contact NCIDA members.

Promotions Committee- ordered & received the discount cards that will include 11 local restaurants/businesses. They are also doing an inventory of vacant properties in the downtown area. Hill Neighborhood- Garden Tour is complete and the WREN grant is wrapped up. They are continuing to do rain barrel workshops because it was so popular.

Membership- distributing welcome bags to new members and adding them to the new business membership directory.

Riverfront Planning – Lake Augusta Wine & Brew Festival and the Renaissance Festival will be held in August.

New Year’s Eve- planning is underway.

SPARC- researching new projects to implement. Keystone Communities Designation paperwork will be submitted soon.

Albright Council- the deed has been transferred and the Tax Credit application has been submitted.

River Festival- Mr. Slade Schreck said the 25th anniversary River Festival is beginning Thursday August 14th with Valley’s Got Talent with 16 great acts. Friday is the beginning of the River Festival with Hybrid Ice as the featured band. Saturday is River Festival with a new feature “River Festival After Hours” which will feature a Def Leppard tribute band at 7:30 pm. There will free carnations and mugs given away for the anniversary celebration.

DEMOLITION BID/139-141 CHURCH ST.

Councilman Eister said there were 3 bids received for the demolition of 139-141 Church St: Schlagel Excavating \$19,428, Gusick \$15,812 and Steinbacher at \$13,670. Councilman Eister moved to award the bid to Steinbachers so the work can begin. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

PA DOT ROAD CLOSURE

Councilman Henry moved to submit the permit for the road closure for the Shikellamy Soccer Clubs to hold a Color Run on September 27th. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

Mayor Persing announced that 45 of the 55 vehicles tagged have been removed. The other 10 will be towed at the owner’s expense beginning Wednesday.

UN-NAMED ALLEYS

Councilman Henry said there is a list of un-named alleys that council should review. He is going to begin the process of having signs made for these alleys. He said item #5 is not associated with him (Henry’s Alley). He explained that even if you build a garage you must have an address through the 911 Center. Councilman Henry moved to allow his department to start to name un-named alleys. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

MOTOR VEHICLE SPEED-TIMING EQUIPMENT RESOLUTION

Mayor Persing explained this Resolution (see attached) is in support of Senate Bill 1340 and House Bill 1272 enabling all municipal police to use the same motor vehicle speed-timing equipment as the PA state police. Mayor Persing moved to pass this Resolution in support of those Bills. Second – Henry. Yes- Henry, Eister, Persing, Reichner. No – Shipman.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Shipman stated the City is 58% into the budget for the year and as a whole the budget is over by approximately 7%. Some of that is due to pre-paying police pension and most insurances. He asked that everyone be conscious of this fact and to diligently watch their departmental spending. Councilman Shipman moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher’s payable report in the amount of \$109,931.12 from the General Fund and \$14,856.39 from the Liquid Fuels Fund. Second - Eister. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

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

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Ms. Julie Broschious: Does not think the street named Cadawalder Ave. is the correct name of the street. Councilman Henry said he will research it. Mr. Troup said former Councilman Richard Neff said it is Cadawalder Ave. as well. She said the alley behind her – N. 2nd St. does not have a sign on it. There are people that live there and their addresses are Rear Edison Ave. Councilman Henry asked Mr. Bordner to put a sign up in that area somewhere that it won't get run over by trucks. She also said there is a lot of speeding on Edison Ave. Councilman Henry said depending on what the arrest is, the city only gets about \$12.50 from a ticket and if it goes to court that does not cover the city's expenses. From an enforcement standpoint it is good.

Ms. Cora Campbell: The dust at the former Celotex site has been terrible since they are dumping ground there and is there anything that can be done? Mayor Persing said he would check into it.

Pastor Mike Outridge: The River of Life Church is having a breakfast for 1st Responders and their families on August 23rd from 9 am to 11 am to show their appreciation to them. They also invited the mayor and council members to attend. Mayor Persing said he will be in Boston that day and unable to attend.

Ms. Becky Enders: There are alleys with bad potholes and she has been told there is not enough money to take care of them all. Center St, Shroyer Alley and Woodlawn Ave. between 3rd and 4th Sts are examples. Councilman Henry said there is little money available because some of the liquid fuels funds are allocated to the Chestnut St. project and revamping traffic lights engineering studies. It is very expensive to repair whole streets and alleys. Councilman Eister suggested if they are going to repair some alleys they should let the water/sewer company know so they can check the pipes underground.

Ms. Yvonne Koble: There are cracks in the new Wolverton St. roadway near 1114 Wolverton St.

Un-named audience member: On Market St. at McGuigan's Pub, you cannot see the one way sign because it is under the flower basket. Mr. Bordner will take care of that as soon as possible. He also said there is a vehicle near 442 Kremer Ave which has expired plates and the owner still drives it. There is someone that lives close that has had several heart attacks and this vehicle is parked in front of their home so they have to walk after finding a place to park. The vehicle owner said it is a public street and he will park where he wants to.

Mr. Terrance Bassert: Wanted to know what has been done about the police attacking him last year. Mayor Persing said nothing has been done because there is no documentation of him being attacked. Mr. Bassert said he called 911 and reported it. There is no proof that anything happened. Mayor Persing told Mr. Bassert he has to do what he has to do legally.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Shipman reported the Police Pension MMO has been completed and the payment of \$456,958 in 2015 is \$63,000 higher than in 2014.

The River Festival begins Thursday with Valley's Got Talent, Friday with River Festival and Saturday with River Festival and After Hours.

The Redevelopment Authority will have an auction at 152 Bainbridge St. on August 26th at 6:00 pm.

SPARC/SRI is still looking for stumps to grind. Call 570-286-7820

Music in the Park continues on Tuesdays at 6 pm with the H2 Worship Team at Riverfront on August 12th, Mike Sweigard in Cameron Park on August 19th and Billy D & Rosie in Cameron Park on August 26th.

Mayor Persing said National Night Out held on August 5th was a huge success and brought out a lot of people to Cameron Park. He thanked Connie and Mike Beegle for their work over all the years to make it a huge event. This will be their last year as planners of the event.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Specht, City Clerk