

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
April 28, 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 Troup, City Treasurer  
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor  
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police  
Mike Bordner, Public Works Supervisor  
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer  
Ken Kipple, Fire Chief  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were thirty-one (31) visitors present.

Mayor Persing announced an executive session will be held to discuss personnel issues after this meeting.

Mayor Persing said he has heard nothing but great comments about the WVIA Our Town community-filmed documentary. He thanked everyone that had anything to do with filming it.

**AUDIENCE COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Persing asked for audience comment on agenda items and there were no comments.

**ENGINEERING/4<sup>TH</sup> ST. TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADES/ARLE GRANT**

Ms. Jamie Shrawder explained that PA DOT has a grant each year that the City will be applying for the intersections of 4<sup>th</sup> & Arch, 4<sup>th</sup> & Reagan and 4<sup>th</sup> & Packer. A majority of the engineering needs to be done upfront when you are applying for this grant. If your project is shovel ready you are more likely to receive the grant. Mr. Lee Zeger who has been working on the Chestnut St. Project has provided a quote for the engineering and he also works with a traffic signal engineer who will actually complete the grant for free. The engineering is \$63,000 and Phase II would be done at \$12,000 if that grant is awarded for the traffic light updates. Councilman Henry moved to approve CES Engineering to complete the engineering for this project. It will be paid from the Liquid Fuels fund. Councilman Shipman asked if the \$63,000 is spent is it certain the grant will be awarded. Ms. Shrawder said it is still a competitive grant that has to be approved by PA DOT but there is more of a chance of getting the award if it is done. If the engineering is not done the City will not receive the grant. Councilman Eister said N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. is a PA DOT road and the local PA DOT division will write letters of support for the project. More funding will be available for this type of project since the gas tax will be going up with the Transportation Bill passed by the state. Mayor Persing asked if there is a time limit and Ms. Shrawder said no, this is just preliminary engineering. Councilman Henry said the grant opens in June so the application can be prepared and turned in immediately. Second- Eister. Unanimous vote. Councilman Henry said the Liquid Fuels fund will not be depleted by using it for the Chestnut St Project, the street sweeper payment and this engineering study.

Ms. Shrawder moved on to engineering for the Chestnut St. project – the water, sewer and storm water improvements are now being included with the Chestnut St. project. When the project is completed it will be a complete reconstruction above and below the ground, street lights and trees. The Municipal Authority engineer will work with CES Engineering on the project. Whatever grant funding is received will be used to cover all the costs and if there are costs that can't be covered the Municipal Authority is willing to pay. There are no additional costs to the City.

When Ms. Shrawder went to DCED in regard to the CDBG Competitive grant for the City to help pay for the water, sewer, storm water and infrastructure projects they told her the City could not submit a grant for Competitive because it is only for towns, townships and boroughs. Ms. Shrawder said the state law Act 179 says any entitlement entity could apply that has a population of less than 10,000. Ms. Shrawder plans to get that application done on behalf of the City and submit it to DCED in the amount of \$500,000 for the

Chestnut St. project. A public hearing will have to be held, create the project and a final hearing when closed out. There is a lot more information needed than on other grants. Mayor Persing thanked Ms. Shrawder for being aggressive and proceeding with it on behalf of the City.

On May 30<sup>th</sup> the communities (Sunbury, Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, Milton and Northumberland) that have applied for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant (for Chestnut St.) will make a presentation of their project for consideration for the grant. At that time, priorities are developed and the information is sent to the state since it is a statewide program.

2013 CDBG project update – Ms. Shrawder said the Chestnut St. project is moving forward, the TAP grant in the amount of \$1 million, the Keystone grant that DCED indicated should be funded this summer, the Municipal Authority is working with CES on the engineering, the competitive grant will be applied for and any funding not covered the Municipal Authority will take care of with a low interest loan from Penn Vest. She will also be discussing this project with Representative Lou Barletta when he is in town to see if there is additional federal funding available for this type of project.

The 2013 demolition funds are available so she is paying off the bills waiting for that funding. Steinbachers will be back to finish restoration of grass and then the projects will be done. The legal and engineering fees will be paid before new projects are selected for demolition. There will be auctions on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> so they are waiting to see what might not sell.

The OPG playground ER will be started soon. Ms. Shrawder will ask the city engineer to work on this project since it is a small one.

Ms. Shrawder met with members of the fire company to discuss the ladder truck purchase. They think they are about 1 year out before purchasing the truck. Councilman Eister said they did not come up with the total price for a truck yet.

### **HARB BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Councilman Reichner moved to appoint Laurie Johnson to the HARB board to replace Bob Snyder who resigned. She is a business owner in the historic district. Second- Eister. Unanimous vote. There is still one position open for a realtor on the board.

### **APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES**

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the invoices on the vouchers payable report totaling \$46,806.37 from the general fund and \$400.00 from the liquid fuels fund. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

### **SRI UPDATE**

Ms. Laurie Johnson reported the Hometown Banner unveiling will be held on Armed Forces Day May 17<sup>th</sup> in Cameron Park. The Riverfront planning meeting with DCED Office of Tourism went very well. Events have been established for the year. A Renaissance Festival will be held on August 30<sup>th</sup> and Wake the Lake will be held June 7<sup>th</sup>. The River Festival committee is meeting monthly at McGuigan's and the New Year's Eve committee is also meeting at the SRI office. 6 new members joined in 2014. The Albright Center is seeking additional partners for the SPP program. They have hired an employee to manage the Albright Center and are requesting approval for the purchase. The River Clean-Up is May 3<sup>rd</sup>. It includes bands and a free lunch. May 10<sup>th</sup> is the Hill Neighborhood Yard Sales. Porch Fest is May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Ms. Jan Dockey: Asked about having a Pickle Ball League. It is similar to racquetball and can be played indoor or outdoor. Williamsport is putting pickle ball courts in. Councilman Shipman said he is familiar with it and it has been played on tennis courts.

Mr. David Whipple: Went to see the Redi-rock wall and feels it is a positive addition to flood control. The large rocks weigh 2,000 – 4,000 lbs. He feels the negativity about the project should be set aside and they will be pleasantly surprised because it is a very well done project. Councilman Eister said the Army Corps of Engineers uses Redi-rock in numerous projects for erosion control and waterfront projects.

Ms. Regina Russell, Community Activist: Afro-American female that lives and owns property in Sunbury. She looks out for neighborhood health and safety issues. During a city council meeting a month ago 4 properties were brought up. Councilman Shipman looked at a picture she had regarding a trailer with hazardous materials and it was gone the next day. Nothing is being done at 238 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St. that has a broken gutter held up by a tree branch hovering over a public sidewalk. 354 Walnut St. still has vehicles parked in a driveway blocking entrances. 406 Walnut St continues to violate city ordinances in a residential district –

163.28(3). Tonight there is a flatbed truck with a commercial ----- (could not understand on tape) on top of it. There are also sidewalks that are bad in a school zone from Spruce to S. 4<sup>th</sup> & Walnut and from Walnut & S 4<sup>th</sup> to Church St, from S 4<sup>th</sup> St to S. Awl St. She provided a Safe Routes website which provides funding. Ms. Shrawder said that was combined with another grant program and it is closed for this year. Councilman Shipman asked when it would be available and Ms. Shrawder said next spring. Ms. Russell did a RTK request asking why Councilman Reichner publicly accused her of filing false reports with the code office. He threatened to have her arrested. In the RTK reply there were no documents and the code officers are not required to do reports after complaints are investigated. She asked Councilman Reichner why he accused her of filing false complaints. Mayor Persing asked why there would be documents when it was said at a public meeting. Ms. Russell asked if the code office investigates when people make complaints. Mayor Persing answered yes. She asked if they come back and make a note in the file. Councilman Reichner said he made the statement because since he has been a councilman he has responded to 15-17 complaints of hers and 2 were valid. He and the chief of police concurred there was nothing wrong with the other complaints. Ms. Russell asked if reports are filed after complaints are investigated and Councilman Reichner replied no unless action is taken. Ms. Russell said Sunbury must be the only code office that doesn't file reports. Councilman Reichner said he has only been here since January but he hasn't found any reports going back the past 4 years unless a citation was written.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Spring clean-up dates for city residents only will be April 29 and May 1

Free mulch – Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:30 am til gone or noon

Circus – May 3<sup>rd</sup> at SYCC – shows at 3 pm and 5:30 pm.

RDA Auctions – May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5pm

Bike Sale – May 31<sup>st</sup> at 9 am to view auction starts at 10 am at Chestnut St. warehouse.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht  
City Clerk