

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
February 8, 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 Troup, City Treasurer  
John Bakowicz, City Engineer  
Michael Kula, City Solicitor  
Ken Long, Asst. Public Works Supervisor  
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were twenty-three (23) visitors present.

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

### **MINUTES AND REPORTS**

The minutes of 1/4/16, 1/11/16 and 1/25/16 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 Kremer. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at [cityofsunbury.com](http://cityofsunbury.com).

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

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

### **CDBG**

Councilman Eister moved to award demolition of 714 N.7<sup>th</sup> St. to Burgess Excavating in the amount of \$7,900. 4 bids were received (see attached). Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote. Mayor Persing thanked Ms. Shrawder for her efforts on behalf of the City of Sunbury. She will be leaving SEDA-COG for another position at Danville Borough.

### **SRI UPDATE**

Ms. Meghan Beck reported the Albright Center was not approved for tax credits for 2016. They will reapply in the next few months. The electric service and elevator will soon be complete. They are working on a fundraising campaign and will have some events at the Albright Center. The Business & Economic Development committee has started planning for the 2016 Business Pitch competition. The membership campaign has started with 81 members renewing already this year. The Promotions committee is finalizing details for the 2016 photo contest. They would like to put them online. SPARC is still working on the bike path, mural project and observation deck for Front St. Councilman Eister asked what happened with the tax credits. Ms. Beck said she isn't sure but someone from DCED will be coming to the Albright Center in March to discuss it. Mayor Persing said there is a lot of progress on the building and he doesn't understand why the funding would be cut. Dominos just moved to Upper Augusta Township because there wasn't enough parking for their needs. Ms. Johnson said the meeting at the Albright Center is March 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am with DCED.

## **REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE**

Councilman Henry moved to pass a Resolution to ratify the auctions held on February 6<sup>th</sup> (see attached). Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Ms. Julie Broschius asked what the use would be for the property sold on Pennsylvania Ave. The person that purchased it owns another property in that area and it will be rehabbed into a rental unit.

## **PEDDLING AND SOLICITING CHAPTER 124**

Mayor Persing explained that people taking political petitions for signatures door-to-door would not have to pay the fee because they are not asking for money. Mr. Joe Bartello asked if anyone taking a survey door-to-door would have to pay the fee and the answer is no, as long as they are not asking for money or selling anything. Ms. Julie Broschius asked if the Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts would have to pay and the answer is they are a non-profit organization and exempt. Ms. Aimee Buehner asked if there is a distinction in giving coupons or door hangers. They don't knock on doors. Mayor Persing said that would be the same thing, if you are not asking for money or selling anything you do not need the permit. Mr. Kevin Troup reiterated that is correct. As long as you are not knocking on doors and selling anything you do not need a permit.

## **HIRE PART-TIME/PARK & RECREATION**

Councilman Eister moved to hire Mr. Matt Frick in the Park & Recreation department for \$10.00/hour on an as needed basis. He can do a lot of construction work. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

## **APPROVE PENN DOT ROAD CLOSURES**

Councilman Henry moved to approve road closure requests for May 7<sup>th</sup> for the Prom Committee from Front St. to 3<sup>rd</sup> St. on Market St. The Loving & Caring Street Fair will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup> in Cameron Park and requesting Market St. be closed from 2<sup>nd</sup> St. to 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote. Mayor Persing asked if the 5K runs have been established on the same route. Councilman Eister said it is hard to do that because they begin at different places. The JROTC run begins at the high school. The YMCA run begins at the YMCA.

## **APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES**

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$160,582.51 from the General Fund and \$3,701.84 from the Liquid Fuels Fund. Second - Eister. Unanimous vote.

## **TAX EXONERATION**

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

## **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Ms. Carmen Campbell: Several years ago the city gave the Historical Society a gift of a swing. As it stands, the arch is red and the swing is yellow. She asked if that couldn't be fixed. Councilman Eister said he has to order a new swing and it will be changed out this year.

Mr. Francis Scarcella: Will the city appeal the decision if the OOR rules the police investigation report is to be made public. Mayor Persing said it would be hard to appeal unless someone explains why an appeal should be filed. Mr. Scarcella said if the newspaper loses their appeal, they will appeal again. Mayor Persing said everyone on council agrees that it should be released. If the OOR says it should be released, it will be released. Councilman Henry said if names could be redacted from the report he would release it now. Mayor Persing said the city is not going to spend money to appeal if the OOR rules to release it.

Mr. David Whipple: The entrance to Sunbury from Route 61 looks really nice with the new retaining wall.

Mr. Jim Snyder: Filed a Right-to-Know request for 5 years of building permits for mayor and council members. He received the information but has nothing for Councilman Reichner. Councilman Reichner said he has not filed for a permit in the last 5 years. The last permit he got was in 2010 for siding, windows and the labor involved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilman Henry said the Public Works Dept. will be advertising for bids for a salt shed. The prep work will be done by public works employees. They will take a loan out for 3 years to pay for it.

Mayor Persing announced an executive session was held prior to the council meeting to discuss a police department issue.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht  
City Clerk