

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
September 10, 2012
6:15 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
Todd E. Snyder, Director of Accounts and Finance
Joseph J. Bartello, III, Director of Public Safety
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Joseph Swope, Code Supervisor
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were twenty-four (24) visitors present.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The Minutes of 8/13/12 and the available departmental reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Controller, Health Dept., 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 are in the City Clerk's office for review. Motion to accept was made by Councilman Eister. Second – Snyder. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at cityofsunbury.com.

SRI UPDATE

Ms. Janet Yonkoskie thanked everyone for their help with River Festival. It was a huge success. SRI is currently accepting sponsorship and photos for the next phase of the Hometown Banner program. In November, the banners that are up now will be taken down, cleaned and given to the family of the veteran featured on the banner. The New Year's Eve celebration will begin at 6 pm with children's events, including magic by Brent Kessler. Carriage rides will be available around Cameron Park between 6 pm and 8 pm. A band will perform in front of The Dollar General store from 9:30 pm to 12:00 am. Ms. McLaughlin resigned her position and applications are now being accepted through September 28th. The Historic Cemetery Tour will be held at the Spruce St. Cemetery on October 13th from 6 pm to 9 pm. Mayor Persing asked if the veteran's banners that are up now could be left up if the sponsor pays a specific amount, such as an additional \$100. Ms. Yonkoskie said she would ask the committee and let council know. The goal is to get new ones each year. Councilman Eister said there are enough poles to do that this year. Most of Lock Haven's banners were put up by sponsors, not individual families that would not be able to afford \$200 each year.

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE

Councilman Eister said the equipment will be in to tear down 202 Washington Ave, 128-130 South St. and 608 S. Front St. The Redevelopment Authority has signed a contract with the new company to set a modular home on the 202 Washington Ave. site. It is a 2-story home with 2,142 sq. ft. The first person with the money to purchase the home will be the proud owner of this project. The lot is free. The proceeds will go to a similar project in the City.

The Redevelopment Authority (RDA) presented a Resolution to allow a private sale of property, instead of an auction. The Resolution is for 202 Washington Ave, 121 Julia St. and 1031 N. River Ave. to be sold at private sale. Discussion was held regarding setting a reserve minimum price for 121 Julia St. and 1031 N. River Ave. 202 Washington Ave. will be offered at a price to be determined by the Redevelopment Authority, but not lower than \$150,000. Councilman Bartello said he does not think it is a fair way to sell the properties and an auction would be better. Councilman Snyder said the RDA should establish parameters for the process to be the same for each sale to include a minimum price per property and length of time it is for sale. Councilman Snyder said he is comfortable with a private sale which would allow for a minimum price so the City can get a fair price based on the costs put into the property. Councilman Bartello said he would set a reserve and if it doesn't sell at auction, then sell it at a private sale. Mayor Persing said there was only one property sold at auction that they received a reasonable price. Councilman Eister said the price should be set before council votes on anything. Mayor Persing said the RDA sets the price now. Councilman Bartello said the City is not making any money on 202 Washington Ave. because \$150,000 is cost. Mayor Persing said the City will not make money on the sale because it goes back into the Redevelopment Authority, but getting it back on the

tax rolls is when the City starts to make money. Councilman Eister moved to pass Resolution 2012-11 as presented by the Redevelopment Authority with the following revisions: Paragraph #1 shall be revised by deleting 121 Julia St. and 1031 N. River Ave. The RDA is requested to provide a reserve minimum price for 121 Julia St. and 1031 N. River Ave. for further consideration by city council. 202 Washington Ave. shall be offered at a price as determined by the Redevelopment Authority which shall not be less than \$150,000. Second – Persing. Yes – Persing, Snyder, Eister. No – Bartello. Motion carried.

RIVER FRONT PROJECT

Councilman Eister moved to pay Buchart Horn from 2011 CDBG funds in the amount of \$11,855.03 for engineering work. Second – Snyder. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES/VOUCHER PAYABLE REPORT

Councilman Snyder moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$35,356.84 from the general fund. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

Councilman Snyder moved to pass the tax exoneration list as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Gordon Lamb asked if discussion would be held regarding the camera project. Mayor Persing answered nothing has been signed yet. The bid should go out very soon. There should be approximately 68-100 cameras in total. Some of the locations will be visible, others will be moved around as the police department needed them in other locations. Mr. Lamb asked if they are all going in the area of high crime and Mayor Persing said they would be in many locations. The cameras will record and will not be monitored in an office. The police will have access to monitor any camera on their laptops and smart phones. Councilman Snyder further explained that he wants to make sure the equipment is the most current on the market and delays are logical. Knowing the money has to be spent by the end of the year, he doesn't have a problem waiting. The costs must be maximized with the amount of equipment purchased with the grant. A lot of the work will be internalized with his assistance and the use of some employees in city departments. The equipment must be put in the proper locations and must be flexible and easily moved. Mayor Persing added that the City will be getting twice the protection since the police will be able to monitor the cameras from wherever they are. Most of the costs for the project will be spent on equipment.

Ms. Cora Campbell asked when Joseph St. would be paved. Councilman Eister said he thinks that paving is on hold until the Municipal Authority is finished with their study of that area. He will check with the Municipal Authority and report at the next council meeting.

Mr. Bob Werline asked how the private sale of properties would be listed. Mayor Persing answered it would be in the newspaper, City's website, sale signs will be in the yards and it will be announced at meetings.

Mr. David Whipple asked when John St. at Susquehanna Ave. would be patched – there are large potholes. The city clerk will let Councilman Troup know that. Mr. Whipple also said there are some bricks missing in Cameron Park near the gazebo.

Ms. Julie Broschious asked if anyone would be checking the intake pipe on the Moran site since the water level is so low to check to be sure it is sealed. Councilman Eister will talk with the flood control department with the Municipal Authority about that because he recalls them saying they were going to take it out since it was sealed years ago.

Ms. Julie Broschious also asked what the protocol was when citizens report issues to the code office and/or mayor's office regarding safety issues at properties. Mayor Persing answered if his office receives a complaint it either goes to Councilman Bartello or the code office personnel directly. She asked what happens if they see other issues at other properties while they are checking a complaint. Mayor Persing said if they are on one complaint call and they see other issues they will check those issues as well. Ms. Broschious asked if that is part of the original complaint. She explained that she was blamed when the code officers found issues at the hose company when they were out checking her complaint. Mr. Swope again explained if they are on one complaint and see something else wrong, it is obvious why they are in the area and when there is a neighborhood feud everyone knows where the complaints come from. The code office does not tell anyone where the code complaints come from. She asked if there was a code of confidentiality and the answer is yes. The policy in the code office and the police department is that no one discusses who made the complaint.

Mr. Dale Henry said he was in the code office inquiring about a particular landlord's rental units and this landlord received a call from the code office that he was inquiring about his properties. Mr. Henry said Councilman Bartello and Ms. Danley were the only ones in the office at the time. Councilman Bartello said he called him because it was the same situation in reverse – he felt obligated to let him know someone out there was after him. Mr. Henry said he was put in a compromised position. Mayor Persing said he apologized for his earlier comment, he did not know Councilman Bartello was calling people. Councilman Bartello said he would do it the same for anybody.

PA AVE.

Councilman Bartello said he measured PA Ave and according to the zoning requirements for 20' parking spots, they would not lose any if repainted and it would move the parking away from the garage area that has been discussed at previous meetings. It would take some of the access to the private parking area away but leave enough for vehicles to get in and out. Mayor Persing told him to discuss that with Councilman Troup. Mayor Persing said you can't have parking at the alley that comes off PA Ave. and Councilman Bartello said that alley cannot be used because it is inaccessible and there is parking there now. Councilman Eister asked how a fire truck would get there and Councilman Bartello answered you only need the hose in there. It is a 4" main line off 4th St.

POLICE CONTRACT

Mayor Persing announced that on October 8th an executive session will be held in regard to the proposed police contract.

CODE SOFTWARE

Councilman Snyder wanted to update Councilman Bartello regarding code software. Councilman Snyder said he thought software was already in place in the code office and it is not. From discussion with the code officers, he felt something was needed quickly and he would like it to integrate into the software the City has purchased for accounting purposes. At that time, Councilman Bartello told him he was looking to install I-Works in the code office. I-Works is still being tested in the code office and Councilman Snyder would like to put a hold on Harris Software to give the code employees time to use it and see if they feel comfortable with it. Councilman Bartello said what the code office was using was not user friendly and therefore was not used very much. Councilman Eister asked if it could be used with the current system and Councilman Snyder said at this time he and Ms. Fogelman can sit down with the code office to see if they will work together. If not, he would recommend the Harris software. I-Works is not a financial system.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

September 11th Jim the Singing Mailman
September 18th Smooth Country
September 25th Counter Fit

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk