

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
March 14, 2011
7:00 pm

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

David L. Persing, Mayor
Joseph J. Bartello, III, 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 R. Kremer, City Treasurer
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were fourteen (14) visitors present.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The available departmental reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Health Dept., Fire Dept., City Engineer, Code Office, Park and Recreation Department, Public Works Dept, Planning Commission and Police Pension Board are in the City Clerk's office for review. On motion by Persing, second by Eister, the available reports and minutes of 2/14/2011 and 2/28/2011 were approved as presented. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at cityofsunbury.com

OFFICER COMMENDATION OF MERIT

Mayor Persing read a Commendation of Merit (see attached) regarding Officer Corey Zerbe, for providing CPR and keeping a person alive until life flight arrived. Mayor Persing said they are paid to protect life and property but something like this is over and above.

SRI UPDATE

Mr. Mark Lawrence Geisen updated council with the following information about SRI:

- SRI is drafting an article for the City's quarterly newsletter
- SRI held a 2 day strategic planning retreat which included goals and short-comings for SRI for a 3 year period.
- A membership drive and capital campaign was also discussed as part of the retreat. Kristen McLaughlin and Scott Heintzleman helped to run the retreat and Mr. Geisen thought it was productive
- The Wolverton St. street upgrade project is in the early phases and Ms. McLaughlin has 2 items on the agenda for council to vote on to move this project forward
- Pictures with the Easter bunny event will be held at the ASA building on April 16th
- The Hill Neighborhood yard sale is May 7th
- River Festival will take place on Front St. in 2011. The dates will be August 18-20. There has been talk about having the laser light show again and if a sponsor comes forward that would be considered by the committee. The River Festival should have a whole new look. The Valley's got Talent contest may be held at the amphitheater if it is ready and the weather is good.

Ms. Carol Mazzeo said one of her neighbors is a crafter and they suggested doing a juried craft show which seems to be better attended and there is a different quality of craft.

Mr. Apfelbaum asked how the Market St project worked –Ms. McLaughlin explained the project is just about complete. The final punch list must be completed and trees installed and Phase I will be complete. They would like to continue into the 1200 block for Phase II if funding is available. Ms. McLaughlin explained that funding could only be used for the Elm St area. Councilman Bartello asked if she had any correspondence with the state regarding funding availability and Ms. McLaughlin answered that last week she received word that the operational funding for Elm St has been approved. She has not applied for funding from the residential reinvestment program yet for Phase II. Councilman Eister said the Wolverton St funds should be protected because it is gas tax money. Mr. Shipman said Wolverton St. would be narrowed to 1 wide-lane for speed control; it will have

walkways, bikeways and landscaping. Mr. Rhoads reminded Ms. McLaughlin to provide the plans to the Planning Commission prior to making final decisions.

Mr. John Shipman presented information about the Welcome sign at N. Front St and Shikellamy Ave. The lettering on the signs are not readable from vehicles passing by. All the panels have larger letters and better contrast and some of the original wording has been changed so there are fewer words on each panel. The green letters are 5.2” and the red letters are 4.2” and the contrast is better and more readable. Mayor Persing assured Mr. Shipman and SRI that council supports this project and the changes being made. Councilman Bartello asked if it would be the same kind of sign or an overlay – Mr. Shipman answered it would be a vinyl overlay but it would be a permanent installation. Mayor Persing thought it was a lot of wording but Mr. Shipman said the committee removed some words and feel the ones that are left are important to Sunbury. Mr. David Whipple said that perhaps a paper sign could be made first for one of the panels and the committee could see if the lettering and contrast are right now. Mr. Shipman said he would make that suggestion to the committee. Ms. Kristen McLaughlin explained that to receive the PA DOT permit a wind study had to be completed by an architect and engineer so the signs themselves could not be made larger.

PCTI

Councilman Eister moved to adopt the Resolution stating the process to select contractors (see attached). Two engineers are needed - one will be doing the design work and one will be doing the construction inspection. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

Councilman Eister moved to approve the advertisement that will be published in the newspaper and be sent to the American Council of Engineering Companies. This will be the process to request the Statement of Interest and it will be advertised for design information only. The Selection Committee will approve a short-list of 3 companies. Second - Persing. Unanimous vote. Ms. McLaughlin also said the line of credit as discussed at the last meeting will probably not be needed. PA DOT will be paying the invoices directly.

MORAN INDUSTRIES UPDATE/FORMER KNIGHT CELOTEX PROPERTY

Mayor Persing said his phone calls were not returned so he does not have an update for the former Celotex site. Mr. Rhoads stated that on February 17th, the Planning Commission approved the temporary access road off Susquehanna Ave into the site for truck traffic as well as the trans-loading ramp. One condition for the temporary access was to install fence webbing in the chain link fence to separate the residential area from the access road site. This will prevent headlights from disrupting the residential area.

Councilman Troup said he received an email from Mr. Jim Smith about a meeting and Councilman Bartello was having a piece of drilling tested and he wondered if that happened. Councilman Bartello said no, he was going to try and get information from DEP. Councilman Bartello replied to the email that the access road was open. The existing access road will be used for the temporary one. Councilman Troup said he thought that area was posted “deliveries only” and their best way in would be to make the turn wider from Front St onto Susquehanna Ave and go in that way. Councilman Bartello said they were not coming in through the residential area and explained it would be at Front St. It is still a temporary access until approved by PA DOT – the permanent access will be off Shikellamy Ave to Packer St so all truck traffic will be off City streets. This is a long process through PA DOT and it would be an added street for public access. Councilman Bartello asked if they would want the City to maintain the street if public access is allowed and Mr. Rhoads said that was not discussed.

RIVERFRONT PROJECT

Councilman Eister moved to approve payment #9 to Kinsley Construction for Phase 1 of the Riverfront Project in the amount of \$126,306.64. Second - Troup. Unanimous vote.

Councilman Eister moved to approve payment #7 to HRI for Phase 2 of the Riverfront Project in the amount of \$148,522.57. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

Councilman Bartello said after the heavy rain there was a lot of ponding from Market St to Bainbridge St. in River Front Park. Councilman Eister said they are coming back to regrade that area. Councilman Bartello asked if the payment should be held and Councilman Eister answered that the City is holding \$200,000.

ROAD CLOSURE

Councilman Troup moved to approve the street closure on May 21, 2011 from 5 pm to 9 pm for the Shikellamy Prom as requested by the prom committee. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Mayor

Persing asked where the kids would be dropped off to walk to the Elks and the answer is at 2nd and Market St. They can then walk into the park or to the Elks. Parking will be at several lots in the area. Mayor Persing asked the chief to make sure there is enough traffic control to make this a successful event. The rear area of the Elks will be fenced in and there will only be one entrance/exit in the front of the building.

SUBDIVISION PLAN/LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN - DUNKIN DONUTS

Mr. John Bakowicz explained the consultant for the developer submitted a sub-division plan and he issued 2 letters to them to get a revised plan satisfying all the conditions he mentioned. At this time, all the conditions have been met but 1 and it is ready for council's vote. The sub-division plan is necessary for them to lease the area from the shopping center owners. Once the sub-division plan is approved, the land development plan can be approved so they can get the necessary permits to construct the facility. When construction is completed, a recordable plan will be made available. All permits have been granted. The only condition remaining on the land development plan is the right-of-way from the grantor to the lessee. The condition of approval for consideration would be that the revised plan shows the right-of-way and the conditions for ownership and operation of maintenance of the right-of-way for that portion of the storm sewer. There will be less storm drainage after development than before, because of that and at the request of the developer, if approved, a waiver would be granted from the requirements of storm water management. Mayor Persing moved to approve the sub-division plan with the condition expressed in Mr. Bakowicz's letter dated March 11th. Mayor Persing asked whether any new entrance/exit onto 4th St were created and Mr. Bakowicz answered yes one new one was added. PA DOT did give approval for the new entrance/exit. Councilman Bartello asked what the problem would be with another entrance on 4th St. Mayor Persing answered there are too many in that area now. Mr. Apfelbaum said the PA DOT traffic studies could be looked at by council if needed. Mr. Rhoads said the access was opened because PA DOT was concerned because if the businesses in the shopping center and the McCann School all used the same access it would create traffic problems. That was part of the PA DOT study completed for that area. Mr. Bakowicz said typically if it's a state highway and a highway occupancy permit is received through PA DOT, it gets through his review since PA DOT is very cautious. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Mayor Persing moved to pass the land development plan with one condition as expressed in the Mr. Bakowicz's letter dated March 14th. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

NEW HIRE/PUBLIC WORKS-CODE

Councilman Troup moved to hire Edward Morales as a public works/code employee at \$10/hour, no benefits and not to exceed 35 hours per week and the position will probably end in October. His responsibilities will include outside maintenance only and will help with any complaints received by the code office. Councilman Troup would like to see preventive maintenance start by ward. Councilman Bartello asked if it would be public or private property and Councilman Troup answered it would be residential properties. Mr. Morales will be sworn in so he can attend any hearings that may evolve from citations made. Councilman Bartello asked if there were projects that he would be working on and Councilman Troup said he would begin with the complaints that the code office has now. No one will be exempt from normal maintenance of the exterior of their properties. Councilman Bartello asked if it would be done through public works and Councilman Troup answered it would be with the code office. Councilman Bartello said he wasn't invited to the interviews. Councilman Troup said he asked him if he wanted to be a part of the process and he said at a public meeting that he didn't want any part of it. Councilman Troup said he would love to have him on board with this project. Councilman Bartello said there is no money for it. He does not see how hiring one person will change anything. Councilman Troup said he wants to hold the property owners accountable for their properties. Second – Eister. No – Bartello. Yes – Troup, Eister, Persing. Motion carried.

VOUCHERS PAYABLE

Councilman Eister moved to approve the Vouchers Payable in the amount of \$163,577.56 from the general fund and \$3,261.42 from Liquid Fuels as funds are available. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

Mayor Persing moved to pass the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Ms. Carol Mazzeo asked who owns the tracks used for the railroad cars at the former Celotex site. Mayor Persing said he did not know. Councilman Eister said he thought North Shore probably owns it but doesn't know for sure. Mr. Apfelbaum thought SEDA-COG operated North Shore. Ms. Mazzeo also said people were concerned that there is a Native American burial ground where the access road is

going. Councilman Troup said he never heard that while he worked at Celotex. The monument to Chief Shikellamy is not the actual burial site. Councilman Bartello said he thought it was at the VFW site.

Mr. Dale Henry asked Ms. Mazzeo if by bringing this information up it would be a concern for the group to try to stop the work being done at the Moran site. She answered no she just wanted to know where it was. He said that all burial sites are marked and no one can do anything in the area. He thought it was already done and Celotex would not have been able to expand if there was one at that site. Mr. Henry also said that at a prior meeting Mr. Smith made a statement that he went on the property, into a railroad car and took a piece of drilling dirt to Ms. Mazzeo's house. He asked if anyone notified North Shore railroad about that. Mayor Persing said it is hearsay as far as council is concerned. Mr. Henry said he admitted to it at a public meeting and wondered who should forward the information to the North Shore police department. Mr. David Whipple asked if it was posted private property and Chief Mazzeo answered yes, it is posted now. Ms. Cora Campbell said they shouldn't be worried about how the sample was gotten, but how it is affecting everyone in the City. Mr. Apfelbaum explained that the City of Sunbury was not the victim of a crime and he didn't think anyone would care about it. Mayor Persing said council is not going to prepare a letter to be sent to North Shore police.

Councilman Bartello said he read in the paper that a proposal was sent to Career Link and he said he doesn't remember that coming to council for a vote and thought it should be a council vote to even send a bid. Councilman Eister said he thought Councilman Bartello may not have been at that meeting. Mayor Persing said it was a contract issue so there wasn't a lot of information given about it.

Mr. Mike Rhoads, on behalf of his wife, thanked the City and Councilman Eister for sponsoring a Skate Day for the girl scouts in the area. The scout troop travelling the furthest (Montgomery) received a free pass to come back and enjoy the rink.

DISCUSSION

Councilman Troup said he has had some suggestions that Sunbury should have a cruise-in night with old cars set-up around the park. It would bring people into the City for an afternoon or evening of fun.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Street sweeping begins April 4th and will run through November 18th.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk