

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
July 11, 2016
6:15 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable Mayor David L. Persing 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 J. Martina, City Controller
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Russ Wertz, Fire Chief
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were thirty-three (33) visitors present.

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

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The Minutes of 6/13/16 and 6/27/16 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 – Eister. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at cityofsunbury.com.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Jerome Alex: Why hire a part-time police chief whose first priority is his primary job in another municipality? He feels that is short-changing Sunbury. Someone who does not have investigative powers or arresting power creates a backlog of information. The police would not be able to contact him during the day or vice versa. He feels someone should be available 24 hours/day. The police need guidance 24 hours/day. He feels Mr. Miller is qualified to do the job but does not feel part-time is the answer. He asked council to reconsider this decision. Ms. Regina Russell, Community Activist: Does not think the city needs to go outside to hire a police chief because Steve Mazzeo was a good chief and should be put back into that position.

SRI UPDATE

Ms. Meghan Beck said T-Biz is moving along and working together with H2 regarding using their property at 604 Market St. The Wine & Brew Festival tickets are being sold at Brewer's Outlet and will be on-line soon. The first SRI Meet and Greet is scheduled for July 20th from 4:30-6:30 at the SRI building. The free movie night was well attended even though the date had to be changed due to the weather. Mr. Slade Schreck said River Festival plans are well underway. There will be a 5K color run this year sponsored by State Farm Insurance and the JROTC on Saturday morning August 20th. The Friday night band will be Jesse. There will be a boat race Friday at the start of River Festival with Slade in one boat and Mark Lawrence in another. River Festival after hours is sponsored by Sunbury Motors and will feature a tribute band.

HIRE PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE POLICE CHIEF

Mayor Persing announced that council members would have a chance to discuss the part-time hire. The position will be part-time administrative with a maximum of 16 hours per week unless more time is needed and approved by the mayor. The Agreement runs through July 2017 and then there will be an extension for 6-8 months if both parties want to continue the arrangement. He will be paid \$42/hour or \$35,000/year which hopefully will leave about \$100,000 to discuss hiring a police officer when budget time comes. The new chief will not be eligible for benefits. The chief will be in control of the 2 sergeants and 2 corporals and their responsibility will be to supervise the patrol officers. 2002 was the last time an administrative chief was in Sunbury. He will work with the supervisors to make the police department more efficient. Comments: Julie Broschious – who was the prior administrative Chief. The answer is Charles McAndrew. Bob Werline – how was the salary rate decided? It was an average. Regina Russell – how did the mayor decide Mr. Miller was the best person for the job? There were many applications. Who will he report to? They mayor. If he becomes ill who will replace him? The senior sergeant or the senior officer. How long has the mayor known Mr. Miller or been friends with him? No he has not been friends. Will he be required to attend meetings? Yes, if he is able. Gordon Lamb – the paper referred to an assistant chief as opposed to a chief. Mr. Miller will be the PT Administrative Chief. Carol Mazzeo – will the mayor still have an open door policy? Yes. Mayor Persing moved to hire Mr. Timothy Miller as Part-time Administrative Chief effective 7-11-16. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote. Chief Miller introduced his family and thanked the mayor and council members for giving him a chance to help Sunbury.

OPEN CONTAINER RESOLUTION

Councilman Eister moved to allow the open container waiver for SRI events – River Festival, Lake Augusta Renaissance Festival, Lake Augusta Wine and Brew Festival and New Year’s Eve (see attached). Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

PENN DOT STREET CLOSURES

Councilman Henry moved to approve the street closures for the Fire Dept. Memorial, Halloween Parade, Holiday Parade and New Year’s Eve celebration. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher’s payable report in the amount of \$34,844.19 from the General Fund and \$2,310.03 from Liquid Fuels. 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

Regina Russell: Welcomed the new police chief.

Beth Kremer: An error in regard to the PPL bills from the last meeting – she said the PPL bills were \$85,000 and they were only \$5,500.

DISCUSSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music in the Park –
July 12 Larry Smith and July 19 Woody Wolfe

August 21 – Reenactment of “Incident at Bloody Springs” on Memorial Drive

August 21 – Miles for Macy fundraiser relay at Shikellamy High School football stadium.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk