

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
May 9, 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
Todd E. Snyder, Director of Accounts and Finance
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 Kremer, City Treasurer
John R. Bakowicz, City Engineer
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Joseph Swope, Code Officer
Ken Long, Asst. Public Works Supervisor
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were eighteen (18) visitors present.

POLICE WEEK PROCLAMATION

Mayor Persing read the proclamation to proclaim May 15th through May 21st as 2011 Police Week (see attached).

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 Eister, second by Troup, the available reports and minutes of 3/28/2011, 4/11/2011 and 4/25/2011 were approved as presented. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at cityofsunbury.com

SRI UPDATE

Kristen McLaughlin explained that there are two projects being planned: River Festival plans are progressing nicely. Donations to River Festival are better than last year. They are working on some ideas to replace the Love 'n Care Fair on June 11th and at this time it looks like it will be a community-wide yard sale. A general membership meeting was held in April and approximately 30 people attended.

MORAN INDUSTRIES UPDATE

No report. Mr. Dave Whipple said it is interesting that what is going on at the site is harmless to the community but when they had a spill 2 weeks ago, there was a comment made that they would come back to clean up after "these idiots" are asleep and that is what they did. Since then, there is plastic on the ground. The neighbors can't get answers from DEP, the City or Moran Industries. Mayor Persing said there is nothing harmful to be cleaned up. Mr. Swope said he spoke to Mr. Stroehmann and DEP did know about the spill but all that was needed was a general clean-up. There was a lot of water that they couldn't get rid of manually so it had to be sucked up. It wasn't technically "a spill." Once again, it is not hazardous waste to begin with, so there was nothing harmful to the community spilled. Mr. Whipple asked why the waste had to be taken out of PA to dispose of if it wasn't harmful and the answer is that PA landfills can only take so much each day, when that quota is filled the residual waste must stay on the trucks. The waste trucked to Sunbury is being hauled to Ohio who will take as much of it as they can for a mine reclamation project. Economically, it is the only answer for the waste because it is a lot less expensive to take it to Ohio by train car. Mr. Dale Henry said there was a gentleman from DEP at the site and no violations were found. The waste is classified as residual waste. There are different classifications but it is not a hazardous waste. Residual is the same classification as what is in people's garbage cans. It is the same as the waste removed from Butter Krust/Holsum. Councilman Snyder said there are still a lot of questions that have not been answered. He stated that shale, at the levels at the depths they are pulling out from the drilling operations, naturally has some radiation associated with it, similar to radon gas found in homes. It is naturally occurring radioactivity. The reason they don't want it covered or stored indoors is because of the radon gas it puts out.

Councilman Troup said he wished Mr. Stroehmann would have shown up at the meeting so council could ask if the rail operations could be moved a little further away from the residential housing in that area. Mr. Whipple said if it was moved to the other rail line on the site it would be further away from the residential housing.

RIVERFRONT PROJECT

Councilman Eister stated that Phase 1 is closing out – at this time they are re-seeding. They are working on Phase 2 as the river drops. The Fabridam will be inflated late this year due to the heavy spring rain so hopefully they will be able to continue working until that time.

PCTI/WOLVERTON ST PROJECT/STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Kristen McLaughlin said she received 17 letters of interest from across PA for this project. 3 were disqualified for technicalities. All 14 remaining submissions were reviewed by the committee and ranked from 1-10 on 6 criteria from the advertisement. The scores were weighted and tabulated and the 3 firms with the highest scores were: Buchart Horn (State College), URS (Harrisburg) and Larson Design Group (Lewisburg). Mayor Persing moved to approve the recommendation of the selection committee and have the recommendation sent to PA DOT for final review. Second – Eister Unanimous vote.

HOUSING REHABILITATION FUNDING PROPOSAL/SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT

Mr. Bill Siegel explained that he submitted a follow-up from the last work session of council regarding the questions raised relative to the questions asked at that meeting and defined how granting the funds would be done through the Subrecipient Agreement. The Subrecipient Agreement is also due for approval by council in the amount of \$33,455 to the Redevelopment Authority Board. Councilman Bartello said there was \$200,000 in this fund before and \$175,000 was used for Cameron Park and should have been reserved for emergency repairs to homes. He doesn't feel it was used for its main purpose. Mr. Siegel said an issue with the emergency repair program was that it was a program funded more than 10 years ago and now there are new policies that state that if this fund is used for any home, the entire home must be brought up to code. That means that the funds can no longer be used for emergency repairs. Councilman Bartello asked how that money was put into Cameron Park. Mr. Siegel said it had to be used through the federal guidelines. Since this money came from the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and funds in this account were repayments, the City can allocate that money to any eligible activity that benefits low to moderate income persons. The City of Sunbury is predominantly low to moderate income based on census data and since Cameron Park is centrally located and serves the entire City, it was eligible and fundable. In lieu of this project, the City applied for and received HOME grant funds so owner-occupied housing rehabilitation could continue. Councilman Eister moved to sub-grant \$33,455 to the Redevelopment Authority (\$30,000 from revolving loan fund which council previously transferred over to the CDBG program - \$3,455 from CDBG entitlement program for acquisition and demolition work). Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

Councilman Eister also moved to create a long-term funding mechanism for the Redevelopment Authority to earmark the loan repayments from the Housing Revolving Loan Fund, as well as from the 1st Time Home-buyers Program, as received by the City. On a once a year basis the funds in the amount of 90% would be transferred to the Redevelopment Authority, the remaining 10% would be retained by the City for the administrative responsibilities associated with those funds. Second – Persing. Unanimous vote. Mr. Apfelbaum explained that by this action the City is assigning any rights it has for the use of the funds, to the Redevelopment Authority to use as they deem appropriate. Mr. Siegel suggested that on an annual basis the funds would be transferred to the Authority. In this way, the City can control the management and use of the funds, which must be monitored and managed as federal revenues. Because the funds are considered CDBG funds, SEDA-COG will work hand-in-hand with the Authority to ensure all the federal guidelines are being followed.

AUTHORIZE SOLICITATION FOR BIDS FOR KEITHAN'S GARDEN HOUSE ROOF

Councilman Eister moved to authorize SEDA-COG to solicit for bids for materials for the installation of a roof and gutter for the cottage at Keithan's Garden. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT FEE RESOLUTION

Mayor Persing said there is no ordinance that addresses a fee for review of storm water management plans. Mayor Persing moved to require a \$100 non-refundable fee for plan review. Mr. Bakowicz explained once in a while there is a request that does not come under sub-division or land development (which requires a fee for review) and there is no fee to cover the costs for him to review the plan. This would cover his plan review. Councilman Bartello asked if there was ever a fee and Mr. Bakowicz said there was a time when the Municipal Authority performed the review and they did not charge. At this time, he is reviewing the plans and coordinating with the Authority. Mayor Persing moved to set the

fee by Resolution for storm water plan review in the amount of \$100. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

OPEN BIDS/IT SERVICES

Bids were received from the following for IT services:

MePush, Lewisburg \$85/hour
2K Networking Inc, Harrisburg \$125/hour

Councilman Snyder asked to table the vote on this issue until the next meeting so he, council and the solicitor could review the bids.

VOUCHER'S PAYABLE REPORT

Councilman Snyder moved to pay the invoices on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$41,375.42 as funds are available. There are other checks cut in the amount of \$150,737.58 for a payback on the 2011 tax anticipation note and \$264,000 for the annual police pension payment. Second- Eister. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

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

AUDIENCE COMMENT

An audience member asked if there would be “Music in the Park” this year. Mr. Francis Scarcella from The Daily Item said there are a lot of people that have contacted him through the newspaper that said they would be willing to play for free. He will follow-up with the city clerk's office.

Mr. David Whipple said the other week when there were heavy rains, Edison Ave flooded again. There are no signs mentioning the flooding and when cars go through that area, they hydroplane and it is very dangerous. It seems that people don't slow down, even for rain filled streets. Mayor Persing said many streets flood during heavy rains because the lines are not big enough to move the water out quickly. Councilman Bartello said in a lot of places the water does not run to the drain because they are not pitched properly.

Mr. Whipple complimented council on Cameron Park and said it looks good. The fountain looks good with the finished stone work. He also asked if the sidewalks being replaced at the riverfront cost the City more money. Councilman Eister explained that during a walk-through there were indications of hair-line cracks. Patchwork did not work so the inspector said the bad spots on the sidewalks had to be cut out so they looked better.

Mr. Whipple announced that on May 25th at 6:30 pm the film “Gasland” will be shown at Bethany Evangelical Congregational Church on Susquehanna Ave and is open to the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Shikellamy Junior-Senior prom is May 21st and will be held at the Sunbury Elks for the 1st time. Streets in that area will be closed for different periods of time. Councilman Eister said Cameron Park will be in tip-top shape and the fountain will be in operation for pictures.

Councilman Eister thanked Mayor Persing for getting the Dunkin Donuts project moving. He thinks someone should contact BIU to let them know council was not happy with the handling of this project by them. Another person told him the attitude of the inspector from BIU was bad for several projects he has been involved with. Councilman Bartello said they have a time-line they have to follow for projects. Councilman Eister asked Councilman Bartello why a personal friend of his was told by Councilman Bartello that he did not have to get a permit for work being done on his porch. Councilman Bartello answered that a permit was not necessary for the work being done. Councilman Eister said he was doing similar work on a porch and purchased a permit and would like a refund if that's the case. Councilman Troup asked what type of repair it was and Councilman Bartello said it was just a simple repair – people are allowed ¼ of their siding without a permit. Councilman Bartello said it was a post and that was not a structural repair. Councilman Eister asked if porch repair needed a permit and Councilman Bartello said if it is being replaced with exactly the piece being taken off; it does not require a permit. Mr. Rhoads said in 2007 the state set regulations (UCC regulations) and a few things do not require a permit. When new structures are being built, or structural work is being done, UCC regulations and a permit must be procured.

Councilman Eister announced the water will be turned on at the fountain on Wednesday morning.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk