

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
March 12, 2012
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
Todd E. Snyder, Director of Accounts and Finance
Joseph J. Bartello, III, Director of Public Safety
Kevin E. Troup, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Michael Bordner, Public Works Supervisor
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Inspector & Fire Chief
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were ten (10) visitors present.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The Minutes of 2/9/2012 and 2/23/2012 and the available departmental reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Controller, Health Dept., 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 are in the City Clerk's office for review. Motion to accept Eister. Second – Persing. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at cityofsunbury.com

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE

Mayor Persing explained that the Redevelopment Authority is concentrating on 202 Washington Ave, and 1031 N. River Ave (should be razed by the end of March). Five replies were received from the parking survey sent to residents of E. Chestnut St and Wolverton St – 1 was in favor of additional parking and 4 said they did not need additional parking. Mayor Persing said he attended a Hill Neighborhood meeting and there were people from that area complaining because there was not enough parking but the survey did not indicate that need.

RIVER FRONT PROJECT

Councilman Eister said that because of the good weather HRI, Inc is working daily at riverfront. They are pouring the fishing pier, paving, and completing stonework at Chestnut St. The Bainbridge St. pier will be started in 2 weeks. Councilman Bartello asked if there was an estimate for the project to be completed and Councilman Eister answered May 31st. Councilman Eister also stated that 2 weeks ago the funding sources for the project came to the site from Harrisburg and they will be putting photos in a brochure for future list showing a project they helped to fund. A dedication is scheduled for August in conjunction with River Festival. Councilman Eister moved to pay HRI, Inc for payment request #14 in the amount of \$264,572.05. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

CAMERA PROJECT

Mayor Persing stated there are 5 cameras hooked-up near city hall, 3 in Cameron Park and 2 at the entrances to city hall. Councilman Snyder and he will get together soon to discuss the police station area, the parking lots near Burger King and Ft. Discovery and Kiwanis playground. There has been interest shown from private enterprise to purchase cameras. Councilman Eister said there are buildings that can be used as control stations at Riverfront so cameras can be put in there also.

YODER PROPERTY/MEMORIAL DRIVE

Councilman Snyder explained that at the last meeting council voted to move forward and purchase the Yoder property on Memorial Drive. At this time, a deposit is needed to hold the land and a sales Agreement drawn-up to purchase it. The purchase price for the 9 lots is \$90,000 with a \$10,000 deposit. A closing date on or before June 1st is the target date. CDBG funds can be used toward the purchase of the property which will mean the land will have to be used for recreational purposes only.

Councilman Bartello said he can't see the purpose of purchasing this property. An RFP for quotes from local banks will be necessary for the additional funding. Councilman Troup said if that piece of land is acquired it might be a good idea to move the skate park and sell the lot where the skate park is since it is prime land for a business. There is a DCNR grant that could be used toward the purchase which will restrict the use. Councilman Bartello does not see the need to finance the purchase. Councilman Snyder moved to purchase 9 lots from Mr. Yoder for the sum of \$90,000 and close on the purchase by June 1, 2012. The deposit will be paid in the amount of \$10,000. Second – Eister. Yes – Troup, Eister, Persing, Snyder. No – Bartello. Motion carried. Also, on another motion, to solicit bids from the local banks for a 30-40 year mortgage to acquire the property. Second – Troup. Yes – Eister, Persing, Snyder, Troup. No – Bartello. Motion carried.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND REVIEW

Mr. Bakowicz told council that the code office received an application for the storm water management plan for the proposed parking lot at 300 Race St. The plans support the calculations that show that after the project is complete, less storm water will be flowing from that site than does at this time. The Sunbury Municipal Authority said there is no adverse effect on the sewer system. The ordinance has a provision that the applicant can request a waiver from the storm water management ordinance if it satisfies the following – 1. after development, the flow from the site is less than 10% increase from the existing flow and 2. there is no adverse impact to the sewer system. Both conditions are satisfied and the plan qualifies for the waiver. Councilman Eister moved to grant the waiver for this stormwater management plan as submitted. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

MOU COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Mr. Bakowicz said council reviewed a draft of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County Soil Conservation District office and the City of Sunbury. The documents allows the county and City to work together to review EMS plans and soil disturbance plans and to enforce with inspections. Mr. Bakowicz reviewed the MOU and his recommended changes that were minor are ready to be voted on (see attached). Mayor Persing moved to pass the MOU as written based on the solicitor's review. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

ROAD CLOSURE/PARADE PERMIT

Councilman Troup moved to pass the road closure for the Fireman's Fair on June 9, 2012, River Festival on August 17 and 18, 2012 and National Night Out on August 7, 2012. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

VOUCHER'S PAYABLE REPORT

Councilman Snyder moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$64,622.72 from the general fund and \$3,246.75 from Liquid Fuels as funds are available. Second-Eister Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

Councilman Snyder moved to pass the tax exoneration list as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

LANDLORD TENANT ORDINANCE

Mayor Persing announced that at the next work session of council on March 26th council will review the last pages of the Berwick landlord tenant ordinance. Councilman Bartello said Section 175-89 and 175-90 from *The Code of the City of Sunbury* can be added to the list of ordinances that deal with landlord tenant issues. Councilman Troup said there should be no questions from the audience because during the first review of the ordinance there were too many questions and council could not get finished. There will be public meetings before the ordinance would be passed so the public can ask questions. Councilman Troup asked why Councilman Bartello was purchasing software for the code office before the discussion about the landlord/tenant ordinance was complete. Councilman Bartello said he is having it set-up and he invited council members to the webinar. He is moving forward because what they use now Linda is having trouble with. Councilman Troup asked if a contract was signed and Councilman Bartello said it is a 30-day cancellation and they are not committed to anything and he wants it set up to compare apples to apples. Councilman Snyder explained this is a program that does not cost anything and data will be input so a demonstration will show live data. Councilman Bartello said the cost is \$1,800 and he has the funding in his budget. It is a web-based program so the long term costs of maintaining the system is on the provider. Mr. Rhoads said he watched the presentation and it is more user friendly than what they are using now. There is also cost savings because the web-based program the code office is using now is a per transaction cost where the new

one would not be so there would be cost savings. Permits will be available immediately and now the code officers are delivering permits within 48 hours.

PORCH FEST STREET CLOSURE

The Hill Neighborhood will be having a porch fest and wants to block off Race St to the alley way at Highland Ave. They will have music on resident's porches and vendors for food and crafts. Councilman Troup will discuss the road closure with Kristen McLaughlin because he feels Race St should remain open. They can keep Highland Ave open so vehicles can turn right on Race St. The porch fest is scheduled for April 28th from 9 am to 6 pm.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Ruell Whipple asked if the new paving method would take care of the swimming pool in front of his house when it rains. Councilman Troup said this problem has been discussed with the Municipal Authority and they are looking into the situation. That is the reason the Dempsey parking lot has not been paved yet.

Mr. Gene Swanger asked if it is a good idea to publicize where the cameras will be located. Mayor Persing answered that is part of the success – they know there are cameras so they know they are being monitored. Councilman Snyder said it is also important to have mobile surveillance kits that can be rotated around the community to solve problems where they crop up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City-wide yard sale is scheduled for June 9th. Call 286-7768 for details

City-wide clean-up is scheduled for April 24th, 26th, May 1st and 3rd from 8 am to 7 pm. City residents only with proof of residency.

Councilman Eister thanked Mike Bordner and the DPW crew for cleaning up the area on Race St. near the railroad tracks.

Mr. Bordner explained that in a cost saving effort, they will be doing a process called fiber-mat for street paving this year. The process starts with a layer of liquid, add fiber glass mesh and then pea gravel. It then gets rolled. With this process the street does not have to be milled. All the uneven areas are filled with this process. They are going to begin with Chestnut St. The cost should be lower than the traditional manner of paving. This is a new technology and is PA DOT approved and can also be used in alleyways.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk