

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
January 11, 2010
7:00 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

Other City officials in attendance:

Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Michael Bordner, Public Works Supervisor
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Dean Weirick, Fire Chief

There were fifteen (15) visitors present.

An executive session was held at 5:45 pm to discuss a potential contract.

A Citation from Auditor General Thomas Corbett was presented to Sunbury Police Officer Travis Bremigen for his role in numerous and significant narcotics investigations during the past 18 months which resulted in many arrests and taking drugs off the streets.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

Mayor Persing announced that the departmental reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Fire Dept., City Engineer, Code Office, Park and Recreation Department, Park & Recreation Board, Public Works Dept, and Planning Commission are in the City Clerk's office for review. Moved to accept reports as presented – Persing. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

FIBER OPTICS

Mr. Bakowicz explained the permit with the Municipal Authority to run the fiber optics through the dike area should be signed soon. The Army Corps of Engineers gave permission to run the fiber optic cable in that area. The specifications on construction as required by the Municipal Authority/Army Corps should be part of the Right-of-Way agreement that Mr. Apfelbaum is working on. Approval still needs to be provided for the land development. Councilman Troup moved to accept the land development plan for Job 8LLC as presented. Second – Bartello. Unanimous vote. Mayor Persing asked Councilman Snyder to work with Solicitor Apfelbaum regarding the Right-of-Way Approval Agreement.

LIGHT DUTY POLICY

Councilman Troup presented council members with a copy of a light duty policy. At this time there is no formal light duty policy for non-uniform or police personnel. He asked that everyone look at it and at the next meeting it will be up for discussion and a formal policy should be adopted. He also asked the Solicitor to look at it and give him suggestions for changes that may be necessary. Mr. Apfelbaum suggested including HIPAA language in the policy.

HISTORICAL ORDINANCE #1249

Mayor Persing explained that the HARB ordinance has a clause that states that council will review the ordinance after a period of 1 year of the effective date. He would like to see the HARB more user friendly and efficient. He hopes the code office addresses the code problems in the historic district and works with the property owners. If someone wants to fix up their property the City should work with them to improve their investment instead of relying only on the Board's recommendation. Just because a building is 100 years old, it does not make it historical. New members of the HARB will be appointed later in this meeting. Councilman Bartello said he will be working with HARB members to streamline the process.

APPEALS BOARD FEE

Councilman Bartello stated that the fee for the Appeals Board is very low and has not been updated in many years, if ever. He is going to look at all the code fees and make a recommendation to council as to what they should be.

BOARD VACANCIES

The following have been recommended for reappointment or appointment to Boards:

Housing – Lori Simpson Motion – Persing. 2nd – Troup. Unanimous vote.

Redevelopment Authority – 2 vacancies exist

Zoning Hearing – Jean Eckrod and Jon Teisher. Motion - Persing. 2nd – Snyder. Unanimous vote.

Board of Appeals – Preston Ross and 1 vacancy. Motion – Persing. 2nd – Troup. Unanimous vote.

Municipal Authority – Bill Rowe and Charlie Schlegel. Motion – Persing. 2nd – Troup. Unanimous vote

HARB – Robert Snyder, Adam Purdy, Cindy Inkrote, Bruce Whipple. Motion – Bartello. 2nd – Troup. Unanimous vote.

Recreation Board – Jodi Scholvin (4 year term), 1 year term – Linda Hare, Mindy Hoffman, Jenna Eister, Malcolm Johnson. 2nd – Troup. Unanimous vote. Mayor Persing said he would like to see a member of the Shikellamy School District Board have a seat on the Recreation Board since they use some of our facilities.

JANUARY EXPENDITURES

Councilman Snyder explained that going forward a detailed itemized list will be provided to council members to approve the expenditures for the month and review line item detail. Mayor Persing moved to contingently approve \$113,190.03 for the first AP run of January. The approval would be contingent on final review and approval by the Director of Accounts and Finance. Second – Snyder. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

Mayor Persing moved to pass the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Bartello. Unanimous vote. The reporter asked for a copy of the Tax Exoneration list and a discussion ensued regarding whether it is public information. Solicitor Apfelbaum stated that it has no personal information on it and could be released to the public. It was decided it would be made available with the departmental reports for anyone to review in the City Clerk's office.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Stan Seiple brought plans to the meeting table outlining an opportunity to bring a Department of Defense Call-In Center to the Moffitt building on Chestnut St. The Call-In Center would be for the entire United States and would employ approximately 20 people. It will be used to help veterans find employment and help them with completing applications, etc. Mr. Seiple asked for a right-of-way on 5' of the area the City owns adjacent to the Court St. parking lot to provide a handicap ramp for the building. He is willing to pay \$1,000 to have that area deeded to him. He also said there are 16 parking meters in that area which does not allow the public access to the area. He would like to have the meters removed and use it for permit only parking. The people that work in the building would be able to purchase monthly permits and park there. The handicap parking would remain where it is. Councilman Bartello said council should not give permits for specific parking in the lots. It was recommended that DCED be contacted to see about selling permits in the parking lot because it was built using CDBG funds. Mr. Bakowicz said that this situation would be like the Cole's sub-division and a sub-division plan would have to be completed. A registered surveyor would have to create the paperwork. A lease-to-purchase option was discussed but no decisions in that regard have been made. The Daily Item reporter asked what a temporary lease to purchase agreement meant. Solicitor Apfelbaum explained that it would allow the property owner to begin construction on a handicap ramp area instead of waiting 2 weeks for another council meeting for a decision regarding selling the area would be made.

Mr. Scott Johnson thanked the new mayor and councilmen for the time that they are willing to give to the community.

Councilman Bartello would like to move the code office to the third floor at city hall because the space they occupy now is inadequate. There is no place to have a private meeting with citizens that come in. Only 1 person can be at the front desk at a time. Mayor Persing asked him to wait until the next meeting to make that move because the City has a grant for improvements to city hall and he does not want to see the grant money in jeopardy.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk