

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
March 27, 2017
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 and 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:

Timothy Miller, Chief of Police
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Terry Specht, City Clerk

Visitors: 24

A moment of silent reflection was held after the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

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

PRELIMINARY PLAN APPROVAL/H2 CHURCH

Mr. Mike Rhoads explained everything has been completed except 1 item between the surveyor and the city engineer to be remediated. The Municipal Authority, county planning and HARB have all approved the plans. Councilman Reichner moved to approve the preliminary plan approval with 1 condition for H2 Church at 618 Market St. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$130,014.17 from the General Fund and \$965.74 from the Liquid Fuels fund. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING GRANT/HOME

Mayor Persing explained SEDA-COG has been administering the HOME grant for many years. The state legislature has now passed a law requiring federal prevailing wages must be used for projects of this type. This will reduce the number of owner-occupied homes in Sunbury that the city will be able to bring to code for low income property owners. The rates for funding assistance will go from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and lead paint abatement will be \$15,000 from \$10,000. All of the categories will have to be raised due to prevailing wages. There is no choice in this matter if the city wants the program to continue so Mayor Persing moved to pass the rate increases as specified. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION

The police department will be ordering 2 Ford Fusion vehicles. They had 2 accidents with police vehicles, one of which is probably unrepairable. Mr. Joe Bartello asked what happened to the 2 police vehicles – Mayor Persing answered a deer was hit by one in Northumberland and the other one an officer was doing surveillance in a parking lot with his lights off and ran into a concrete pole he did not see.

Mr. Mark Walberg discussed the bond issue regarding the former prison site. He feels a \$250,000 bond is uncalled for. He owns many properties and keeps them all up to code. The new name for the old jail will be Stone Castle, LLC. He spoke to the county solicitor and he said if city council was willing to waive the bond the county did not require it. Mr. Walberg said he doesn't feel a bond is needed because everyone knows him and his work. The first phase of the project is stabilization and repair what needs repaired. After general discussion, Ms. Kula will look into this matter further and have an answer in 2 weeks for Mr. Walberg.

Ms. Kula explained the laws for vacating alleys in a 3rd Class City have changed. In the past a motion was all that was needed. Now an ordinance must be passed at 2 readings and advertised for 3 weeks prior to the final reading.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

David Whipple: The street crew did a pretty decent job of cleaning the snow with what they had to work with. Councilman Henry thanked the Americus Hose Co. and the Rescue Hose Co. for feeding the guys working the snow storm.

Laurie Johnson: The SRI Hometown Banner project is still taking new applications. Contact the SRI office. This year they are including first responders as well as veterans. Movies on the River will be on the 4th Tuesday of June, July and August. The River Festival will be held on Market St. in 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Persing said the scope of the project in Northumberland includes the Route 147 corridor in Northumberland to the Packer St. Bridge. It is scheduled to be let in April 2017 and construction to begin in June 2017 and conclude in approximately 30 months. It will be completed by sections.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk