

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
August 24, 2009  
6:15 pm

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

Jesse C. Woodring, Mayor  
John K. Shipman, Director of Accounts and Finance  
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  
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor  
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were twenty-three (23) visitors present.

**AWARD PARKING METER MACHINE BID**

Ms. Jamie Shrawder of SEDA-COG explained 2 bids were received by Mackay Meters and Ven Tek. The low bid, Mackay Meters, was \$9,795 for the machine and includes prepaid cards and software needed (the Ven Tek bid was \$13,762.10). Mayor Woodring moved to accept the apparent low bid and authorize SEDA-COG to move forward with the purchase. Second – Shipman. Unanimous vote.

**RATIFY CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING FOR DEMOLITION**

Ms. Shrawder solicited pricing for engineering for the demolition of 2 blight properties in Sunbury. The low bidder was Mid Penn Engineering for \$2,500. Councilman Eister moved to allow SEDA-COG to move forward with the project and to award the bid to Mid Penn Engineering. Second – Woodring. Unanimous vote. The properties are not owned by the City so a lien will be put on the them.

**AWARD FOR CAMERON PARK PROJECT CONSTRUCTION**

Ms. Shrawder stated that the bids for the project were previously opened. Mr. Rod Stahl told Ms. Shrawder that 3 bids were received – Mid State Paving, Land-Serv and Stone Valley Construction. Mid-State Paving was the low bidder at \$369,835.96 for the base bid (Land-Serv \$383,840.50 and Stone Valley Construction \$438,513.80). Councilman Eister moved to award the contract to Mid State Paving and authorizing the Mayor to sign all documents. Second – Woodring. Unanimous vote.

**CDBG-R FUNDS BUDGET REVISION**

Ms. Shrawder explained all the CDBG-R projects were submitted to DCED who then submitted them to HUD for approval (federal stimulus funds). HUD rejected the recreation based projects, which included the Cameron Park project. At this time, Ms. Shrawder recommended moving the funds into the Stroh Alley/Edison Plaza project and also moving the same amount of funds from Stroh Alley/Edison Plaza to the Cameron Park project. HUD feels the Stroh Alley/Edison Plaza project more closely fits their goals than the Cameron Park project. Councilman Eister moved to approve changing the funds in the projects as described above. Second – Woodring. Unanimous vote.

**JUDICIAL SALE**

Ms. Shrawder mentioned that the properties located at 316 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and 54 Fairmount Ave. will be going up for judicial sale through the county. Mr. Apfelbaum spoke to the county solicitor who said there were 275 properties throughout the county included in this sale. The City can buy the properties for \$1 above the amount due for taxes, if no one else is bidding on the property. The City will recover whatever is owed for back taxes. Mr. Apfelbaum will attend the sale. Councilman Shipman moved to approve that the Solicitor attends the sale and bids up to \$5000 plus \$1 above what is owed in taxes for both properties listed. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

**2010 CDBG APPLICATION PREPERATION SCHEDULE**

Mr. Bill Seigel presented the proposed 2010 CDBG schedule. From what he is hearing the amounts should be an increase in 2010 funds. At this time, until the allocations are provided, Mr. Seigel is using

the figure of \$352,000 to work with. There is a required process to follow which includes public hearings and notices to the public to solicit, identify and select projects. An outreach to the community, department supervisors and council will be made per the schedule provided. Project summaries will be due October 9, 2009.

### **RIVERTOWNS PROJECT UPDATE**

Ms. Alison Stevenson, Project Coordinator for the Revitalizing Rivertowns Project provided council with an update to the Rivertowns Project spearheaded by SEDA-COG. They are asking for a financial commitment from participating communities in the amount of \$1,350 to be used toward the grant match for Phase II of the project. The City did participate in the first phase of the project. General discussion was held regarding the project. Councilman Shipman moved to allocate \$1,350 from the 2010 budget for this project as well as to provide a letter of support. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Dr. James Hartman will be representing the City on this task force.

### **HARB APPROVAL**

Mayor Woodring moved to approve the request for Mr. Randy Herring to add a handicap ramp at the rear entrance of his property located at 41 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **AUGUST EXPENDITURES**

Councilman Shipman moved to authorize the expenditure of \$14,411.19 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> AP run in August. Second – Woodring. Unanimous vote.

### **ELM ST. STREETScape PROJECT**

Mr. Steven Beatty of HRG Engineers of Lewisburg presented council with a diagram of the streetscape project proposed by SRI through the Elm St. program for upgrades to curbs, sidewalks, etc. in the Hill Neighborhood section of Market St. This is a generalized master plan that includes 10<sup>th</sup> St to Highland Ave at the city limits. General discussion was held regarding this preliminary plan. A question was asked about the trees in the curb-line and at this time the trees can be changed if that is council's desire.

### **PAINT THE VALLEY PINK**

Mayor Woodring moved to participate with Sunbury Broadcasting and allow them to place pink ribbons on parking meters in the City for the month of October in honor of breast cancer month. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Mr. Apfelbaum informed council that he researched the subject of public participation at open meetings and found that the law of the Commonwealth of PA is that anyone speaking at a public meeting must be a taxpayer or resident of the City.. If there isn't enough time for public comment, that portion of the meeting could be adjourned until another meeting. This could be adopted by council if they so desire. Individuals must provide their name to council at this time and it could be mandated that they state their address or that they are a taxpayer of the City. If the policy is adopted, going forward that would be the only policy the City could use; they could not go back and forth and allow a non-resident or a non-taxpayer to speak.

Mr. Scott Johnson thanked council for moving forward with the improvements in Cameron Park. Also, for approving his transfer of a liquor license to the City for his business a year ago. He is in the process of opening 4 new businesses at his recently purchased building located at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Market Sts. He would like to see the area become an entertainment district and be thought of as "Thirbon St" on a take of "Bourbon St." in New Orleans.

Councilman Shipman has had several complaints regarding cards that were distributed by a for-profit company soliciting donations of clothing, toys, etc. There is no identification as to who distributed the cards and what the profits would be used for. No transient business permit was purchased to go door-to-door. There is a 610 phone # which goes to an answering machine but no one returns the call. Mr. Rhoads said that is a huge problem for the code office because residents place items on their porches for pick-up but they are never picked-up and the items get blown around or rodents make nests in them which causes other problems. Residents are reminded that they do not have to participate and are urged not to.

Councilman Shipman spoke to Mr. James Baker of SEDA-COG regarding the request to lay fiber optic cable in the City. Mr. Baker stated that it is a long-haul project to lay fiber optic cable from Ohio to New Jersey. There are no planned points of presence. There are numerous strands which would be for

someone looking for 100-1000 mega-bits per second. There will be one conduit with fiber and two without so there will be room for expansion. There would be opportunity for a local utility to purchase the rights to use it. Mr. Baker thought they may be able to run the cable through the storm sewers. His suggestion is that the City allows the company to run the cable. Mr. Baker called the company and asked for more information.

Councilman Eister explained to council that PPL is requesting an agreement with them before the Riverfront Project goes out to bid for removal of the poles in the project area on the riverside of Front St. and the transformer at Market St. and relocating the power lines underground. It would be completed in stages as needed. The cost to the City would be \$86,969.02. Phase I includes removing the light standards at every intersection. Payment will be as needed with the construction. Councilman Eister moved to enter into this Agreement with PPL. Second – Woodring. Unanimous vote.

Mayor Woodring thanked Mr. Alex Meng for his work provided to the City during the summer. Alex worked on and completed many projects including updating the website and creating a complaint page and anonymous tip line for the code office and police department, researched police scheduling software, did marketing and advertising research for the ice rink and pool and completed a map to show where the police, fire and code office calls are concentrated in. Alex will be missed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht  
City Clerk