

CITY COUNCIL
225 Market St.
Sunbury PA 17801
August 11, 2008
7:00 pm

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

Jesse C. Woodring, Mayor
John K. Shipman, Director of Accounts and Finance
Kevin E. Troup, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks/Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Mr. Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Chad Betts, Fire Chief
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were eleven (11) visitors present.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

Reports of the Police Dept., City Treasurer, City Controller, City Engineer, Code Office, Redevelopment Authority, Health Dept., Public Works Dept., Parks and Public Buildings, Planning Commission and Fire Dept. were accepted on a motion by Woodring, Second-Eister – unanimous vote.

RIVERFRONT PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Tom Deans, the Consultant for the Riverfront Project, presented an update regarding issues surrounding the Riverfront Project. Council is going to be more pro-active in presenting information about the project to the public.

LEGAL SEMINAR

Mr. Apfelbaum explained that he found several humorous items in the Code and wanted to share some of them with the audience. One item that was passed on April 24, 1960 and states that no person, firm nor corporation shall keep any fowl, hogs, pigeons, cows, goats or sheep within the City limits. Another ordinance from 1989 pertained to keeping snakes in the City, which is prohibited, with the exception of in their personal residence, unless the snake is properly contained in a cage. “No person shall park a bicycle upon a street or public alley, other than upon the roadway against the curb, or upon the sidewalk in a rack to support the bicycle, or against the building or at the curb in such a manner as to afford the least obstruction to pedestrian traffic.” It is amusing to see what was important in prior years.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Woodring issued the Oath of Office to Mr. John Carpenter (Police Pension Board) and Mr. Ed Chaney and Mr. Bob Miller (Health Board).

2ND READING/ADD PROFESSIONAL FEE TO MERCANTILE TAX

Councilman Shipman explained that council has been trying to get this Ordinance correct for some time and moved to pass the Ordinance on a second reading as amended (to include a new list of payers – see attached) Nothing else has been changed since the first reading. Second-Woodring. Unanimous vote.

NOTICE TO PROCEED/PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES/EDISON PLAZA

Councilman Eister moved to accept the proposal from John Bakowicz regarding professional services for the Edison Plaza CDBG Project (see attached) in an amount not to exceed \$5,368. This is a supplement to the Engineer’s contract as required by CDBG and approved by Bill Seigel. Second Troup. Unanimous vote.

ELKS SPECIAL OCCASION PERMIT

Councilman Eister moved to pass an Agreement to allow the Elks Lodge #267 to hold their annual "Hog and Grog" in conjunction with the Sunbury River Festival. The Agreement allows the Elks to lease a City-owned parking lot area to serve alcoholic beverages, in a roped off area, and hold the City harmless from any and all claims or disputes arising out of the Agreement. The Elks have permission from the Liquor Control Board to hold the event. Second-Troup Vote: Yes – Troup, Eister, Woodring. No – Shipman. Motion carried.

CSIU/PENCON PROJECT FOR ELECTRICITY PROCUREMENT

Mayor Woodring received information regarding a program the CSIU supports regarding electricity procurement to re-sell to members. The cost of membership is \$25.00. The goal of the project is to provide members with a competitive rate below the utility costs, with deregulation slated for 2010. Councilman Shipman stated that PLCM has a program, Municipal Utility Alliance, which offers the same service. Mayor Woodring moved to join whichever program offers the best deal for the City. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote.

DIRECTOR'S LIABILITY INSURANCE/COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMITTEE

Council voted at a prior meeting to support the Community College Committee by donating \$2500 to help fund a survey that was needed as an initial step in the process to start a Community College in Sunbury. The Rotary Club members stepped in and donated the needed money for the survey. Members of the committee approached the Mayor to see if council would provide \$2500 toward their Director's Liability Insurance, the other \$2500 of the premium costs would be paid by the Director's themselves. Mayor Woodring moved to sponsor ½ of the Director's Liability Insurance. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote.

AUGUST EXPENDITURES

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the August expenses in the amount of \$103,682.29. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

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

POLICE GRIEVANCE

Mr. Apfelbaum explained that the police association delivered a letter to council regarding step 4/5 of a grievance filed by the SPOA regarding part-time health insurance. The current letter dated August 11, 2008 states that the SPOA decided to proceed to final and binding arbitration in this matter. The next step is to choose from a list of arbitrators and then a hearing will be held.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Bob Miller asked when Line St. would be paved. Councilman Troup answered that it is on the list for 2008 paving. There were 8 streets planned to be paved however due to the cost of asphalt, the list was changed to 5 streets, of which Line St. is included.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The River Festival is scheduled for Thursday August 14th through Saturday August 16th.

City council is sponsoring a forum on September 23rd at 6:30 to present information to the public about the Riverfront Project. The public is invited to attend.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk