

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury, PA 17801
April 23, 2012

6:15 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order by 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
James R. Eister, Director of Park and Rec and Public Buildings

Other City official in attendance:

Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Stephen A. Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Cheryl E. Delsite, Adm. Asst.

19 visitors were present.

2012 CDBG PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council meeting was adjourned in order to hold the public hearing concerning the allocation of CDBG monies. Jamie Shrawder from SEDA COG reviewed the list of projects and asked for audience comments on the projects selected. There were no comments from the audience. Ms. Shrawder adjourned the public hearing and requested City Council pass a resolution to approve the projects as presented.

Mayor Persing called the City Council meeting back to order.

2012 CDBG RESOLUTION

Mayor Persing made a motion to apply for the 2012 CDBG as presented by Ms. Shrawder. The motion was seconded by Councilman Todd Snyder. Motion passed unanimously.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mayor Persing announced through the involvement of the Chamber of Commerce with the comprehensive plan, Charlie Ross has applied for a matching grant of \$2,000 from PPL that will be used to market the Runnerless Knit building. The grant will be matched with money from the Redevelopment Authority. The current owner of the building is looking to sell the building. There are some state, federal and bank loans attached to the building.

CLOSE CADWALLADER AVENUE

St Luke's Church has requested permission to close Cadwallader Avenue on May 19, 2012 for their bike rodeo.

Mayor Persing made a motion to allow the closing of Cadwallader Avenue from Reagan Street for one block on Saturday, May 19th from 8 am to 3 pm for the bike rodeo. Jim Eister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN BID/RFP FOR THIRD PARTY INSPECTION

Mayor Persing reported the city received three bids from third party inspectors. The businesses submitting bids were the Borough of Danville; Barry Isett and Associates and Northeast Inspection Consultants.

Mr. Eister made a motion to table this item until the next council meeting to allow the committee, council and the solicitor to review the information. Mayor Persing seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN BID/RFP TAX FREE MORTGAGE

Todd Snyder reported that one bid was received from Swineford National Bank for a 5 year fixed rate for \$90,000 with a 10 year amortization. The rate for the first 5 years is 2.96% and then adjusts to a variable rate of 60% of the bank's prime rate which is currently 2.4%. This bid was dated April 10, 2012

Mr. Eister questioned only receiving one bid and is concerned that something did not happen. Mr. Snyder responded that City Clerk Terry Specht informed him on at least two occasions that she put out communication requesting bids. Mr. Snyder indicated that he is willing to table the matter until the next council meeting but he would like to have a June 1st closing on this property.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to put on record the receipt of the Swineford National Bank bid but table any further action until the next meeting to insure that no other bids were overlooked. The motion was seconded by Jim Eister. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Snyder made a motion to approve the invoices of \$153,744.85. Councilman Joe Bartello had some questions about the repair bills for the SMA Ball field. He would like to know if there was a running total for the repairs. Mr. Bartello wanted to know where the money for the repairs was coming from since the budget was so tight to begin with. Mr. Eister informed him that funds were coming from the general fund and they were being tracked for the reimbursement. The repairs are because of the flood and should be reimbursed by FEMA. Mr. Snyder said he would be looking at those expenditures as well for the total and for what will be reimbursed by insurance. Mr. Snyder noted there were several bills he has reviewed that he thought were out of the norm. Mr. Bartello also questioned the skating rink's \$4,000 electric bill. Mr. Eister said that was a typical month. Mr. Bartello also questioned if there were details for the Redevelopment Authority's \$10,000 Apfelbaum Law bill. Mayor Persing told him there was. Mr. Snyder reminded Mr. Bartello and the audience that the Treasurer's Office has copies of all the bills and their details and they are public information.

Mr. Eister seconded Mr. Snyder's motion to approve the invoices for payment. The motion passed unanimously.

FAÇADE PROGRAM

Ms Shrawder noted there were a few changes to the Façade Program that would make it a little more fluid. One of the changes was the removal of SRI's involvement and put the city in charge of running the program. Another change was to allow the city to review each application on a case by case basis.

Ms. Shrawder will continue to work with DCED to figure out the fundability. DCED recently said the fundability would have to be based on the business being helped because not everyone would be able to shop at a high end store. It is not clear how to make that determination. Ms. Shrawder has asked DCED what information they would require to make a determination based on business type. Donna Enrinco from DCED needs all the details so she can get a determination from HUD. Ms. Shrawder is not sure DCED knows how to run a façade program based on city-wide benefits.

Ms. Shrawder recommended that council approve the guidelines as is, knowing that there is still some work to do with DCED. The other option would be to table the program until everything is worked out.

Mayor Persing made a motion to approve the guidelines as presented. Mr. Eister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

There were no audience comments.

DISCUSSION

OPG Field New Parking Pattern

Mayor Persing informed everyone that there has been an increase in the number of girls playing on the OPG field. Because of this increase, there will be a new parking pattern. Mayor Persing, Mr. Eister and Chief Mazzeo will be meeting to determine where the new signs will be placed and how best to get the visitors to use the parking area

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Wide Clean Up

There will be a city wide clean up on April 24th, 26th and May 1st and 3rd. Any questions, please call the transfer station at 570.286.9925.

City Wide Property Evaluation Committee

Mayor Persing explained the Hill Neighborhood had a group of concerned citizens walk the neighborhoods in their area. He is looking for volunteers to walk the city and create a report on properties that may need attention. This is not for neighbors to pick on neighbors. If anyone is interested in being on the committee, they should contact his office

349 Chestnut Street Auction

Mayor Persing commented that the Redevelopment Authority would be auctioning off 349 Chestnut Street on May 5th at 9 am. This auction is open to the public.

Veteran's Banner Ceremony

Mayor Persing also mentioned there will be a ceremony to unveil SRI's Veteran Banners at 10 am in Cameron Park. SRI was hoping to get 60 banners and ended up with 77 participants.

Hill Neighborhood Yard Sales

The Hill Neighborhood Yard Sales will be May 12th. For more information, call SRI at 570.286.7768

Free Mulch

Free mulch will also be given away at the brush pile on North 4th Street on May 12th.

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl E. Delsite
Adm. Asst.