

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
July 10, 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
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Timothy Miller, Chief of Police
Russ Wertz, Fire Chief
Ken Long, Asst. Workforce Supervisor
Terry Specht, City Clerk

Visitors present: 85

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

PROCLAMATION/SHIKELLAMY GIRLS BOWLING TEAM

Mayor Persing read a Proclamation (see attached) for the Shikellamy Girls Bowling Team who finished in 4th place in the High School National Tournament and declared July 10th, 2017 as “Shikellamy Girls Bowling Team Day” in the city. Mr. Slade Shreck, who planned this event for the bowling team, introduced the girls on the team: Senior Ashlee Wertman, Juniors Ashley Fister and Hope Heller-Herman, Sophomores Kristen Derr and Erin Oakes and Freshmen Sierra Pehowic, Sydney Knauer and Barb Herman and Coach Mark Derr. He presented a letter from PA Governor Tom Wolfe to the coach and members of the team. Mr. Shreck introduced Mr. Jeff Cole from Rep. Lynda Culver’s office who presented each girl and the coach with a citation from the House of Representatives. Mr. Shreck also introduced Northumberland County Commissioners Sam Schicatano and Rick Shoch, Mayor of Northumberland Borough Len Zboray and Ms. Peggy Reichenbach from Congressman Lou Barletta’s office who all presented letters or citations to the girls and coach. Senator Gordner’s office was unable to attend the meeting but will be sending something. Coach Mark Derr thanked everyone for the recognition and thanked those that helped the team go to nationals and mentioned the girl’s dedication in getting there.

RESOLUTION/RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mayor Persing moved to pass the Resolution for Rules for Public Comment at City Council Meetings, which will be effective today:

Whereas the City Council of the City of Sunbury acts as a legislative body and holds the responsibility for setting City policy, including policy and procedures regarding public comment at public meetings;

Whereas the City Council of the City of Sunbury wants to hear from the members of the public whom they were elected to serve by providing multiple opportunities for the public to exercise their freedom of speech on City matters;

Whereas the City Council of the City of Sunbury seeks to provide a policy that requires proper decorum to be observed during the public comment period by members of the City Council, the Administration, City Staff, speakers, and the public;

Whereas the City Council takes the following action.

Therefore, it is hereby resolved as follows:

1. The City Council hereby adopts the following Rules for Public Comment at City Council Meetings:
 - A. There are two public comment periods on the agenda of each City Council meeting. The first provides an opportunity for members of the public to comment on agenda items prior to legislative action being taken by City Council. The second public comment period is held at the end of the agenda and is reserved for any additional matters to be brought to the attention of City Council.
 - B. Speakers addressing City Council during the public comment periods will be asked to state their name and address for the meeting record. If a group of citizens wish to comment on an issue and/or topic, they are asked to select 1 spokesperson to speak on behalf of the group or organization.
 - C. Speakers will be limited to three minutes and each speaker is limited to one issue and/or topic. The Mayor, or in his absence the Vice-Mayor, has the discretion to allow the speaker to continue beyond the allotted time or may ask the speaker to summarize or conclude his or her remarks.
 - D. Speakers shall make every attempt to keep their comments concise and focused upon the item under consideration and shall avoid repetition of the comments of previous speakers on the item. The purpose of public comment is to provide information and the speaker's views for City Council consideration. It is not an opportunity for members of the public to question Council Members or City Staff. It is not a debate and public comment speakers should not expect a back and forth exchange with Council Members. Any questions raised by a speaker do not have to be answered by Council Members. The issue or topic may be designated to a Council Member or City Department for appropriate follow-up.
 - E. Proper decorum must be observed during the public comment period by members of City Council, the Administration, City Staff, speakers and the public. Speakers shall refrain from abusive or profane remarks, disruptive outbursts, protests, threats, or other conduct that disrupts or interferes with the orderly conduct of the business of the meeting. Personal attacks on Council Members, the Administration, City Staff, other speakers, or members of the public will not be tolerated. No audience responses such as clapping or oral comments are allowed.
 - F. If any inappropriate comments are made, the Mayor will call the speaker out of order. If the speaker does not immediately stop speaking, the Mayor will call a five-minute recess. Inappropriate actions after the recess may constitute removal from the meeting.
2. A copy of the Rules of Public Comment at City Council Meetings shall be available upon request in the City Clerk's Office and will also be available at each public meeting.
3. The Rules of Public Comment at City Council meetings shall become effective immediately.

Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The Minutes of 6/12/17 and 6/26/17 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

Joe Bartello asked when there would be a Park & Recreation report and Councilman Eister answered he would look into it.

Regina Russell, Community Activist: Asked if city council would be abiding by the Resolution put forth to the public. Mayor Persing answered yes.

HIRE FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER

Mayor Persing moved to hire Christopher Gibat as a full-time police officer effective August 7, 2017. He scored the highest on the civil service test list. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote. Chief Miller said he is happy to have someone of Christopher’s caliber coming to the Sunbury police department.

CHESTNUT ST. PROJECT UPDATE

Councilman Eister explained between 5th & 7th St should be ready for backfill by the end of the week. After that it will be paved and they will move on to the next segment.

2nd READING ORDINANCE REVISION/ADOPT 2015 IPMC

Councilman Reichner moved to pass on a 2nd reading an Ordinance to adopt the 2015 IPMC (see attached). Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

UGI REGULATOR STATION

Councilman Henry moved to give UGI permission to proceed with removal of the underground oil tank at the northwest corner of the intersection of 2nd & Market Sts. In order to install a medium pressure to low pressure regulator station at the site and with regard to the underground tank removal, UGI will take the lead with regard to any DEP permitting and procedure, and given the time sensitivity of completing the work in order to be able to proceed with the Chestnut St. project, the City of Sunbury does not take responsibility for the costs of removing the abandoned tank at this time, but leaves the issue open for future discussion with UGI. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher’s payable report in the amount of \$127,000.23 from the General Fund. Second - Henry. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

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

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Robert Miller: Is anything going on with the Bimbo property? Mayor Persing said he met with the real estate man from Bimbo and they won’t do anything with the building until it is gutted. They want to destroy all the machinery in the building which should take until mid-August. It will be hard to fill since it is in the middle of a residential section.

Kyle Gessner: The light pole that was hit in an accident has a lampshade that is falling off. Councilman Eister said that pole was fixed Saturday morning.

Richard Losser: 355 S. 4th St. His property is the bike shop that has had many complaints about. He said to clarify: it is not a rental property. There is a gate with a sign on it with a phone number if someone cannot open the gate, to get to the 1 parking lot stipulated by the Zoning Board. The shed is 10X14 and his house is 5.7X the size of his shed, not as big as his house as the complainant reported.

Julie Broschious: There is human waste on the front porch of 1040 Susquehanna Ave and shouldn’t the city remove it once they are aware of it. The code office will look into it.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Persing stated he would like to meet with council members and discuss the Norfolk Southern blight removal project and bring it up at a later meeting for discussion. He said this is an opportunity to work with the railroad, improve blight and swap land for further development for the City of Sunbury which usually never happens with the railroad. It is not something that has to be done right away.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk