

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
July 28, 2014
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 **via telephone**
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
Lisa J. Martina, City Controller
Brad Hare, Acting Police Chief
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Ken Long, Assistant Public Works Supervisor
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were forty-four (44) visitors present.

APPOINT NEW CHIEF OF POLICE

Mayor Persing announced that he is appointing Bradley Hare as the new Chief of Police. He has been married for 19 years, has 3 children, attended Mansfield University, was hired in September 4, 2001 and was promoted to corporal on September 28, 2010. Hare is the only officer living in Sunbury city limits. Hare's daughter Brenna pinned his badge on his uniform. Chief Hare said he thanked the mayor and council for supporting him. He also stated that there is a good group of police officers and he is happy and excited to fulfill his new role.

AUDIENCE COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Cora Campbell reminded everyone that Steve Mazzeo lives in Sunbury. Mayor Persing thanked her and said he forgot about that.

FFY2014 CDBG COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION

Mayor Persing temporarily adjourned the council meeting and Mr. Tyler Dombroski opened the FFY2014 CDBG Competitive Grant Application public hearing. This application is to be used for the Chestnut St. reconstruction project and is part of the \$3.7 million project. All the storm water, sewer, water infrastructure, resurfacing and paving the street, curbs, sidewalks and new traffic signal at 2nd & Chestnut Sts. including street lighting will be included in this project. Ms. Jamie Shrawder stated that at this time the City has \$500,000 of Keystone Community Grant funds, \$200,000 of Liquid Fuels fund, \$602,281.10 of CDBG funds from 2011-2014 for funding. Pending there is a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant application in for \$8 to be considered by the Commonwealth Financing Agency at their September 9th meeting. The Municipal Authority applied for a PA Small Water & Sewer grant for \$90,000 which will be considered at that same meeting. The competitive application amount was raised to \$750,000 so Ms. Shrawder will change the application to ask for the higher amount. The PA DOT Transportation Alternative Program grant for \$1,000,000 is still pending and should be awarded by the end of September. At this time the City has committed the construction loan funds if necessary toward the project and the Municipal Authority stated they would be willing to borrow through the Penn Vest program if necessary. As the application moves forward that funding will be shown on the application. If the grants are not received the City can move forward with a phased approach, beginning at Front St. to 3rd St. A meeting is scheduled to update council members on August 21st. Councilman Eister said right now, there is enough funding for Phase 1. Funding will be clearer at the end of September and hopefully bids will go out in October. Permits are being secured now. The utility work can be done over the winter and the street

work will start in the spring. Mayor Persing asked if the funding isn't secured now, could applications be submitted again for those grants and Ms. Shrawder said yes. Ms. Shrawder asked for questions from audience members and there were none. Mr. Dombroski explained the Resolution to apply for the competitive grant should be passed by council. It states that the City will apply for the grant, all the rules and regulations that come with applying for it have been followed and that SEDA-COG will be applying for the grant on behalf of the City of Sunbury. Mr. Dombroski asked for questions from the audience and there were none. The 2nd public hearing was adjourned.

2014 CDBG COMPETITIVE GRANT RESOLUTION

Councilman Henry moved to pass the 2014 CDBG Competitive Grant Resolution (see attached) as stated above. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

COMMERCIAL INSPECTION RATE CHANGE

Councilman Reichner explained this change to the Fee Schedule would be for commercial properties only. Councilman Reichner read the Resolution to change the fee schedule (see attached). He explained the minimum permit fee would be \$75.00 and for plumbing, mechanical and electrical permits it would go by job cost, not piece count. Also, demolition permits will go from 0.01 cents per square foot to 0.05 cents per square foot. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote

ALCOHOL ON CITY PROPERTY/WAIVE OPEN CONTAINER ORDINANCE

Councilman Eister moved to allow SRI to serve alcohol after the River Festival at river front from 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm and also waive the open container ordinance for August 16th at that location. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote

Councilman Eister moved to allow SRI to serve alcohol on August 30th at river front during the Renaissance Fair being held there and waive the open container ordinance for that day only at that location. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

APPOINT LYNDA SCHLEGEL CULVER TO AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD

Mayor Persing moved to appoint Representative Lynda Schlegel Culver to the Airport Authority Board as a non-voting member to replace Bob Snyder. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Henry moved to pay the invoices on the vouchers payable report totaling \$133,158.21 from the general fund and \$16,104.11 from the liquid fuels fund. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

KEYSTONE COMMUNITY GRANT COORDINATOR

Mayor Persing explained that the City has not yet been designated as a Keystone Community. Cheryl Delsite will hold the position and it will involve closing the Elm St. grant and seeking other grants and managing those grants.

RASPBERRY AVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Mayor Persing also explained he would like to start this project between 3rd & 4th Sts. between Church St. and Penn St – Penn St. doesn't have a street and people park in the dirt. The goal is to take that area to Chestnut St. and devise parking and plant trees and remove blight and fix the area up. In the future Keystone Communities funding will be sought. Councilman Henry is working with the railroad to talk to them about making improvements in the land they own in that area.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Ms. Sandy Walters: Owns rental properties in Sunbury. She thought the article in The Daily Item on Sunday July 27th was terrible and out of line to take a family who have been in the area for years, trying to keep a business running in Sunbury. She asked if it was going to be a weekly thing picking out people with problems and putting it in the newspaper. She said she is not a Montie Peters fan but

it wasn't fair to him and his family. She doesn't think small business people will come to Sunbury if this is the way they are treated if they run into hard times. She said the Weiser building on Raspberry Ave. is in very bad condition but the owner is a drinking buddy with people so it gets passed over. She has lived next door to the Wheeland house for years and it was something to see. It has been sold and the owner is remodeling it. Code has been called but between them and Apfelbaums and other people no one did anything.

Ms. Randi Buehner: Wanted to speak about the Otterbein Methodist Church and the Group Mission Work Camps. There will be 300-400 people coming to Sunbury next year from July 12-18, 2015 to rehab owner occupied houses for low income and disabled property owners. It helps them grow through Christian faith and service. They will be housed by the Shikellamy School District. Labor and materials are free. There will be an application that must be submitted. They are looking for contractors to look at the submittals and decide if the work needed to be done is feasible. She is putting together a support team at this time to include civic organizations, SRI and Area Agency on Aging to help. The Group Mission Work Camps were in Shamokin last week. The repairs to be done could reach as high as \$300,000 for materials and labor. It is an investment in the county. They won't just be in Sunbury but also the surrounding area. Councilman Reichner volunteered to represent the city on the support team. Anyone that is interested in helping can contact Ms. Buehner. She is also asking for any donations or contributions to help. Councilman Reichner also offered the use of the conference room at city hall.

Ms. Becky Enders: Said there are trees and bushes hanging over the street behind 240 N. Front St. on Baldy St. Councilman Henry said he would look into this situation.

Ms. Regina Russell, Community Activist: Hopes the new chief of police will live up to former Chief Mazzeo's standards. At the last meeting there was a discussion during the meeting about Mr. Jerome Alex calling Mr. Gordon Lamb a liar during a public meeting. To her it seemed like the council members were condoning his behavior because no one corrected him for his behavior. She feels he is entitled to be treated with respect and civilly by public officials and anyone that works for any municipality in Northumberland County. She said it was arranged for Ms. Nolls to attend the meeting and try to humiliate her and tell her to mind her own business about her being permitted to park a vehicle on the public sidewalk. School will soon be in and she cannot understand why the vehicles are allowed to stay there. Ms. Russell said it is her civic responsibility to come to council and bring her concerns to them hoping they will take care of them. That is why they are elected into their positions. She also suggested council members brush up on the PA State Ethics Act so they know what is expected of them as a public official.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beginning August 18th Don E. Bower, Inc. will begin roadway improvements on Front St. End date is September 19th. Work will be 7 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. Final bituminous wearing surface will be placed during evening shift hours between 7 pm and 7 am Sunday evening thru Friday morning. Traffic will be limited to 1 lane during work hours and there will be flaggers. Will open to 2 lanes during non-work hours.

National Night Out/Cameron Park – August 5th 5:00 – 9:00 pm – Lots of family fun planned for the family

Music in the Park: July 29 – Past Country August 5 – Ann Kerstetter Band August 12 – H2 Worship Team

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk