

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
September 8, 2014
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
John K. Shipman, Director of Accounts & Finance
Richard L. Reichner, Director of Public Safety
Dale L. Henry, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Kevin E. Troup, City Treasurer
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor
Joseph Swope, Code Officer
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Michael Bordner, Workforce Supervisor
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were twenty (20) visitors present.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The minutes of 8/11/14 and 8/25/14 and available departmental reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Controller, Health Dept. (quarterly), 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 (quarterly) are in the City Clerk's office for review. Motion to accept was made by Councilman Eister. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at cityofsunbury.com.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Persing asked for public comment on agenda items and there were none.

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mr. Mike Rhoads explained the property at 701-705 N. 7th St. is 2 single homes on the same deed. They are asking for a storm water waiver. The property is being sold and in order to do that the financial institution wants the property sub-divided so each property has its own deed. Mr. Bakowicz said it is similar to double homes on 1 deed. Each comply with zoning and they have their own sewer and water service. The first step in the approval process is to act on the property owner's request for a waiver from storm water management. There is no construction. Councilman Reichner moved to consider a waiver for Section 143-9 of the Storm Water Management Ordinance. If that is provided, the Planning Commission will review it and take Mr. Bakowicz's comments and the comments of the Municipal Authority and a recommendation will come at the next meeting to sub-divide the property. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

SRI UPDATE

Mr. Slade Schreck announced the Renaissance Fair went well. The Wine & Brew Festival is coming up on September 27th and there are tickets available at Brewer's Outlet to attend. New Year's Eve planning is going well and almost finalized. Ms. Meghan Beck said the promotional discount cards are available for purchase at the SRI office.

PA DOT ROAD CLOSURE

Councilman Henry explained all three submissions to Penn DOT will be made for the road closure requests. Councilman Henry moved to submit the permit for the road closure for the Wounded Warrior Run 9-21, Fireman's Parade & Memorial Service 10-12 and the Santa Parade 11-28. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

MAINTAIN CATAWISSA AVE.

Councilman Henry explained PA DOT approached him about taking over maintenance for several state roads in the city in the winter. Compensation is provided. Their main concern is Catawissa Ave because they come off Mile Hill with a 10-wheeler truck, go down Catawissa and turn down Packer St. which they still want to maintain. It will be from Reagan St. to Market St. on Catawissa. At this time the city maintains it now. There is a pre-set rate and in the case of Catawissa Ave. it will be \$1,378.65 which will be received whether it snows or not. They have a formula for extra compensation if the snowfall is exceptionally high and if gasoline prices rise dramatically. It is too much to take over the other streets they asked about. Councilman Henry moved to accept responsibility for winter maintenance for Catawissa Ave. from Reagan St. to Market St. It is a 5-year contract. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

HARB APPROVAL

Councilman Reichner moved to approve the request by HARB for 212 Market St. and 340 Chestnut St. Mr. Rhoads explained 212 Market St. will have an old concrete ramp removed and a wrought iron type fence will be installed. It has been approved by HARB with the stipulation that if a 2nd handrail is used, wrought iron must be used or match the vinyl railing that is there now. 340 Chestnut St. will have a restored front porch and it will be designed as original as possible and they will be using old wood. Also, a vent system would be put in. The painted brick pillars will be scraped to expose the original brick. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION/LEASE-PURCHASE CODE VEHICLE

Councilman Reichner explained the code office will be purchasing a Ford F-150 truck. He moved to pass a Resolution for Northumberland National Bank (see attached) which has a lower interest rate to allow Cheryl Delsite, Administrative Assistant, to sign all documents for the loan in the amount of \$19,700 in the city clerk's absence. Second – Shipman. Unanimous vote. Councilman Reichner thanked Mr. Swope and Mr. Rhoads on their initiative for doing different projects he has asked them to do. There are many irons in the fire including doing much more with the Redevelopment Authority. All he has to do is make a phone call and they take the initiative to investigate and he really appreciates that of them.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$28,476.06 from the General Fund and \$1,572.13 from the Liquid Fuels Fund. Second - Henry. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

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

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Ronald Rothermel, Jr. said he applied for a handicap parking space and was denied. The reason is because he is a non-driver. The address is 317 S. 4th St. He owns a vehicle that he is transported in. Mayor Persing said normally if someone says they are a non-driver it is assumed they do not have a vehicle. Mayor Persing said it would be reviewed. Mr. Mike Bordner said there is an existing spot located close to that address. Councilman Henry explained anyone can park in a handicap space because they are not private parking. A vehicle is parked in the handicap spot and does not move. There is an area in front of 317 S. 4th St. that will allow him to clear the area of snow and get out of his vehicle if parked in the front. He is worried someone will take his spot that he clears if it is not

marked as handicap. Mayor Persing said there are very few city blocks with more than 1 space in a block. Mr. Bordner said there are 4 in that block. Mr. Rothermel said they are on the other side of the street and the people are dead. Councilman Henry said someone with a handicap placard or license can park in that snow-cleared spot also. Ms. Regina Russell said some spots are marked reserved and some are not and if it says reserved it is for that address. Councilman Henry asked if the city ever issued private handicap parking spaces and Mayor Persing answered no. Mr. Rothermel asked if the names on the table are correct because the Department of Justice wants to know their names. Mr. Rothermel said there are 2 handicap spots on the opposite side of the street, not 4. The woman died and the spot should be taken away. Mr. Rothermel said if it snows and he is in his wheelchair how does he get to his side of the street if he is parked on the opposite side. Mayor Persing said he does not want to argue with Mr. Rothermel, he wants to help him out but there are a lot of handicap parking spaces that are not exactly in front of the house. They try to get them as close as they can and he did not know there were 4 in one block. Mayor Persing said he will review this situation. Mr. Rothermel asked if the city doesn't have reserved parking like Lewisburg that people pay for and Mayor Persing answered no. The city was built for horse and buggies, not 3 cars like most houses have now. Mayor Persing also explained it doesn't matter if there are no handicap parking spaces in a block and parking is full all the time, a parking space can't be given up for handicap. Councilman Henry said in Shamokin you have to pay for handicap parking. He also said if someone dies and no one notifies the city, how would DPW know to remove the handicap space.

Mr. David Whipple said most of the street lights that he reported not working all mostly all working and the city looks better for it. There were +40 lights out and now there are only 6 not working.

Ms. Bonnie Miller said she has enjoyed the hanging baskets. They stayed nice all summer and look beautiful. Councilman Shipman thanked SRI for the baskets and the city for watering them on a regular basis.

CROSSWALK/MARKET ST BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD STS.

Councilman Eister said he thinks there should be a crosswalk on Market St. between 2nd and 3rd Sts. He cited a situation in Honesdale where a woman was hit and Honesdale and PA DOT were sued and the claim was for over \$2 million. He also feels the first stall by the alley in front of city hall should be removed because it blocks the view if you are pulling out of the alley at Center St. Councilman Henry said he has the story regarding Honesdale but the crosswalk was installed at the wrong place. The crosswalk was then moved. Councilman Henry said he was told as long as you have money in the budget you run your department. He made a decision about not putting the crosswalk on Market St. Councilman Eister said it is a safety issue. Councilman Henry asked if one should be put in every block on Market St. He asked if there has been a study done on how fast the vehicles go between 2nd and 3rd Sts. He feels the city would have more of a possibility of a lawsuit if a crosswalk was put in. He said if city council decides to do it he can vote no and go in front of a judge and say he voted no. Councilman Eister said also if one is not put in and someone gets hurt there is still the possibility of being sued. Councilman Henry said that would not be a legal crosswalk then. There is a crosswalk across Market St. on 2nd St., one at 3rd St. by the island and one by Ad One. Mayor Persing said it would be nice to have one in the middle of the park too. Councilman Henry said he made the decision. Mayor Persing suggested having Ms. Apfelbaum Kula research the legalities of the crosswalk. He also said if the parking space isn't legal it should be removed. Mr. Bakowicz said if council decides to put a crosswalk in PA DOT should be contacted.

CONCRETE BARRIER CLEANING

Councilman Eister said the city sweeps Front St. which is a PA DOT road and wondered if once a month the street sweeper could run on the ramp coming off the Veteran's Memorial Bridge into Sunbury. PA DOT just cleaned the bridge a month ago. Councilman Henry said that is something he was asked prior to the meeting and he said no they were not going to run the sweeper. He said the sweeper does not run as well on the passenger side as well as it does on the driver's side. He spoke to PA DOT and was told they swept it once this year and they sub the job out. He spoke to Mr. Kehler at the local PA DOT and he said he is willing to bring the contractor in to sweep again. The last time they spoke he thought Councilman Eister said his department would take care of it. Councilman Henry asked why the city doesn't start cleaning up the pool/rink area if we want to beautify the city. General discussion was held on this subject. Mr. Bakowicz said he is concerned about insurance issues and any time the city goes off city streets they should make sure they are covered by liability, property damage and workman's compensation insurance first.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are tickets left for the Wine & Brew Festival to be held on September 27th.

SPARC/SRI is still taking addresses for stump grinding which will take place in October.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk