

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
May 8, 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
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Timothy Miller, Chief of Police
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Russ Wertz, Fire Chief
Terry Specht, City Clerk

Visitors present: 29

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

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The Minutes of 4/10/17 and 4/24/17 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 – Henry. 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.

SRI UPDATE

Ms. Laurie Johnson announced the Wine & Brew Festival tickets will go on sale on June 1st. SPARC is sponsoring the flower baskets for Market St. and donations will be gladly accepted. Ms. Annie Clark will be scheduling events at the Albright Center. Derek Wolfgang and Loni Briner are chairing an Image Committee.

MENSCH VACATE ALLEY

Ms. Kula explained the formal description was not available for this property but it has been completed now. Councilman Henry moved to accept the ordinance amendment regarding vacating an alley to the Mensch family (see attached). Second - Eister. Unanimous vote.

2017 POLICE WEEK PROCLAMATION

Mayor Persing read the 2017 Police Week Proclamation (see attached).

YMCA BIKE RACE ROAD CLOSURE REQUEST

Councilman Henry moved to pass the road closure request as requested by the YMCA for their bike race. N. 4th St. will already be closed for Sunbury Celebration. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

GOOD WILL HOSE COMPANY CITY APPROPRIATION

Councilman Reichner explained he was notified Friday that the Good Will Hose Co. volunteers took themselves out of fire service. Councilman Reichner moved to withdraw the monthly stipend to the hose company until they have been put back in service and are in good standing with the fire department. Councilwoman Kremer asked if the money would be put aside to give them later and Councilman Reichner answered he instructed the treasurer to put it somewhere. Chief Wertz said all city-owned and Relief Association owned equipment has been removed from the Good Will's only fire truck. Mr. Troup asked what happens to the liquor license if they do not have an active fire department and the answer is they can operate for 30 days. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

ROLLER DERBY MATCHES SYCC/BYOB

Councilman Eister moved to allow spectators to bring alcoholic beverages in non-glass containers to their 4 home matches in 2017. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

ENGINEER INVOICES/PHASE 2 CHESTNUT ST

Councilman Eister moved to pay engineering invoices for the Chestnut St. Project Phase 2 in the amount of \$22,695. Second – Reichner. Yes – Kremer, Reichner, Eister, Persing. No – Henry.

RESOLUTION/LEASE PARK & RECREATION TRUCK

Councilman Eister moved to pass a Resolution to lease a vehicle through Northumberland National Bank in the amount of \$35,592. Bids were received from Swineford Bank and West Milton State Bank as well. 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 \$360,264.41 from the General Fund and \$1,674.42 from Liquid Fuels. The police pension payment is included in the general fund amount. 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

Greg Oyster: Has anything been done about his request to update the noise ordinance to include excessive noise during the day. Mayor Persing said everyone has the information and it will be up to a council member to bring it before council if anyone is interested in updating the ordinance.

Eldridge Valto: A letter was sent to property owners regarding tree roots pushing sidewalks and he would like to know why it is not being enforced equally. The property at 275 N 12th St has a tree that has been causing a lot of damage that has cost Mr. Valto a lot of money hasn't been cut down but they are fixing the sidewalks. The sidewalks at the 2 properties were even but now the neighbor is pouring his sidewalks 4" back toward their house which will create a trip hazard and people will be walking right into his landscaping lights and decorative wood. The code office said they cannot tell people where to put sidewalks or cut trees down. Councilman Reichner said the city code says the safety issue is the sidewalks. For years someone came to council meetings and was concerned about the condition of sidewalks. They cannot tell someone to take a tree down, but the sidewalk problem must be corrected. Mr. Valto asked if the city was concerned the tree trunks are so big they are overgrowing on the curb so much so that you cannot get out of your vehicle near them. Mr. Rhoads said there are no code violations at the present time. Councilman Henry said someone at the other end of the block received the same letter and they poured concrete over the tree roots and the sidewalk is still uneven. They did not have to cut the tree down either. Mr. Valto read from the letter that said "it is your responsibility as the property owner to remove the tree and repair the sidewalks that will eliminate the public safety hazard." The tree in question has not been trimmed for at least 30 years and the roots are everywhere. Mayor Persing said he feels it is a civil issue. Councilman Henry said he would like to meet Mr. Valto at the property. Mr. Valto said why should he have to spend money

because of the tree on the neighbor's property. Ms. Kula recommended reviewing the code to be sure there is a code violation and if not, it would be a civil issue. Mr. Valto said he does not have time because they are pouring concrete on Thursday. Councilman Reichner said the sidewalk pour will be stopped until the issue is resolved. Mr. Valto asked what constitutes an unsafe tree. The tree he is talking about has not been trimmed for 30 years and crosses to the other side of the street. Ms. Kula said that is on the list of ordinances to be updated with the code office.

Don Heilig: Also received the letter about removing the tree and repairing the sidewalk by June 1st but he has had some issues and wants to know if an extension on the date could be given. Councilman Reichner said it has been 2 years and the date has already been extended to June. If he can prove there is a plan in place to repair the sidewalks the code office would consider an extension. Mr. Heilig asked why isn't the city concerned about the sidewalks on 4th St. and in front of city hall and not worry about other sidewalks.

Rudy Frazer: Is interested in stump grinding. Councilman Eister said SRI is coordinating the project and he is not sure of the timing. They will probably go out for bids for companies to do the stump grinding but that is all in SRI's hands.

Becky Enders: A double house had a fire on Front St where repairs have been ongoing. When they brought in the materials they hit a storm drain that is now below the street level. Mr. Russ Wertz will check on that.

Joe Bartello: Were there bids for the truck purchased for park and recreation dept.? Councilman Eister said no, the purchase was made through the state's CoStars process where bids have already been received by the state. He also asked if the Parks & Recreation dept. would have a report since there hasn't been one for a long time. Councilman Eister said he would ask Jodi to see what she has.

Reginal Russell: Her neighbor asked about a property located at 405-407 Walnut St. regarding the trash and the noise from the property. The owner has finally gotten the tenants out of the house. The property owner said she had no idea they were living the way they were inside the house. Ms. Russell asked when the last code inspection was and the owner said a year ago and then a month ago. Ms. Russell said the home owner should be notified of health and safety issues inside rental properties when they are inspected. Councilman Reichner said the property owner is present during an inspection unless it is a complaint. She also said the property owner on S. 4th St. that is selling bicycles has the sidewalks blocked. Councilman Reichner said that will be addressed in the ordinances that are being reviewed. Ms. Russell also said the new bulbs in the street lights light the streets well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk