

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
September 22, 2008
6:15 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable Jesse C. Woodring, Mayor, presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

Jesse C. Woodring, Mayor
Kevin Troup, Director of Public Safety
James R. Eister, Director of Parks/Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Beth Kremer, City Treasurer
Lisa Persing, City Controller
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were five (5) visitors present.

PARKING METERS/CHESTNUT ST AND ARCH ST

Mayor Woodring met with Chief Mazzeo and Steve Brown regarding meters that need repaired/replaced. There are 89 meters with empty housing – replacement costs are \$150. each or \$13,645. Also, 24 meters were shipped for repairs at \$99 each or \$2387. There are 160 mechanical meters that must be replaced with digital housings. Mayor Woodring moved to remove the meters on Chestnut St. (41) and Arch St. (31) and repair meters to replace 17 other inoperable meters on the streets which have been bagged for several weeks. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Mayor Woodring will be contacting SEDA-COG with regards to a study on meter revenue/usage/placement and permit parking.

PENSION PAYMENTS

Councilman Eister stated that with the stock market falling every day the police pension payment is going to go way up. It won't be affected in 2009 but will be in 2010. There are 11 patrol officers and right now the City is paying approximately \$25,000 per year per officer. In the private sector they figure about \$3,000 per employee per year. Once a police officer retires there is no impact on the MMO for the police pension. There is a \$1.7 million deficit at this time.

HARB APPROVAL

Mayor Woodring moved to accept HARB's recommendation for replacement windows that have divided lights or grids to match the existing windows at 236 Arch St. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

SEPTEMBER EXPENSE

Mayor Woodring moved to pay the second AP expense of \$21,035.14. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Fred Campbell from Catawissa Ave. asked what was happening with the new street signs. Councilman Troup answered that the signs for Market St. are almost complete but "L" channels must be ordered before they can be installed. Also, the sign posts will be removed, painted and replaced. All the street signs will be changed throughout the City after Market St. is complete.

Councilman Troup explained to council that he looked at two different "buggies" today (Polaris and Bobcat) and that he is going to purchase 2 Bobcats with Liquid Fuel funds. Each one is approximately \$20,000 and the City's Penn DOT advisor said Liquid Fuel funds can be used to pay for them. Councilman Troup feels the savings will be significant. He also stated that the school district has some and the Municipal Authority has three. Mayor Woodring asked if there were grants available and Councilman Troup said he would ask Cheryl Delsite to check to see if there were. These will also allow the removal of snow and street cleaning in the smaller alleys and streets.

HOME GRANT

Mr. Tim Brickley from SEDA-COG explained that there are 51 people on the current list – 49 of those have been through the screening process. A problem Mr. Brickley is encountering is that there are many of those 49 that owe taxes and water/sewer bills. Mr. Brickley suggested targeting neighborhoods with people that may be eligible. Fliers will be sent out and an ad will be placed in The Daily Item. He is in the process of writing the next grant for 2009 in the amount of \$500,000. A mailer should be included with any City mailing. A decision should be made by council regarding how long a home-owner should be on a payment plan for back taxes and water/sewer bills before they are eligible for a HOME grant. Mr. Brickley suggested using Wards 3, 5 and 9 where there is a lot of population to choose from. DCED would also like to see the money be leveraged with other programs. It could be paired with the Elm St. project, City-wide sidewalks, building facades, trees, streetscape, etc. There are several other areas also that can be leveraged with the HOME grant program. A public meeting will be scheduled to discuss the changes to the HOME grant program.

BUDGET WORKSHEET

Budget worksheets were passed out for the 2009 budget. On the worksheet there are columns for the actual budget for the past 3 years. Budget requests would be written in the last column to be entered into the Main Street system. This should save time because the figures in the past have been entered into an Excel spreadsheet and then into the Main Street system.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Riverfront Project public forum will be held on Tuesday September 23, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium at the Shikellamy High School.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk