

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
August 24, 2015
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 E. Troup, City Treasurer
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
Brad Hare, Police Chief
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were thirty four (34) visitors present.

A moment of silent reflection was held after the Pledge of Allegiance including in memory of Pamela Clark.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Persing asked for comments on agenda items and there were none.

FINAL FFY2015 CDBG PUBLIC HEARING

After the mayor recessed the city council meeting, Ms. Jamie Shrawder explained the city would be receiving less than \$300,000 (she did not have the exact figure) which will be going to the Chestnut St. project and 18% will be for administration. When the meeting is back in session she asked city council to pass a Resolution to submit the application for FFY 2015 CDBG funding and authorize the mayor to sign all documents. Ms. Shrawder asked if there were any comments from audience members and there were none.

The meeting was called back to order. Councilman Eister moved to approve the Resolution (see attached) to apply for FFY 2015 CDBG funding. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

Ms. Shrawder prepared a request for proposals for engineering services for the demolition of 714 N. 7th St. which will be completed with CDBG funds. The city has already acquired the property. Councilman Eister moved to allow Ms. Shrawder prepare and submit a Request for Proposals for engineering services for demolition of 714 N. 7th St. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

Ms. Shrawder announced that Mr. Burgess has submitted his agreements, certifications and insurance to demo 1062 Miller St. The work should begin soon. Ms. Shrawder said she needs a picture of the site with the DCED sign on it before the structure can be demolished.

Ms. Julie Broschious said at the last public meeting it didn't seem like the audience members could ask questions about how the money was allocated. She asked when the opportunity was to ask questions. Ms. Shrawder answered during the public hearing it is up to city council how to entertain the questions. The solicitor stated that comments only would be heard. The meeting Ms. Broschious is talking about was a budget modification meeting which requires only 1 public meeting.

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE

Mr. Apfelbaum explained there is a court hearing to acquire 116 S. 4th St. and if successful at the hearing the Redevelopment Authority will own that property.

CHILD ABUSE CLEARANCE RESOLUTION

Mayor Persing said he wanted to have a Resolution (see attached) addressing the PA Act 153 which is for background checks for anyone having direct and routine contact with children. All volunteers will have to have background checks and they will go through the Park and Recreation Board. Councilman Henry moved to adopt the Resolution. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

APPROVE AMERICUS HOSE COMPANY OUTDOOR EVENT USING CITY PROPERTY

Councilman Eister moved to pass the Agreement allowing the Americus Hose Company to use a portion of Linden St. during their Open House on Saturday August 29th. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

OPEN CONTAINER RESOLUTION

Councilman Eister moved to waive the open container ordinance for the Open House at the Americus Hose Company in the portion of the alley they will be using. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

PENNDOT ROAD CLOSURE

Councilman Henry moved to pass the road closure for the Halloween Parade to be held on October 15th and Lifest Santa Parade on November 27th. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$80,119.58 from the General Fund and \$5,521.96 from the Liquid Fuels Fund. Second – Councilman Henry. Unanimous vote.

STREET WAY-FINDING SIGNS

Councilman Shipman said SPARC has been working on way-finding signs that will point people to the correct locations in Sunbury. He showed a copy of what it will look like.

ZONING ORDINANCE CHANGES

Mr. Rhoads explained there are several revisions to ordinances that are necessary to clean up language. They deal with junk yards, mobile homes, mobile home parks, cell towers and parking lots. Mr. Rhoads asked council members to review the proposed revisions and he hopes there will be a first reading at the next council meeting.

PENSION MMO

Mr. Kevin Troup presented the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the police (\$212,858) and non-uniform (\$128,944) pension for 2016.

SUNBURY FIRE POLICE

Captain Bruce Colyer began the discussion with thanking the surrounding municipal fire police for aiding them with traffic control for the River Festival. He felt Mr. Henry did not do a good job with the road closures and that caused a lot of their problems with traffic. Councilman Henry said Chief Hare designed the route and everyone agreed it was a good route with Chestnut St being closed. He said he knows what the fire police went through because when he was fire chief he helped the fire police with food and water when they couldn't leave their posts. There was general discussion about the river festival traffic. Councilman Eister said the fire police did a good job and there was a lack of communication and that was most of the problem. Chief Hare said he discussed the traffic detours

with Penn DOT and they all agreed at that point it was too late to change the traffic patterns. He patrolled the areas all day and in the north end of town traffic was not a problem. It was normal Friday traffic. In the south end there was no choice but to take traffic down 2nd St. Chestnut St. being closed did have a huge impact on traffic. The fire police did an exceptional job with what they had to work with. There were no issues on Saturday because there was a lot less normal traffic. Mr. Bill Whipple said it would have been better if local traffic could go to Reagan St. and Chief Hare agreed and said next year they will change that. Ms. Carol Mazzeo said there were issues at the north end of town and traffic was backed up across both bridges. Ms. Julie Broschious said people coming from Shamokin Dam were not patient because people were passing others already in line. Ms. Mary Colyer said the neighboring fire police helped for a purpose and that was to help the City of Sunbury. Mr. Henry made them all look bad. She was with a fire police officer from Northumberland. They were doing the best job they could in the busy traffic and he should not have yelled at them. Mayor Persing said there were major issues and if Chestnut St. was open it may not have been so bad. Fire police lieutenant Jim Jones of Selinsgrove said he brought volunteers to assist with the good function for the city. He does not feel a councilman should allow his temper or opinion get out of control. And to degrade the volunteers standing in 85 degree weather is not necessary. Mr. Slade Schreck thanked everyone that helped with River Festival including the fire police, city employees, all volunteers and the people that attended the fair. The traffic situation was unfortunate. The crowd attending the fair was one of the biggest they ever had. Next year they will work on the issues in plenty of time to try and alleviate problems. Mayor Persing thanked the River Festival committee and there is a lot of work involved with running a fair of that size. Captain Jonathan Apple of the Northumberland Fire Police said he has known Mr. Henry for many years. He was not there when the incident happened with one of his fire police. He would like a public apology to his fire police officer. Councilman Henry did apologize to Mr. Dean Diehl from the Northumberland Fire Police.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Ms. Julie Broschious: What is happening with storm water management in Caketown? She sent a letter to the mayor and council in regard to the issues. She said council are the ones to enforce it and they are not and being negligent. They praise themselves for relieving blight but they are causing blight in Caketown. The damage continues. Councilman Henry said he spoke to Mike Kerstetter and they have a plan to run a pipe to another catch basin. Hopefully it will be done this summer. It should help the situation. She spoke to Mr. Kerstetter and he wasn't sure what to do about it. There are others besides her property being ruined. She asked when the city was going to request a storm water management plan for the property. She said it is not the Municipal Authority's duty to enforce storm water management. Councilman Eister said the entire upper end of town goes to Reagan St. The pipe to the Reagan St. pump house is too small. It was installed probably 40 or 50 years ago. That is why Mr. Kerstetter is unsure of where to put the water. If a curb was put around the Bimbo property it still wouldn't fix the problem. Phase 1 of the fix has to be Reagan St. and that is a \$1.8 million project. Another Phase is another pump station on Front St. and that is \$2. million dollars. She asked why there is no storm water plan for the property and he tried to explain the outcome is the same. The plan for Reagan St. is at least 3 years. More general discussion was held on this matter.

Ms. Regina Russell, Community Activist: Asked Mr. Troup if the city hires an actuarial firm to do the calculations or is it done in house. Mr. Troup said the figures come from the city but the rest of the calculation formula comes from the actuary. Why is there ticketing done when there is no street sweeping done? Chief Hare explained the parking enforcement has nothing to do with street sweeping. The signs do not say no parking for street sweeping. Vehicles are still ticketed when street sweeping does not occur because it is a no parking ordinance, not a street sweeping ordinance. She received a ticket after the bad rain storm and the ticket was put in the mail box and was not handed to her. Chief Hare explained again it is a no parking ordinance, not a street sweeper ordinance. It could be enforced all year long but the city chooses to only enforce it from April to November when the street sweeper runs. Ms. Russell asked why city council does not use eminent domain powers to demolish old abandoned buildings in the city. Mayor Persing answered because of the cost. She asked if the cost can't be applied to the person who owns the property and Councilman Shipman answered because people walk away from their properties because they do not have the money to keep them up. She is speaking of the Wirerope buildings. Councilman Reichner said it is an operating business. Mr. Rhoads did an inspection at her house and tried to email a report to her. Ever since a personal letter was taken off former Councilman Bartello's computer and publicly read without her permission she is unable to send or receive any emails from the code officers. She can

send to anyone else in the code office. She feels she is blocked from emails. Councilman Reichner asked if she has the right email address and Ms. Russell answered she is not stupid. No emails are blocked on any city computers. She asked Chief Hare what happened between the hours of 12 am and 1:30 am last Friday at her neighbor's house. There were at least 4 police vehicles there. They were giving underage kids breathalyzer tests. Chief Hare said he did not know what happened. She wanted to commend the officers for their patience because the parents were in their faces. No one got arrested and it was handled professionally. She also said the fire police did an excellent job on S. 4th St. during River Festival.

Mr. David Whipple said he asked Ms. Specht about the street sweeping ordinance. He was told even if they don't sweep the no parking ordinance is in effect in case they have to do other street maintenance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The final Music in the Park is August 25th at 7 pm with Jim "the Singing" Mailman. The Lake Augusta Wine and Brew Fest is scheduled for September 19th from 2 pm to 6 pm.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk