

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
June 12, 2017
6:15 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable Mayor David L. Persing presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

David L. Persing, Mayor
Elizabeth R. Kremer, Director of Accounts and 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
Lisa Martina, City Controller
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Russ Wertz, Fire Chief
Cheryl Delsite, Admin. Assistant

Visitors present: 25

A moment of silent reflection was held prior to the beginning of the meeting.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The Minutes of 5/8/17 and 5/22/17 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 Councilwoman Kremer. 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.

CDBG PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Linda Sterling opened the first public hearing for the 2017 CDBG application (see attached documents). Ms. Sterling went over the history of the CDBG program which is to assist municipalities with enhancing the viability of the communities by targeting and funding projects that provide decent housing, suitable living environment and expanding economic development opportunities principally for low/moderate income persons. The amount of the 2017 funding will be approximately \$272,900, which is what the funding for 2016 was since the new amounts have not come out yet. \$49,000 is reserved for administration. Projects must meet 1 of 3 national objectives: 1. Benefit low/moderate income persons. 2. Elimination of slum/blight. 3. Response to urgent need. DCED has allowed municipalities to start multi-year projects, finish them and reimburse themselves with future CDBG funding. This practice is no longer allowed and 3 years of funding is the maximum and no reimbursable allowance will be made. The Public Announcements (Fair Housing Notice, Antidisplacement Plan, Section 3 Preference and Section 504 Outreach) are all attached. The eligible projects for 2017 funding include:

Chestnut St. Utilities Reconstruction Phase III \$150,000
Clearance & Demolition (RDA) \$48,000 (match county CDBG grant)
Lighting Keithan's Garden (city) \$5,000
Fire Hydrant Retro Fit (fire department) \$15,000
Fire Dept. Clean Air (fire department) \$3,000
South Sunbury Neighborhood Safety (city council) \$35,000

Ms. Sterling asked for any comments regarding the projects proposed for 2017 or previous funding. Councilman Henry asked if a designated area is needed and Ms. Sterling said yes. It would have to show a marked improvement. Julie Broschius asked if it is designated in miles and Ms. Sterling answered in blocks, notably anything south of Market St. Joe Bartello asked if it would help a specific person or just reimburse the city for code enforcement activity. Ms. Sterling answered the city is confined by budget to do code enforcement. Funding the project would identify goals and set out to do specific code enforcement to meet the goals. The special target area makes the project eligible. He also said paving roads seems like maintenance. Ms. Sterling said on the Chestnut St. project it qualifies because the entire road has been torn up to repair/replace infrastructure so it is eligible. Chris Reis asked if the project includes Market St. or just south of Market St. Ms. Sterling said it does not include commercial areas. Kevin Troup asked if it supplements salary and wages and the answer is it can be used to repay the salary of the person enforcing the code in the targeted area. Councilwoman Kremer asked if all the projects listed qualify and Ms. Sterling said she has not looked at them yet but she does know some of them qualify. Ms. Sterling asked if there were any project suggestions from audience members. There were none. Ms. Sterling asked for any comments from the audience regarding concerns for potential for historic or environmental impacts associated with any of the projects under consideration. There were none. The public hearing was adjourned at 6:36 pm.

SRI UPDATE

Ms. Laurie Johnson said the first 1st Friday went well. There was some foot traffic and there were several businesses in the park. June 27th is the first movie on the river with kid's activities. September 16th is the Wine & Brew Festival with tickets on sale at Brewer's Outlet. SRI is looking for anyone that wants to try-out for the talent show in conjunction with River Festival.

CHESTNUT ST. PROJECT UPDATE

Councilman Eister said the project has started. PPL was in to remove poles. They met to discuss the traffic issues. He also moved to approve engineering invoices in the amount of \$4,705.33. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

2nd READING ORDINANCE & RESOLUTION VACATE ALLEY TO MENSCH

Ms. Kula said vacating alleys is governed by a new law and must be entered into the code book. Ms. Kula read the ordinance (see attached). Councilman Henry moved to pass the ordinance on a 2nd reading. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

2ND READING PEDDLING & SOLICITING CHAPTER 124

Ms. Kula explained the updates to this ordinance (see attached) clears up language to be consistent, updates the licensing process for licensed agents and sets a fee of \$100/day or \$250/month. Those exempted from the ordinance are yard sales and garage or porch sales. The code office will be the point of contact for all soliciting and peddling licenses. The violations are set at not less than \$100 and not more than \$300 and in default of payment an imprisonment for not more than 30 days. Councilman Eister asked if \$250 is for anytime during the month and Ms. Kula said it would be for a 30 day time period. The fees are what is allowed by state law. It is important that if someone knocks on a door they are asked to show identification. Dave Whipple said there were 2 little girls collecting money near the Turkey Hill and would they need a permit? Ms. Kula answered no that would be under the exemption as a tag day. Joe Bartello said to be sure and publicize it because a lot of solicitors do not get permits. John Shipman asked what problem is the city trying to solve with these changes. Ms. Kula answered there have been numerous incidents where people solicit door-to-door and are a scam, or represent a company and the person does not receive any service for what they have paid for. He is leary that a person trying to take advantage of homeowners would be honest enough to get a permit. This is a tool the police can use if people are caught going door-to-door to cite them. Julie Broschius asked if the identification will be such that it can't be forged and Ms. Kula answered that is the goal. There already was an ordinance, this just strengthens it. Councilman Reichner moved to pass the amended ordinance on a 2nd reading. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION/FLOOD MITIGATION GRANT

Councilman Eister moved to pass a Resolution (see attached) to request a Flood Mitigation grant in the amount of \$423,500 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be used for rehabbing the WPA wall and to authorize the mayor to sign all documents. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote. Mr. Jeff Lewis of the Sunbury Municipal Authority feels in the next 10-20 years the wall will need major repair so it is best to apply for funding as it is available and do the repairs now.

STORM WATER WAIVER

Councilman Reichner moved to pass the storm water waiver as requested by Kieffer Associates for a sale of a portion of Norfolk Southern Railway Co. land being purchased by J & J Moran, LLC. Mr. Rhoads said it is a proposed add-on subdivision. There is no construction related to this subdivision and therefore no impact to the existing storm water conditions related to the subdivision approval. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

HARB APPROVAL

Councilman Eister explained Penn DOT requires approval from HARB for Phase II of the Chestnut St. project so there is no disturbance of anything of historical value between 3rd St. and 10th St. A meeting was held 6-6-17 and the board gave tentative approval pending council's approval. That was presented as a motion. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

TREE ORDINANCE REVISION

After general discussion this amendment to Chapter 130 Trees was tabled until further work can be done on the revision.

1ST READING ORDINANCE REVISION/ADOPT 2015 IPMC

Councilman Reichner moved to pass on a first reading to adopt the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code from 2012 IPMC. This updates Section 131 Adoption of Standards. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

PENN DOT ROAD CLOSURES

Councilman Henry moved to approve the road closure requests for the Fireman's Memorial Service and Parade on August 15, 2017 and the City Lifestest Santa Parade on November 24, 2017. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

HIRE PT LIFEGUARDS, CONCESSION WORKERS, PLAYGROUND SUPERVISORS

Councilman Eister moved to hire the above part-time positions for the summer season. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$100,217.91 from the General Fund and \$6,538.40 from Liquid Fuels. Second - Henry. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

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

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Becky Enders: There is an alley that crosses Highland Ave and goes around the houses and comes out to 13th St. that doesn't have a name. Mr. Troup said he thought it did have a name and would try to find out and let her know.

David Whipple: How long can a vehicle sit on the street without moving it? Mayor Persing said if it is registered and licensed it is legal to sit on the street.

Joe Bartello: Asked when the pool opens and how many he hired? Councilman Eister said the pool is open. He doesn't know how many were hired because the pool manager does the hiring.

DISCUSSION

Mr. John Shipman said there is a list of 30 stumps given by the code office to be ground out. He would like anyone that has a stump in the tree line to contact SRI or the city clerk's office to be put on a list. All names must be in by June 30th. He asked if the city crew could come behind the contractor and clean up the mess and fill in the holes. He said Mr. Walberg offered to give a grant to get the project started and he said each property owner would be asked to give a small donation. It would cost several hundred dollars to have someone grind out a stump but they are asking for a \$20 donation for each stump.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music in the Park begins June 13th from 7:00-8:30 every Tuesday until August 22nd.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk