

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
April 27, 2015  
6:15 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable John K. Shipman, Vice-mayor, presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

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  
John Bakowicz, City Engineer  
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor  
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer  
Ken Long, Assistant Public Works Supervisor  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were eighteen (18) visitors present. A moment of silence was held in memory of Mr. John Apple.

#### **CDBG COMPETITIVE GRANT PUBLIC HEARING**

Ms. Jamie Shrawder opened the final public hearing for the CDBG Competitive grant application. Chestnut St. will be completely reconstructed. Phase 1 is Front St. to 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and it is underway. Funding is being sought for the final phase, 3<sup>rd</sup> St. to 10<sup>th</sup> St. This grant is specifically for utility improvements for Phase 2 which will include water, sewer and storm water improvements. The project estimate is \$1,162,355. The competitive grant amount requested is \$750,000. The city has CDBG entitlement funds from 2015 allocated to the project as well as local funding to complete the budget. A Resolution will be on the next meeting agenda to approve submitting the application and authorizing the mayor to sign all documents. Ms. Shrawder asked for any additional comments on the project. There were none. The public hearing was adjourned.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS**

Councilman Shipman asked for public comment on agenda items and there were none.

#### **BID OPENING/OPG**

One bid was received for the improvements to the OPG playground repaving basketball courts project. Mr. Bakowicz opened the bid: G& R Charles Excavating - \$34,500. All necessary documents appear to be included but the bid will be reviewed by Mr. Bakowicz, the city solicitor and Ms. Shrawder. Ms. Shrawder will contact DCED to see if the project can be awarded with only 1 bid received. Ms. Shrawder said the bid is over the allocated amount of \$33,660 but there are funds left over in other projects including the code enforcement planning activity in the amount of \$5,444 and other activities that have not moved forward so other funding can be re-budgeted to the OPG project. She recommended tabling this item until the next meeting and she will prepare the necessary budget revision.

#### **RESOLUTIONS/PUBLIC NUISANCE PROPERTIES**

Mr. Apfelbaum explained the Resolutions (see attached) are based on the new law for eminent domain to correct public nuisance. The council will act as the Board of Health when voting on the following properties.

237 Pine St. Motion - Reichner. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote  
714 N.7<sup>th</sup> St. Motion - Reichner. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.  
460 N. Front St. Motion – Reichner. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

## **POLICE PENSION FUND COST-OF-LIVING DECREASE**

Councilman Shipman stated correspondence was received from Mr. David Killick of Conrad Siegel Actuaries for the police pension fund. They have been using a cost-of-living increase assumption of 4% for the last few years and they are recommending that city council passes a Resolution to reduce that amount to 3%. That will greatly assist the funding percentage and will decrease the unfunded actuarial accrued liability of the plan and helps the fund to be solvent. Councilman Reichner moved to reduce the actuarial assumption for cost-of-living increases for the retired police officers that receive a cost-of-living increase to the 3% assumption as recommended by Conrad Siegel Actuaries. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

## **PENN DOT STREET CLOSURE/RIVER FESTIVAL**

Councilman Henry moved to submit a road closure permit for the 5K for Kids/Marley's Mission March on March 12, 2016. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

## **APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES**

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the invoices shown on the vouchers payable report totaling \$253,735.69 from the general fund. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

## **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Chief Brad Hare: The Shikellamy prom is Saturday and everyone should be advised that Walnut St. between 4<sup>th</sup> St. and 10<sup>th</sup> St. will be temporarily shut down for a few hours for the prom walk.

Ms. Jamie Shrawder: The Safe Route to School grant is open and an application will be submitted for Chestnut St. This grant is from Penn DOT and they specifically told Ms. Shrawder to submit the application. Councilman Shipman asked if this would pertain to bikeways as well and Ms. Shrawder answered it would.

Ms. Regina Russell, Community Activist & City Council Candidate: Does anyone know what happened to the trees that were chopped down on Chestnut St. Councilman Eister answered the contractor took them. Ms. Russell asked if the city was paid any money for them and Councilman Eister answered it was part of the contract that the contractor remove the trees and brush after they are cut down. Ms. Russell said people usually sell the wood and make money from it. Councilman Eister said yes that is possible. She also asked Ms. Shrawder how many federal grants the city has received that offer jobs. Ms. Shrawder answered all the federal grants she deals with have the regulations that come along with it – if there are jobs to be created they can be offered to city residents. None of the grants received have required any jobs to be created outside of hiring contractors to do the work. Ms. Russell asked Ms. Shrawder if the city would come to her to get those types of grants. Ms. Shrawder said most likely not, she focuses on community development entitlement grants. Other grants she has been discussing are specific to the Chestnut St. project. Cheryl handles that type of grant for the city.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The city-wide spring clean-up is scheduled for April 28 and 30 and May 5 and 7 from 8 am to 7 pm for city residents only.

Dept. of Public Works will be selling a Chevy dump truck and bids will be due May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Free mulch will be given away on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 am to noon or until it is gone.

Ms. Russell said the American Red Cross is starting a fire prevention program. They will be giving away free smoke alarms and installing them. There is no income or age requirement. The contact number is 570-850-4664 Edna Reinard. If any need replaced they will have lithium batteries that last 10 years.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk