

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
March 9, 2009
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 & Finance
Mark W. Walberg, Director of Public Safety
Kevin E. Troup, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks/Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Lisa Persing, City Controller
Brianna Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Michael Bordner, Public Works Supervisor
Chad Betts, Fire Chief
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Ken Long, Asst. Public Works Supervisor

There were twenty-one (21) visitors present.

An executive session of council was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel issues.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

- Minutes of 12/22/2008, 1/12/2009, 1/26/2009 and 2/9/2009 and Reports of the Police Dept., Fire Dept., City Engineer, Code Office, Park & Recreation (rink), Public Works Dept., and Planning Commission were accepted on a motion by Mayor Woodring. Eister – second. Unanimous vote.

FY2009 CDBG FINAL PROJECT SELECTION

Mr. Bill Seigel explained to council members that approximately \$346,000 will be received in FY2009 CDBG money. Councilman Shipman moved to approve the Resolution to submit City of Sunbury's FY2009 Community Development Block Grant application to the PA Dept of Community and Economic Development for the following projects, as well as authorizing the Mayor to sign all documents regarding FY2009 and to adopt the community development 3-year plan which is part of the application:

Welcome Sign	\$ 21,750
SFD Hose Purchase	\$ 20,425
Riverfront Revitalization	\$141,235
Cameron Park Improvements	\$100,310
Administration	\$ 62,280

Second Walberg. Unanimous vote.

PA DOT/ROUTE 61 CONGESTED CORRIDOR PROJECT

Mr. Brian St. John of McCormick Taylor Project Planners and Ms. Lara Lapinski of PA DOT were in attendance to answer any questions council or the public had in regard to their presentation at the previous meeting. Councilman Walberg mentioned that he has talked to several people and they are not in favor of parallel parking for various reasons and therefore he would be opposed to it. Councilman Troup moved to accept the alternate plan with minimal loss of parking in regard to the parallel parking issue. This would provide for a left turn lane but would not provide for a left turn arrow. The left turn arrow would only be available if parallel parking was chosen which provides for the length needed for a left turn lane. Mr. St. John said the alternate plan would only remove 3 or 4 diagonal spaces on the corners at 4th and 5th Sts. Councilman Troup did not want to take away parking from the downtown

businesses when council is trying to increase business. Councilman Eister asked if the 5-conductor wire would be installed if council decided at a later date to change parking to parallel to allow for a left turn lane. Ms. Lapinski answered that the 5-conductor wire would be used. Video detection will be installed in the mast arms and Mr. St. John said that if the City wanted to install wiring for surveillance cameras an appropriate place would be on the light standard, not on the mast arm. Mayor Woodring said he felt that parallel parking would make Market St. easier for emergency vehicles to get through and he favors the turning lane to make it easier to get around the downtown area. Many vehicles are longer now and stick out into the driving lanes, or they pull forward and go up on the sidewalk. Mayor Woodring explained that there are times when council must make unpopular decisions for the betterment of the City. He also reminded council that the Penn State study showed that the parking lots are not being utilized as they should be. Ms. Kremer told council that in February the City took in \$7,000 from the metered streets in parking meter money. Second - Eister. Unanimous vote. Councilman Shipman asked if as few spaces could be removed as possible and Mr. St. John answered that as few spaces would be removed as practical.

After a discussion regarding the traffic signal poles, Councilman Walberg moved to use FY2010 CDBG money to pay the difference in the standard traffic mast-arms PA DOT provides and the decorative poles to match the traffic lights the City has on Market St. The difference would be approximately \$102,000. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

Mayor Woodring moved to give the 3' right-of-way from the curb line to PA DOT to allow them to have the room they need for traffic signs on Front St. from Arch St. to Spruce St. Ms. Lapinski said that would be enough room for their traffic signs. Second Troup. Unanimous vote.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES/DELTA DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Mayor Woodring moved to approve the contract for professional services from the only company that bid, Delta Development Group, for the evaluation and review of the current grants for the Riverfront Project and for potential additional grants. The bid is \$125. per hour not to exceed \$5000. Second-Eister. Unanimous vote.

APPROVE APPLICATION TO DCNR FOR C2P2 GRANT/DLP COMPLEX

Councilman Eister moved to authorize SEDA-COG to apply to DCNR for a C2P2 grant for restrooms for the DLP Complex. The City applied in 2008 but did not receive the grant. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

WADING POOL BIDS

Bids were opened for labor only for work to be done at the swimming pool to build a wading pool area for small children. Bids were received from Keister Construction, Preston G Ross & Son, MCL Pool & Spa Services, Joe Young Electrical Contracting, Prestige Pool & Patio, Robert Feaster Corp and Diversified Construction. Mr. Bill Seigel will review the bids and make a recommendation to council at the next meeting. The project will be funded with a private grant and the City will purchase all materials needed.

ENERGY ASSESSMENT

Councilman Eister moved to spend \$450 on an energy assessment for 225 Market St and 420 S 10th St. as recommended by Megan Epler of SEDA-COG. The assessment will help to show areas where energy costs can be reduced in the two buildings. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

2ND READING AMENDED AND RESTATED POLICE PENSION PLAN

Councilman Eister moved to pass on a second reading the amended and restated police pension ordinance to comply with IRS standards. A discussion was held in regard to the make up of the board. At this time it consists of the Mayor, Director of Accounts and Finance, 2 representatives from the police department and an outside financial expert. The new ordinance calls for the Mayor, Director of Accounts and Finance, an outside expert, the City Treasurer and one police officer. The City Clerk would be an ex officio member and take minutes of the meeting. Mayor Woodring explained that the City bears most of the financial burden for the police pension payment. At this time, the police only contribute 3% of their salary toward their pension. Second – Walberg. Unanimous vote.

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES/CITY HALL & POLICE DEPT

Mayor Woodring moved to direct Mr. Ed Sickora to perform a feasibility study regarding city hall and the police department. The police department building is not safe and it is costly to maintain. Mr. Sickora's fee will not exceed \$9,500. Second Eister. Unanimous vote. Mr. Bob Snyder asked if this project should not go out to bid, even though it is professional services and under \$10,000. Mayor Woodring said no, they were going to go with a local architect that has some experience in a study such as is being proposed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LOAN

Mr. Dan Saxton, secretary of the fire department, met with Councilman Shipman to ask if council would apply for a loan for the fire department in the amount of \$200,000. They can receive a better interest rate by applying through the City. They will guarantee the loan with their Fireman's Relief Fund payment for the length of the loan. Councilman Shipman moved to allow the fire department to apply for a loan through the City (City would be the borrower, the fire dept would be the guarantor) to purchase safety equipment (35 air packs) in the amount of \$200,000. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

MARCH EXPENDITURES

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the first expense run of bills for March in the amount of \$148,345.75. Second- Eister. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

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

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Jeremy Fritz of the Eagles asked what the status of their request to use the Sunbury Youth and Community Center for an annual pool tournament was. Councilman Eister said there is a Resolution that has to be passed before giving permission to use the facility because alcohol will be served. The Resolution will be available at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An informational program will be presented at the next meeting regarding the community college project.

A group of 200-300 volunteers from the Jesus Christ Church of Latter Day Saints will be doing a service project in Sunbury on Saturday April 25th. Many projects have been slated for them to do to help to beautify the City. Councilman Eister said they would be working in conjunction with the fire department to clean the sidewalks and gazebo's prior to the service project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk