

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
October 13, 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  
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  
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor  
Brad Hare, Police Chief  
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer  
Michael Bordner, Workforce Supervisor  
Cheryl Delsite, Admin. Assistant

There were nineteen (19) visitors present.

### **MINUTES AND REPORTS**

The minutes of 9/8/14 and 9/22/14 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 Councilman Eister. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at [cityofsunbury.com](http://cityofsunbury.com).

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTION**

Mayor Persing announced four officers tested for the vacant corporal position and Travis Bremigen was the overall high scorer. Mayor Persing congratulated and issued the Oath of Office to Corporal Bremigen.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Persing asked for public comment on agenda items and there were none.

### **REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE**

Ms. Kula explained a Resolution to ratify and affirm the actions of the Redevelopment Authority that public auctions were held for 153 Bainbridge St., 613 Catawissa Ave. and 239 Spruce St. and the proceeds from the sales will be used for future blighted property projects (see attached). Councilman Henry made that motion. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote. Real estate closings are pending for 245 Chestnut St. and 325-327 Market St. On October 21<sup>st</sup> another auction will be begin at 5:45 pm at 434 Reagan St, and every 15 minutes continuing at 414-416 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., 144 South St and 608 S. Front St. All properties are vacant lots. Properties in eminent domain include 113 Chestnut St., 116 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., 216-218 Spruce St., 822 S. River Ave., 964 S. Front St. and 218 N. Front St. If anyone knows of other blighted properties that should be looked at by the Redevelopment Authority they should let the mayor's office know.

## **PA DOT ROAD CLOSURE/NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Councilman Henry moved to approve the road closure request for SRI to hold a New Year's Eve celebration on Market St. and N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Also, on October 25<sup>th</sup> a request has been made to close Memorial Drive for a softball tournament to benefit Sunbury Celebration. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

## **CDBG UPDATE**

Councilman Shipman announced the Financial Management Plan for CDBG funds has been updated (see attached). Councilman Shipman moved to accept this revision and implement it effective immediately. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Lee Zeger updated council on the Chestnut St. project. He said the advertisement for bids for Phase 1 of the project (Front St. to Third St.) including the intersection of S. River Ave. and Raspberry Ave. near the high rise (for the separation of the storm water sewer project) can be done. The project includes the separation project, new sewer lines to all residents and businesses in the project area and a new water main will be installed behind River Ave. and Awl St. to create a loop for the Municipal Authority. Also, new sidewalks and curbs, street trees and lighting and the 2<sup>nd</sup> St. traffic signal at 2<sup>nd</sup> & Chestnut St. Permits are in hand and the Municipal Authority is reviewing the storm water and sewer package. When the review is complete the project will be ready for bid. Ms. Shrawder said she hopes to advertise for bids the week of October 23 and once again the next week. Bids will be due on November 10<sup>th</sup> and the award should take place on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Reichner moved to follow the timeline presented to start the process for bid for Phase 1 of the Chestnut St. Project. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Councilman Eister said this will be the first time the city did a total restoration project. Ms. Shrawder said the utility work can be completed over the winter and final paving should be ready by September 2015 to meet PA DOT's deadline for paving.

## **SRI UPDATE**

Mr. Slade Schreck said the promotion cards for city businesses are selling well. The Hill Neighborhood is still working on the house the hospital gave them. The Litefest committee will start decorating the city Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> and they are looking for volunteers. A Member-to-Member program is being considered for SRI members. There were over 900 people at the Wine & Brew Fest and SRI made approximately \$18,000. The New Year's Eve celebration plans are progressing. Stump grinding was very successful. The flower baskets will be coming down shortly. The first year for the Albright Center is complete and they are looking for more partners for year two.

## **HARB APPROVAL**

Councilman Reichner moved to approve the request by HARB for 360 Arch St. to repair damage caused by a vehicle accident and they can add a wood or wrought iron railing around the porch. 512 Market St. needs roof repair and they are replacing shingles with grey tin but it must match or complement the existing shingles per the HARB. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

## **PT SEASONAL HIRE/PARKS AND RECREATION**

Councilman Eister moved to hire Mark Bingaman as a laborer at the ice rink. His hourly rate will be \$8.50 for approximately 16 hours/week. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

## **APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES**

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$106,740.73 from the General Fund and \$5,422.86 from the Liquid Fuels Fund. Second - Henry. Unanimous vote.

## **TAX EXONERATION**

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

## **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Ms. Regina Russell, Community Activist: Has attended council meetings 2.5 years. Councilman Eister called her at home and tried to silence her from making complaints. The code office reported 15 complaints at his 406 Walnut St. property. In the last 2 weeks she called the code office and police dept. in regard to an abandoned commercial vehicle parked in front of the garage. The back wheels on the driver's side were flat and right back side was sitting on a cinder block for about a week. Last Tuesday her neighbor asked her to walk around the neighborhood with her. Ms. Russell took pictures to show the change from the truck being on cinder block to a jack. As she was taking pictures, the neighbor said someone was taking pictures of her. Councilman Eister was taking pictures of her and shouted "that's your community activist." When the neighbor learned he owned that property she spoke to him in regard to his property. Her neighbors are afraid to speak up because of retaliation from certain council members. She took a picture of Councilman Reichner in a vehicle and he opened the door and said "you idiot. You are an idiot. That is not illegal." She asked how a vehicle in that condition for 2 weeks can sit there like that and not be illegal. She said the 2 councilmen are out of order and Councilman Reichner's behavior is out of order since he has been in office. He called her a liar by saying she was falsifying reports and would have her arrested. He has threatened to remove her handicap space and arresting her for false reports and to her he is not to be in the trusted position representing the citizens of Sunbury. She asked him to resign his seat as a council member. He said he is not resigning. Mayor Persing asked if the vehicle is registered and licensed and Ms. Russell said yes. Discussion was held again in regard to parking on private property. Chief Hare said the truck is gone and the problem was dealt with. He received a complaint and he spoke to the owner of the vehicle and was told he could not get a tire for it and that is why it was jacked up. When the tire came he repaired the truck and moved it. Ms. Russell said it was not 1 tire it was 4 tires. Chief Hare said that is correct. It required special tires. Ms. Russell said she is not disrespecting Chief Hare but he has to do what council tells him to do. She said it does not have to do with what integrity he has, whether it is right or wrong, he has to do what the council tells him to do. Chief Hare said he answers to the mayor. He received the complaint and he took care of it. She said she called the police last week and they did not issue a ticket. Chief Hare said there was no ticket to issue. Mayor Persing said he asked if it was licensed and registered because the police are dealing with abandoned vehicles. She said it looked like an abandoned vehicle. She said she can't argue with people under the thumb of the mayor and city council. All she can do is bring it to the attention of the public and hope they make a difference at the voting polls.

Ms. Laurie Johnson: Has a great idea for the City of Sunbury and she needs help. She said she would like to see Christmas trees sponsored by businesses and decorated by organizations and they could be displayed at the Masonic temple. She needs help from someone that loves Christmas and would like to help with this effort. The temple could be open weekends for viewing and the trees could be donated to families who cannot afford to purchase one. General discussion was held in regard to this project. Ms. Johnson said she would like to do the project right after Thanksgiving. Mayor Persing suggested contacting businesses through SRI. Mr. Schreck said Ms. Johnson approached SRI about this project and they have discussed it and will help as much as possible. She said she also could use some volunteers from the community.

Mr. John Boyer: Announced the River of Life Church is sponsoring Light the Night in Cameron Park from 6 pm to 9 pm. Hotdogs, face painting, coffee, hot chocolate and candy will all be given out that night. He invited everyone to attend and said they usually have 1000 people in attendance.

## **2015 BUDGET**

Councilman Shipman gave council members their budget worksheets to be completed and returned to Ms. Geiger by October 30<sup>th</sup>. The first budget meeting is scheduled for Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm. If council members have any questions, please contact him.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilman Henry said UGI will have several streets paved they dug on last year in the next few weeks. He and Mr. Bordner have been getting bids to pave Shroyer Ave. The bids ranged from \$18,531.24 to \$14,112. PA DOT has approved the paving by Meckley's at the lowest bid. Shroyer Ave. runs from Packer St. to Lincoln St. Councilman Henry also said he has had a lot of calls in regard to the paving that needed to be done on 8<sup>th</sup> St. and 9<sup>th</sup> St. Permits were issued to do that work.

He would like to meet with the city solicitor and have guidelines for street cuts and paving with recourse if the jobs are not completed properly and in a timely manner. Mr. Bordner said one of the biggest issues is not to let them dig during the winter unless it is an emergency.

The Sunbury Fire Police Halloween Parade is October 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7 pm.

Trick-or-Treat will be held on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Holiday decorating will begin on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> – volunteers and ladders are needed.

2015 Budget meetings will be held: Nov. 3, 17 and Dec 15 at 6 pm. Also on Dec. 8 at 5:00 pm

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk