

CITY COUNCIL
225 Market St.
Sunbury PA 17801
March 10, 2008
7:00 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 Safety
James R. Eister, Director of Parks/Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Chad Betts, Fire Chief
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were four (4) visitors present.

An executive session of council was held to discuss personnel matters at 5:30 pm prior to this meeting.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The Minutes of 1/14/08 and 1/28/08 and the Reports of the Police Dept., City Treasurer, City Controller, City Engineer, Code Office, Redevelopment Authority, Health Dept., Public Works Dept., Parks and Public Buildings, Park and Recreation Board, Planning Commission and Fire Dept. were accepted on a motion by Troup, second by Eister – unanimous vote.

COLE'S HARDWARE AGREEMENT OF SALE

Mr. Gregory Cole has requested that council sell him 11' of the City-owned parking lot in front of Cole's Hardware to allow for expansion of the business. Mayor Woodring explained that he told Mr. Cole that if council decides they will sell off a portion of the parking lot, a public bid procedure would have to be conducted. The number of parking spaces will be reduced if 11' is taken from the lot. Mayor Woodring stated that Cole's Hardware has certainly been an asset to Sunbury and if council can help with this issue they should do what they can. After general conversation Shipman moved to send a Letter of Understanding to Mr. Cole and enter into a preliminary agreement to sell up to 11' of the parking lot located at 2nd and Chestnut St. This would include the vacation of the alley also. Second by Troup – unanimous vote.

\$100. PROFESSIONAL FEE/MERCANTILE TAX

Councilman Shipman asked that all council members think of a way to make this equitable to everyone. The list of licensed professionals is far greater than anyone on council anticipated. For that reason he suggested that perhaps the tax could be \$40. if paid from July – September, \$50. if paid in October – December and \$100. if not paid within the fiscal year. Mayor Woodring is going to ask Mr. Sabatini how this has been implemented in other communities. This item will be on the agenda in April.

POLICE DEPARTMENT GRIEVANCE

Mayor Woodring announced that the grievance filed by Officer Bradley Hare has been approved at Step 2 of the Grievance Procedure. Officer Hare asked for the 2 hours of pay he was docked for attending city council meetings while on duty. The former chief was instructed to disallow any officers to attend council meetings and be paid. Chief Bremigen told Officer Hare that he was not permitted to attend council meetings while on duty, however, he did not make that directive in writing. Officer Hare has been instructed not to attend council meetings while on duty by Chief Mazzeo. Mayor Woodring stated that to allow this grievance to go forward would take too much time and taxpayer's money. He stated that he it is repugnant that Officer Hare is attending meetings to keep his union informed instead of being out patrolling the streets of Sunbury to provide safety to the children and citizens of the City. Officer Hare is a resident of the City and is welcome to attend meetings while not on duty. Mayor Woodring stated that he was sorry Officer Hare felt it necessary to inform the newspaper of the

grievance before discussing the issue with him. He feels that it could have been resolved much more easily had he come directly to him. The payroll department will be instructed to pay Officer Hare the 2 hours at regular time that he was docked for attending meetings.

SUB-DIVISION 901 MARKET ST./988 COURT ST.

A revised plan is necessary for this sub-division. Tabled until proper documents are provided.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RESIGNATION

Mayor Woodring announced that Mr. O. Robert Lagerman submitted a letter of resignation from the Civil Service Board. Mayor Woodring noted that Mr. Lagerman has served on the board for many years and is still on the Zoning Hearing Board. A replacement member name will be brought before council.

MARCH EXPENDITURES

Shipman moved to approve the expenditures for March in the amount of \$103,140.87. Second by Eister – unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

Shipman moved to accept the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second by Eister – unanimous vote.

LERTA

Mayor Woodring created a committee to consist of John Shipman, Beth Kremer and himself to discuss Local Economics Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) and what action council should take. The committee will report back to council.

NATIONAL GEOMATICA

Councilman Eister asked the code office for information regarding rental units. The information was not readily available. Councilman Eister asked if it would be possible to get this information into a spreadsheet or similar format. Councilman Shipman said you can go to the National Geomatica site and look-up any parcel in the City. When the officers are in the field they should be able to call the office and receive information regarding tax parcel number, owner's name, etc. from the National Geo site. Councilman Eister reiterated that the information should be readily available, such as # of high rise units, apartments, duplex, single dwelling – so when someone wanted that information they could get it. Councilman Shipman said the employees in the code office must not be trained to use the site and they should call National Geo and receive training.

CODE CHANGE/WATER AND SEWER

Mr. Bakowicz explained that the municipal authority is asking council to require separate connections when a dwelling is sub-divided. He said the code and connection ordinance must be changed and that would result in tremendous costs for the property owner. Water meters must be installed by the Municipal Authority no later than 2012. He will work with Councilman Shipman and the Mayor to update the ordinance.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk

