

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
June 23, 2008
6:15 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable Jesse C. Woodring, Mayor, presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

Jesse C. Woodring, Mayor
John K. Shipman, Director of Accounts and Finance
Mark W. Walberg, Director of Public Safety
Kevin E. Troup, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks/Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Steve Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Mike Bordner, Public Works Supervisor
Mike Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were nineteen (19) visitors present.

WEIS MARKETS/TRANSFER LIQUOR LICENSE

A public hearing was held at 5:30 pm regarding Weis Markets request to transfer a liquor license to Sunbury for the Weis store on N. Fourth St. to sell beer and malt beverages on premises and to go. Council felt no more discussion was necessary. Councilman Eister moved to accept the Resolution as prepared by Mr. Apfelbaum (see attached). Second-Woodring. Vote: Yes – Shipman, Eister, Woodring. No – Walberg, Troup. Motion carried.

2ND READING FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE

Mayor Woodring moved to approve on a second reading the addition to the floodplain ordinance as requested by DCED. The update was required by FEMA to allow the City to continue to offer subsidized flood insurance rates to residents after July 16, 2008. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote. DCED will approve the updated ordinance and forward to FEMA.

STROH ALLEY CANOPY DEMOLITION BIDS

One bid was received for the Stroh Alley Canopy demolition project:

Zartman Construction \$40,926. minus salvage value of \$750. total \$40,176.

There is \$75,000. budgeted for the entire project. This bid is higher than anticipated and the salvage value is much lower than anticipated. Mr. Bill Siegel suggested that the project be re-bid, not only because the bid was different than anticipated but DCED requires at least 2 bids the first time the project is bid. Councilman Eister moved to reject the bid that was received, re-bid the project and discuss options with Mr. Siegel. Second-Troup. Unanimous vote.

CIVIL SERVICE BOARDS

Mayor Woodring moved to seat the following to the police civil service board – second Eister unanimous vote:

Mr. Dale Walters
Mr. Ted Andrewlevich
Mr. John Carpenter

Mayor Woodring moved to seat the following to the health civil service board – second Eister – unanimous vote:

Mr. Bob Miller
Ms. Becky Muncer
Mr. Ed Chaney

BIU/REQUEST FOR RATE CHANGE

Per a request by Building Inspection Underwriters Councilman Walberg moved to implement a 2-cent a square foot increase for new residential homes, additions and commercial projects. Second-Woodring. Unanimous vote. This is the only price raise they have requested.

POLICE BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mayor Woodring noted that he and Chief Mazzeo reviewed budget figures regarding overtime and part-time. The regular over-time budget is over spent by \$15,000 and there is \$7,000 left in the part-time budget (through June 17, 2008). The need to the end of the year is approximately \$73,000 for all three categories (including reimbursable overtime). Mayor Woodring moved to take \$50,000 from the city manager line item and transfer it to the police department overtime and part-time line items to offset the deficiencies in the police budget. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote.

PERSONNEL CHANGES/POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Woodring referred to a memo that went to the police department (see attached) regarding personnel changes in the police department. Mickey Gordon will become a full-time Records Coordinator and the meter duties will be divided into 2 part-time employees to be hired from McCann School of Business Criminal Justice Curriculum. A review will be made at year end to see if this process is sufficient for the police department. Councilman Shipman asked if this was additional to what has been budgeted and the answer is no, the amount is included in the 2008 Budget. Mayor Woodring moved to make the changes as stated above including hiring 2 part-time meter officers, Paula Marie Mitchell and Shala Huey. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote.

HIRE PART-TIME CODE OFFICER

Councilman Walberg moved to hire Mr. Russ Wertz as a part-time property maintenance officer. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote.

OUTDOOR WOODBURNING FURNACES

Mike Rhoads informed council that with the cost of heating fuel rising, wood-burning furnaces are becoming more widely used. The code office as well as the fire department are concerned about using them within City limits. He is asking council to pass an ordinance that will not allow them to be used in Sunbury. Some of the main concerns are: 1. Smoke 2. Heat is being produced outside of the home environment 3. There is no guarantee that only wood would be burned in them. Councilman Troup asked if there are any in Sunbury at this time and Mr. Rhoads answered not that he knows of. Councilman Walberg moved to pass on a first reading an inclusion into 53-3A to the Code of the City of Sunbury. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote.

K-9/POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Hause asked Mayor Woodring if the department could get another K-9 for additional coverage with the police department. Mayor Woodring asked Officer Hause to put together a financial report that shows that all costs will be covered. All those that pledged support for the first K-9 Rocky have honored their pledges. This has been a successful program for the police department. Councilman Shipman asked if there is a possibility that the costs could be reimbursed through the county drug task force and Mayor Woodring stated that they have their own dog so he isn't sure but asked Chief Mazzeo to find out.

HARB

Councilman Walberg moved to approve the determinations as requested by HARB:

4th & Arch St (Muslim Church) Second-Eister. Unanimous vote
343 Market St Second-Eister. Unanimous vote.
260-266 Market St. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote.

ACCEPT SGT. JONES RETIREMENT

Sgt. Joseph Jones submitted his retirement letter to Mayor Woodring effective February 3, 2009. His last day at work will be June 29, 2008 and will use accumulated sick, vacation and comp. time to receive his salary until his retirement date. Mayor Woodring moved to accept the Notice of Retirement request. Second-Walberg. Unanimous vote.

SUNBURY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY/REQUEST TO RAISE FINES

The Municipal Authority asked council to consider raising fines to the maximum permitted for ATV riders on the levee (would include any kind of motor vehicle) and also for anyone convicted of graffiti defacing the flood walls. Mr. Apfelbaum asked Chief Mazzeo if there was a state law that would cover this issue – Chief Mazzeo will research this subject and bring the information back for further deliberation by council.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Bob Miller asked when the stabilization project would take place (part of the Riverfront Project). Mayor Woodring stated that it would probably start in 2009. Mr. Miller also asked council what they feel they have accomplished since taking office. Mayor Woodring explained that there are a lot of operational things that have been changed, which may not be visible to everyone. The Riverfront Project has moved along with Mr. Tom Deans as the Consultant. A permanent police chief has been hired. Councilman Eister said the City government is running more efficiently than ever. Councilman Walberg said the budget has been balanced and more cost effective. The Early Intervention Program that was started in 2008 will also help streamline City government financially and policy-wise.

Ms. Yvonne Koble asked if anything can be done about the smell coming from the Sun Re Cheese plant. Mr. Bakowicz explained that he and Mike Rhoads were approached by management from Sun Re Cheese that they are going to submit a land development plan in the near future. They will check at that time to see if anything can be done about the odor. Mr. Bill Siegel answered that SEDA-COG has worked on the energy harvest program at Sun Re Cheese – they are taking the whey from the cheese and producing methane gas to heat the facility. They have been having problems with the capturing system (it is leaking) and had trouble producing methane gas. There will be an improvement when this equipment is repaired.

Ms. Beverly Funk told council that when you want to pull out of Julia St. onto Front St. you can't see because hedges are in the way. Councilman Walberg spoke to the owner of the property and was told they will trim the hedge.

Mr. Ray Herb asked if anything can be done about the loud noise from boom boxes and vehicles. Chief Mazzeo said there is a noise ordinance and while the vehicle is there, Mr. Herb should call the 911 Center and a police officer should answer the call. If it is the same vehicle all the time a description of the vehicle would be helpful.

Mr. Dave Whipple asked about the landlord tax and how that is affected by the rental permits. He can't recoup all the money in expenses for his rental units from the tenants and he doesn't feel there is any help from council on the matter. Councilman Shipman said the purpose of the license would not be to add additional cost but rather to work with landlords to find out who lives in the buildings. Mr. Whipple asked if the Chamber of Commerce was doing anything to bring business into the City. Councilman Shipman said they work with the City if there is a specific project. Mr. Whipple also asked if a stop sign at Edison and Joseph Sts. could be moved to the telephone pole on the other side of the street. Councilman Troup said he would look into that. Mr. Whipple also mentioned that the street floods when it rains. Councilman Troup will also look into that issue.

Mr. Bradley Hare mentioned that the 2nd Annual Sunbury Celebration Golf Tournament is June 30th and they are still taking foursomes to play in the tournament.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk