

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
April 11, 2016
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
Elizabeth R. Kremer, 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
Lisa Martina, City Controller
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Michael Bordner, Public Works Supervisor
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were thirty-four (34) visitors present.

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

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The minutes of 3/14/16 and 3/28/16 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 Councilwoman Henry. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at cityofsunbury.com.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

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

SRI UPDATE

Ms. Aimee Buehner reported they had the ribbon cutting for Radiance Holistic Center, the winner of the Biz Pitch competition. Another competition will be held in November. 2 of the other contestants have been successfully placed in buildings on Market St (Rebecca's Treats and Little Studio Big Art). The Albright Council met with Senator John Gordner and also had a follow-up meeting with DCED regarding the tax credit program. A new executive director should be hired soon. A rack card is being planned to announce all the SRI events. The Renaissance Festival will be held on September 10th.

VACATE ALLEY/MENSCH

Councilman Henry stated that Mr. Mensch attended the last meeting. There are no underground services in that alley. Councilman Henry made a motion to move forward with vacating the alley with the stipulation that Mr. Mensch have the area surveyed with the results going to the city solicitor. Mr. Bakowicz reminded council members that any legal costs associated with this should also be paid by Mr. Mensch. The city should have no costs. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

KEYSTONE COMMUNITIES RESOLUTION

Mayor Persing moved to pass the Resolution authorizing the filing of an application to receive a designation as a Keystone Community (see attached). Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

NOISE ORDINANCE WAIVER

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pass a noise ordinance waiver for a fundraiser at the Shikellamy football stadium on August 20, 2016. It is an all-night fund raiser similar to a Relay for Life. All the neighbors must first be notified. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$43,090.72 from the General Fund and \$1,867.50 from the Liquid Fuels Fund. Second - Henry. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

Councilwoman Kremer moved to accept the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Collection. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Brad Hare: Presented council Step 3 of a grievance by Officer Michael Hawkins.

Regina Russell, Community Activist: What is code doing about the abandoned Wire Rope building that has rusted equipment outside, broken garage doors and broken windows? Mayor Persing said they do know who the owner is but they do not know what buildings they use and don't use. They may be used for storage. Because it is an industrial site, they will find out what they are using and not using.

Mr. Ruell Whipple: Is Susquehanna Ave. going to be shut down so the car dealership can build a building? Councilman Eister said when the county was going to build a prison at the former Celotex site, their intent was to put a traffic signal on Front St. Penn DOT would not allow a light at that street due to safety issues.

Mr. Dino Pangolius: A company did a shoddy job on his roof repair at 370 Market St. and he wants to know if council can help him get some resolution. It was when the city had BIU as a 3rd party inspection company. Mr. Pangolius is going to make an appointment to speak to the mayor.

Mr. Jim Snyder: The property that burned near the East End Hose Co. is not only a fire hazard but a health hazard. There are turkey buzzards roosting there now. Mr. Rhoads sent the property owner a letter stating he had until April 15th to begin repairs. If nothing is done in that time frame, another letter must be sent giving him a shorter period of time and if nothing is started the city can move on to the next process. Mr. Rhoads explained they have procedures they have to follow.

Ms. Julie Brosous: There was an ad in the newspaper that a tower was going to be placed on Chestnut St. near the railroad track. No one on council knows anything about that. There has been notice that there will be a tower in Upper Augusta Township.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Persing said a professional is going to be hired to update the SOP's and Regulatory Orders for the police dept. This will include policy regarding cell phones, I-pads, etc. As of today, the K-9 program is suspended. Mayor Persing has been trying to get reports or other information regarding the program and has not had any response from the K-9 handler.

Mayor Persing is going to send a letter to the Norfolk Southern Railroad about the properties they own which are blighted because they do not maintain. The city will not discuss closures until NS decides to work with the city. One of the areas is near the old Young Door Co.

Mayor Persing said he has asked Councilman Reichner to check into why the city's insurance escrow law was not enforced when the prison burned. The city is to get a portion of the insurance proceeds to hold in escrow to be sure something is done with the property. Councilman Reichner said the county has been put on notice that something has to be done at that site.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free Mulch on May 7th from 7:00 am to 12:00 noon at the mulch area north of Beiters.

The JROTC clean-up for Earth Week is scheduled for April 18-22. JROTC 5K is April 23rd.

Street sweeping regular schedule will resume on April 11th.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk