

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
April 23, 2018  
6:15 pm

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

Kurt Karlovich, Mayor  
Elizabeth R. Kremer, Director of Accounts and Finance  
Richard L. Reichner, Director of Public Safety  
Chris Reis, Director of Public Works  
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Lisa Martina, City Controller  
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

Visitors: 31

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

An executive session was held on April 16 and 23 to discuss personnel issues.

**PRESENTATION/SHIKELLAMY HIGH SCHOOL JROTC**

Mayor Karlovich presented members of the Shikellamy High School JROTC with a certificate of appreciation for their work in Sunbury during Earth Week. The cadets also helped to start to clean-up the wetlands area in anticipation of improvements to that area.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Karlovich asked for public comment on agenda items and there were none.

**RESIGNATION/CITY SOLICITOR**

Mayor Karlovich explained the city received a resignation letter from the Apfelbaum Kula law Firm relative to the position of city solicitor. Council as a whole is sad to see the end of this long-standing relationship, but all agree that everyone wishes the best to Brianna and Mike as they move forward in their legal endeavors and we wish to express our deep and lasting appreciation for the long hours and personal sacrifice they have given to the city. Mayor Karlovich moved to accept the resignation of the Apfelbaum Kula Law firm as the city solicitor. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

Mayor Karlovich moved to appoint the Wiest, Wiest Benner & Rice, LLC Law Firm as the new city solicitor. Second – Reis. Unanimous vote. The law firm provided the following information: “If hired by the city, our fees would be charged at the rate of \$150.00 per hour with a minimum charge of one-quarter (1/4) hour per time entry for any and all time we perform work for the City. This firm’s policy relative to municipal representation would require no retainer fee. The City would be responsible for all costs (at the actual rate thereof) which are incurred by our firm on its’ behalf, such as filing fees, the costs of retaining any expert witnesses, court reporter costs, etc. We would not bill the City for normal copying costs, postage, or other normal office expenses. We would not charge for any travel time within Northumberland County. Further, our monthly fees would be limited to a total of \$5,000. Any time worked for the City during any month which was above and beyond said \$5,000 limit would be documented for the City’s protection and use, but would be provided by this firm free of charge. Our firm would agree to a policy whereby only one attorney from our firm would charge an hourly fee at any time, no matter the number of firm attorneys working on the project at the same time. Finally, it would be this firm’s policy not to contact or otherwise use the services of an attorney or firm outside of our own, absent express permission. In short, the absolute maximum our firm could bill to the City of Sunbury for an entire year’s service would be \$60,000, and we would use no outside firms for the work presented to us, absent those issues for which

express direction was given. Any amount of fees or costs incurred by the City of Sunbury would be billed to the City on a monthly basis with payment in full expected within a reasonable time thereafter. Quite simply, we believe in the bright future ahead for this City and we strongly desire to help affect an open and positive legal experience which will allow the city to continue to move forward in an amicable and financially conservative manner. Additionally, we believe that the City would benefit greatly from the time, knowledge and experience of all three attorneys comprising our firm.” Mayor Karlovich asked for council comments regarding this issue and there were none.

#### **PAY CES INVOICE/S. 4<sup>TH</sup> ST. PROJECT**

Councilman Eister moved to pay invoice #180112 to CES Engineering in the amount of \$1,457.43. Second – Reis. Unanimous vote.

#### **APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES**

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher’s payable report in the amount of \$236,702.61 from the General Fund and \$2,981.00 from Liquid Fuels. Second –Reichner. Unanimous vote.

#### **RESOLUTION/ PURCHASE TRUCK DPW**

Councilman Reis moved to pass a Resolution (see attached) to purchase a truck in the amount of \$75,797 to be paid by lease through Northumberland National Bank at an interest rate of 3.18% from the Liquid Fuel Fund and authorize Terry Specht to sign all documents relating to the loan. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

#### **NEW POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Councilman Reis reported the committee met and have decided to recommend the best option is to move the police station to a different location. The committee understands that at this time the city cannot financially start this project. This gives the ability to research a new building, or renovating a different building and marketing the building they are in now. The building has been checked by engineers and it is a sound building. It just does not fit the philosophy that Chief Miller wants to instill in the department – the square footage is one of the largest factors. It is about 3000 sq. ft. and they will probably need 5,000 sq. ft. and all on one floor. Later this year they will start to really look at options. Also, any change made would have to be voted on by city council. Councilman Reichner said all committee members agreed the current building is just not feasible.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Karlovich said parking tickets can be paid online at [www.sunburypa.org](http://www.sunburypa.org) .

Free Spring Clean-up for SUNBURY RESIDENTS ONLY – Tuesday and Thursday April 24 & 26 and May 1 & 3

#### **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

No comments.

The next council meeting will be held on May 14, 2018 at 6:15 pm. There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk