

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
January 9, 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:

Kevin Troup, City Treasurer  
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor  
Timothy Miller, Chief of Police  
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer  
Russell Wertz, Fire Chief  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

Visitors: 25 (twenty-five).

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

### **MINUTES AND REPORTS**

The Minutes of 12/12/16 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 Councilman Henry. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at [cityofsunbury.com](http://cityofsunbury.com).

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

Regina Russell: Will anyone be exempt from the new ordinances being proposed where certain people or businesses will not have the ordinance enforced against them. Councilman Reichner said permitted uses is for Neighborhood Business Districts only. Junkyards will have a 1<sup>st</sup> reading tonight and a scheduled 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at another time.

Meghan Beck: Reiterated her thoughts regarding the fast track guidelines as discussed at the last meeting. She would like to see the apartment sizes changed from 1200 sq. ft. to revert to the standard minimum square footage in the ICC. Also, eliminating parking requirements for the Central Business District and do away with the \$1,000 new rental permit fee.

### **CARING AWARD**

Mayor explained there has been a hiatus with giving Caring Awards but he will start to issue them beginning today. The award is for people that make a difference in the quality of life in our community. At today's meeting Mayor Persing awarded the Fort Discovery committee the Caring Award. Debbie Huffert, Fran Zartman, Jeff Pontius accepted the Caring Award. Ft. Discovery was the largest volunteer built playground of the day with upwards of 200 volunteer daily. They still maintain the playground by having fundraising events. Their volunteerism is greatly appreciated. Proclamation attached to minutes. Mr. Jeff Pontius said one of the big fundraising events for the playground was the Bradley Shoemaker print of the Woodring Train Station. Also every year they do the Christmas train rides which has been very popular. Mr. Pontius also said he has all of Clarence Weaver's photos and negatives and he promised him that someday he would find a place to put it all – in a museum of some type. Mayor Persing has been trying to find a location for a Sunbury city museum for years.

## **SRI UPDATE**

Ms. Laurie Johnson said the New Year's Eve celebration was very well attended and everyone seemed to have a good time. The committee is starting to plan this year's celebration.

## **REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Ms. Kula stated there is a strategic planning meeting scheduled later in February to review residential and commercial projects.

## **RESOLUTION/PPL**

Councilman Reichner explained that city council previously voted to replace city-owned street lights through a grant program with PPL and PPL is requiring a Resolution (see attached) that he made a motion to pass. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

## **1<sup>ST</sup> READING/ORDINANCE CHANGES (see attached)**

175-90. (CB District) B(d). Remove 1200 sq. ft. and replace it with 900 sq. ft. Motion – Reichner. Second – Kremer. Ms. Meghan Beck said she does not think 900 sq. ft. is going far enough and it should be less. Councilman Eister said council does not want cubicles either and 900 sq. ft. is reasonable. Mr. Joe Bartello said there are many apartments in Sunbury that are 400 sq. ft. Councilman Eister said that doesn't make it right. Ms. Regina Russell said when she worked in Washington DC they had to apply for permits to park on the street since it was in a downtown area. Unanimous vote.

175-78 Minimum habitable floor area. Only change is to change square footage to 900 sq. ft. instead of 1200 sq. ft. this is a copy of the ICC (International Code Council) being put into the city code book so all the information is in 1 place. This is for Central Business District only. Mr. Bartello asked what the minimum square footage is generally in the city through ICC. Mr. Rhoads read what it says in the ICC for different size rooms for different numbers of people that live in the apartments. Motion – Reichner. Second Kremer. Unanimous vote.

175-49 Permitted uses NB. Include “enclosed storage units” language is the only change being made. This was missed during the original motions in 2015. Motion – Reichner. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

## **2017 BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Civil Service – Ted Andrewlevich (3 year term)  
Housing Authority Board – James McKinney (5 year term)  
Zoning Hearing Board – Jean Eckrod and Jesse Woodring (3 year term)  
HARB – Cindy Inkrote (4 year term)  
Municipal Authority – John Michaels (5 year term)  
Planning Commission - Paul Yucha (4 year term)  
Board of Appeals – Preston Ross (3 year term)  
All accepted on motion by Persing. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

Park & Recreation Board – Ron Pratt (4 year term), Mindy Hoffman, Brad Willard, Jenna Eister-Whitaker, Eric Long and Barry Attinger (1 year terms)  
All accepted on motion by Henry. Second Kremer. Yes – Persing, Kremer, Reichner Henry. Abstain – Eister. Motion carried.

## **2017 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE RESOLUTION**

Councilwoman Kremer moved to accept the 2017 Tax Anticipation Resolution (see attached) so the funds are available to use for bills. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

## **1<sup>ST</sup> READING/175-46 CB PARKING**

Mr. Rhoads explained a discussion was held about off-street parking in Central Business (see attached). The proposal is to remove residential from requiring off-street parking and adding bed and

breakfasts. Councilman Reichner moved to pass the changes to Chapter 175-46. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

### **1<sup>ST</sup> READING/175-90 RENTAL PROPERTY PERMITS**

Mr. Rhoads explained this pertains to the fast track application approval process (see attached). Councilman Reichner moved to pass the addition of the sentence “This provision shall not apply to rental permit applications for properties located within the Central Business District.” Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

### **1<sup>ST</sup> READING/35-2 POSITIONS WITHIN FORCE**

Mayor Persing moved to amend the language of this Ordinance to be in conformance with the recent contract arbitration awards and the police contract (see attached). The following language will be added “The council of the City of Sunbury shall have the authority to designate and fill such positions within the Police Force as it may deem advisable from time to time in the following ranks: Chief, Captain, Sergeant, Corporal and the remaining members to be patrolmen after serving as probationary officers. Any position above Sergeant shall be considered to be a management employee outside of the bargaining unit. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

### **RESOLUTION/REGULATORY ORDER 32**

Mayor Persing moved to pass a Resolution to amend Regulatory Order 32 (see attached) of the Sunbury Police Department to read “a.) Political Activity – Employees shall abide by appropriate laws and municipal codes governing political activities.” Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

### **RELIEVE TAX COLLECTOR FROM COLLECTING 2016 TAXES**

Councilwoman Kremer moved to relive Kevin Troup from collecting 2016 taxes. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

### **APPOINT DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR**

Councilwoman Kremer moved to appoint Statewide Tax Recovery as the delinquent tax collector for 2016 taxes. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

### **DELIVER DELINQUENT TAXES TO DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR**

Councilwoman Kremer moved to deliver the 2016 delinquent taxes to Statewide Tax Recovery for collection purposes. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **HIRE PART-TIME POLICE OFFICERS**

Mayor Persing moved to place the following on a list if part-time police officers are needed: Josh Driesbach and Matt Lauver, both are full-time officers in Northumberland. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

### **PROCLAMATION/SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK**

See attached Proclamation.

### **APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES**

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher’s payable report in the amount of \$30,217.48 from the General Fund and \$20,000. from Liquid Fuels. Second - Henry. Unanimous vote.

### **TAX EXONERATION**

Councilwoman Kremer moved to accept the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Ms. Russell asked how much it amounted to and Ms. Kremer said a lot of them are about \$5.00 so it is only a few hundred dollars. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

## **DISCUSSION**

Councilman Henry said he would like to review the vendors that have expressed an interest in the camera project to decide what needs to be done to get all the cameras operational. Also, if the police department wants some of them moved that could be part of the discussion. Mayor Persing said a lot of the camera problems turned to be batteries and Park & Recreation Personnel have started to replace batteries.

## **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Becky Enders: Is the victim of a crime in November. The officer handling the case was suspended and she called the department to find out who was now handling the case. Someone called her back and did not identify himself but said the case was being suspended. Chief Miller said he would get with Ms. Enders to find out the details after the meeting and he would look into it.

David Whipple: Some street lights have been out for as long as 2 years on Market St. and Front St. The light out on the flagpole was fixed right away. He said there are 20 out on Market St. and 5 out on Front St. Councilman Eister said K & N Electric has been working on the lights at the east end. More will be done as money is available. Also, Mr. Whipple does not know where in the winter vehicles would be parked if the no parking ordinance was enforced year round. Councilman Henry said that is not going to happen at this time.

Meghan Beck: Feels changing the square footage for living quarters to 900 sq. ft. is an unnecessary regulation and she does not understand the purpose of it. The rest of the city does not have that regulation. She would also like city council to look at the \$1,000 new rental permit fee. The fees for other municipalities are around \$135.

Julie Broschious: What happened with Aaron Nigro? Mayor Persing said he did what he was paid to do and lives in Pittsburgh. He was never offered a maintenance contract. He is no longer involved with the surveillance cameras.

Kurt Karlovich: How many criminal incidents happened in Sunbury in 2016? No one knew at this time. A police report is provided monthly. He also asked how many criminal incidents have the surveillance cameras helped to solve. Councilman Henry said if they solved 1 crime it they worth having. He asked how long the footage is saved and Cpl. Hare said it depends on the modem. He said if the batteries are an issue, someone on council should volunteer their time to change the batteries.

Meghan Beck: Is in favor of the cameras. The cameras at her business have helped to solve 6 illegal acts.

Julie Broschious: Has the robbery outside of Purdy Insurance ever been resolved? The camera at the gazebo did not pick it up because it was too far away. Chief Miller said what you are hoping for with a camera is to get a snapshot. A camera should be positioned so footage can be reviewed to see if a camera picked anything up. He suggested moving forward with the committee Councilman Henry talked about so the cameras are working. They are an excellent tool. Ms. Russell said the cameras at Wal-Mart captured a crime in the Boscov's parking lot so are those cameras more high tech than the city's? Chief answered there are many types of cameras and he isn't familiar enough with Sunbury's yet.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk