

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
July 13, 2009
7:00 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:

Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer
John Bakowicz, City Solicitor
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor

There were fifteen (15) visitors present.

An executive session was held on July 8th to discuss the police contract and personnel issues

MINUTES AND REPORTS

Reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Fire Dept., City Engineer, Code Office, Park & Recreation, Public Works Dept, and Planning Commission were accepted on a motion by Mayor Woodring. Eister – second. Unanimous vote.

POLICE COMMENDATIONS

Commendations were read for meritorious services concerning bicycles stolen from Haven Ministry for Officers Wade Lytle, Jamie Quinn, Scott Hause, Travis Bremigen and Ret. Sgt. Steve Brown (see attached).

PROMOTION TO CORPORAL

Mayor Woodring moved to promote Officer Christopher Blasé to the position of Corporal within the police department. Several officers took the promotional test and they all scored very well. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

2009-2012 POLICE CONTRACT

Mayor Woodring moved to adopt the police contract for the years 2009-2012. Councilman Eister thanked the mayor, solicitor and union representatives for all the work done to complete this contract. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO BID CAMERON PARK

Ms. Jamie Shrawder of SEDA-COG explained that Mr. Rod Stahl has sent the draft plans for council to review and they are seeking council approval to let the project for bid. Federal stimulus funds are being used for this project so the construction contract cannot be awarded until the project is approved by DCED which should occur in the next few weeks. Mr. Leister stated that the original plan did not show a sidewalk in front of the Cameron monument. Mr. Stahl assured him a sidewalk would be placed there. Mr. Leister did not see the sidewalk in the 2nd drawing. The sidewalk is clearly shown in the draft plans council was sent to review today. Mr. Garry Leister asked whether the re-caulking of the Cameron monument would be included in the Cameron Park project bid. The steps are pulling away from the monument and should be repaired before frost comes. The wooden plugs in the canons should be replaced every 3 years. The fence points that need replaced should be done by Reynolds Ironworks. Councilman Eister asked Mr. Leister for the name of the company that has completed work on the monument in the past. He will pass the information on to the contractor that is awarded the bid for the Cameron Park improvements. Mr. John Deppen asked whether anyone inspected the memorials yet, prior to them being moved. Councilman Eister answered no. Mr. Bill Seigel stated that will be made part of the contractor's responsibility prior to the memorials being moved. Councilman Eister

moved to proceed with letting the bid for the Cameron Park project and to include the Cameron monument steps repair work in the scope of work to be completed. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

STROH ALLEY/EDISON PLAZA PROJECT

Ms. Shrawder explained that a letter has been received from DCED stating that there is no conflict of interest for these projects (based on council members owning the adjacent building). The project can now be moved forward. Mr. Seigel reminded council that workers could be hired through the City's payroll to perform this and other CDBG projects and save approximately 30% on labor costs. Discussion was held regarding the work to be completed in Stroh Alley. Councilman Eister moved to have the City Engineer finalize the design for Stroh Alley and Edison Plaza and to hire concrete workers and electrical workers and to proceed with construction. Mr. Bakowicz asked for a meeting to familiarize everyone with the project since it was on hold for awhile. Second – Troup. Vote – Yes, Troup, Eister Abstain – Shipman, Walberg, Woodring. The abstentions were because the 3 members own an interest in the building next to the project. Vote carried.

CDBG BUDGET MODIFICATION

Ms. Shrawder recommended moving \$20,000 out of the DLP Recreation Complex project and into the Edison Plaza project so there will be enough funds to finish the project which would include cameras, lights and all the concrete work. She also recommended moving \$10,000 out of sidewalk rehab project and \$23.66 left from the fire police communication equipment project into the Stroh Alley upgrade project. Councilman Eister moved to make those budget modifications as recommended by Ms. Shrawder. Second – Troup. Vote – Yes, Troup, Eister. Abstain – Walberg, Woodring, Shipman. Abstentions were because the 3 members own an interest in the building next to the project. Vote carried.

MUA/ELECTRIC RATES

Councilman Shipman provided a quote from Constellation Energy to lock in electric rates for 1, 2 or 3 years into the future. This company has made their quotes available through PLCM, which offers more buying power to receive a lower rate. This only affects the generation fee. The rate for 1 year is .855 cents, 2 years .876 and 3 years .896 cents. PPL's rate for the 1st year under deregulation will be approximately .997 cents. The current rate average for the City is approximately 6 cents. This does not apply to non-metered lighting accounts (City owned). Councilman Walberg asked where the power is generated from and Councilman Shipman explained that Constellation Energy purchases power through several generating plants. The generation price is based on the cost of the price of natural gas. Councilman Shipman moved to accept the quote from Constellation Energy as presented for metered lights for a period of 3 years and allow the mayor to sign all documents. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

JULY EXPENDITURES

Councilman Shipman moved to authorize the expenditure of \$167,944.91 for the 1st AP run in July. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

Councilman Shipman moved to pass the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Walberg. Vote – Yes, Woodring, Shipman, Walberg, Troup. Abstain – Eister. Vote carried.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Ms. Barbara Hoffman asked Councilman Shipman where the exemptions for the professional license fee stands. At this point many people have paid the fee so it cannot be dropped for this year. Councilman Shipman is hoping to have the exemptions ready to vote on at the next meeting. Depending on the revenue status for 2010 council may decide to drop this fee altogether. Councilman Shipman explained that the consultant that suggested this fee to increase revenue has not done a good job of answering his follow-up questions and that is why the exemptions are not yet ready to be passed.

Mr. James Smith said that he feels Mayor Woodring owes Mr. Deppen an apology for the rude manner he talked to him at the last meeting. Mayor Woodring replied that he feels Mr. Deppen owes the engineers that attended the last meeting an apology because he was rude to them. Councilman Walberg stated that the information provided by Mr. Deppen to all council members was good information. He also said he thinks the entire situation could have been handled better from both sides. He is sorry it became a two-sided issue and wished everyone would work as a team. Councilman Walberg said in hind-sight Mr. Leister should have been invited to meetings but at the time no one thought about it. Councilman Walberg did apologize for that. Councilman Eister stated that apologies were given

publicly to Mr. Leister at prior meetings. Councilman Walberg said there is a lesson to be learned from this experience.

Councilman Eister thanked the fire police, police department and fire department and especially Officer Brad Hare for their help with the fireworks and soap box derby. The fireworks were rained out for the first time on Saturday night and were held on Sunday.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk