

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Sunbury, PA
November 26, 2012
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
Todd E. Snyder, Director of Accounts and Finance
Joseph J. Bartello, III, Director of Public Safety
**Kevin E. Troup, Director of Public Works ** (via telephone)
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer and Fire Chief
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were fourteen (14) members of the public present.

PRESENTATION

Mr. John Attinger from the Sunbury Eagles presented Mayor Persing with a check for \$5,000 toward the purchase of surveillance cameras. Mayor Persing said the Eagles have been very generous to the Sunbury Police Department over the years and all of council appreciates their generosity. Councilman Eister announced the Eagles were also donating \$500 to Sunbury's Litefest committee.

WAGE INCREASE/PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Troup moved to increase Mr. Craig Long's wages to \$9.25 from \$8.00. Mr. Long is a part-time employee and his responsibilities have increased because he is now also working with the Park & Recreation department. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

FREE PARKING ON METERED STREETS

Mayor Persing moved to allow free parking on all metered streets from November 23rd to January 1st. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

1ST READING 2013 BUDGET ORD. #1270

Councilman Snyder moved to pass the 2013 budget first draft with a 1.5 mil increase based on the outstanding deficit council is still working on. There are more budget meetings scheduled to work on the budget. Councilman Bartello asked why council is voting on this before a final budget is ready. Councilman Snyder explained there is a process that they have to go through. Councilman Bartello said they could have started on the budget months ago and Councilman Snyder answered that it would then be based on non-historic numbers. The numbers should be as realistic as possible. Councilman Bartello said the figures would then be more accurate next year. Councilman Snyder said it has been getting more accurate through the last few years and that is why the investment was made in the accounting software. Mayor Persing explained the reason for the 1st reading is so council can work through it before the final passage in December. Councilman Eister thanked Councilman Snyder for the work he put into the budget to have a 1st reading. Second – Persing. Yes – Eister, Persing, Snyder, Troup. No – Bartello. Motion carried.

1ST READING 2013 LEVY TAX ORD. #1271

Councilman Snyder moved to pass the Tax Levy ordinance on a first reading with a 1.5 mil increase taking the general tax millage to 2.45 or 24.5 mils. Second – Eister. Yes – Persing, Snyder, Troup, Eister. No – Bartello. Motion carried.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Snyder moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$73,216.45 from the general fund. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Ed Quiggle asked why council voted on a draft when it hasn't been read thoroughly. Mayor Persing explained the 1st reading of the budget has to be passed at this meeting because of time constraints with advertising. It must be passed as a balanced budget, which is what Councilman Snyder did. Between now and the final meeting in December changes can be made to the budget. Councilman Snyder explained all the directors meet with department heads and put together a budget worksheet. That worksheet is submitted and it is evaluated and entered into the financial system. When that process is completed, there are usually more expenses than revenue. This year there was a \$350,000 deficit that needed to be closed before passing the budget on a 1st reading. So to have a balanced budget, the 1.5 mil increase was included to balance it for a 1st reading.

Mr. Rick Reichner asked if the final reading of the budget would be at the final meeting of December and Mayor Persing answered yes. Mr. Reichner reminded council that is scheduled for Christmas Eve. Mayor Persing said a new date would be scheduled for the final council work session of the year.

Mr. Ed Quiggle asked how to get a copy of the draft budget and Mayor Persing answered they can go to the city clerk's office and request a copy.

Mr. Bob Miller asked when the new hoagie shop would open in the N. 4th St. plaza. The answer is mid January. They have applied for the liquor license. Mr. Miller said he ate at the other hoagie shop the gentleman owns and it was delicious and will be a good addition to business in Sunbury.

Mr. Ed Quiggle suggested the City require SECV to require a public access channel. He said it is a federal law that cable companies must have public access channels. Mayor Persing said they would take note of that.

FINAL COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER

Mayor Persing announced the next meeting of council is scheduled for Christmas Eve and must be rescheduled. The final reading of the budget and tax levy ordinance cannot be before December 24th. General discussion was held and it was decided the meeting would be rescheduled to December 26th at 8:00 am. Mayor Persing reminded everyone it is a public meeting and anyone may attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Service Electric Cablevision, Inc franchise to provide service in the city expires December 31, 2014.

Mayor Persing said a police contract meeting must be scheduled to finalize the contract to be presented to the police department.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk