

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
September 27, 2010
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 R. Kremer, City Treasurer
Michael M. Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Stephen A. Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were nineteen (19) visitors present.

RIVERFRONT PROJECT

Councilman Eister moved to pay HRI for Invoice # 1 in the amount of \$93,154.59 and Invoice #2 in the amount of \$113,400 for work completed on Phase II of the Riverfront Project. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

OFFICER'S COMMENDATION

Mayor Persing presented the Officer's Purple Heart Commendation to Officer Travis Bremigen, Officer's Commendation of Valor to Officer Scott Hause and Officer's Commendation of Bravery to Officer Bradley Hare, as well as recognizing officers from other departments including Shamokin Dam, Point Township and Northumberland for an incident that occurred at Chestnut Towers where a firearm was discharged.

PROMOTION TO CORPORAL

The promotional testing has been completed and Officer Bradley Hare passed the written exam, oral exam and evaluation by the Chief and other supervisory officers in the police department and is being promoted to Corporal. Retired Sgt. Steve Brown pinned the Corporal's badge on Mr. Hare. Chief Mazzeo said he is proud and honored to have Cpl. Hare as a supervisory officer and he does a great job and anything he asks him to do he can be sure it will be taken care of.

CDBG PROJECTS

Ms. Jamie Shrawder gave council a list of budget modifications (see attached) for 2008 and 2010. Mr. Bill Seigel will attend the October 11th council meeting and a budget modification public hearing has been advertised for that meeting. Ms. Shrawder asked council to consider moving \$12,650 from 2009 Administrative funds and \$4,410 out of DL Persing Park and add those amounts to the 2008 Demolition Project. As part of the budget modification, she is also requesting council to consider moving \$22,100 from the Market St. Improvements project into the 2010 Demolition project. Council does not have to make a decision at this time but they should think about moving the funds and a vote will be taken at the October 11th meeting. The total funds available for demolition would then be approximately \$99,000. There are 4 properties slated to be demolished in 2010.

INTEGRITY POLICY

Mayor Persing moved to adopt the Integrity Policy as provided by Mr. Bill Seigel and is a new requirement by DCED in regard to Community Block Grant funding (see attached). Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

HOME PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Councilman Eister explained that Sunbury is the only municipality that allows home owners to participate in the Home Program that are arrears in their taxes and/or municipal services. Councilman

Eister moved to add to the Home Program Guidelines to require anyone that participates in this program to be current on taxes and/or municipal services. Second – Persing. Unanimous vote.

202 WASHINGTON AVE

Mr. Apfelbaum explained that the property at 202 Washington Ave. has been an on-going issue for many years. There is a tree growing up through the swimming pool and the roof has a large hole in it. He suggested that, acting as the Board of Health, city council passes a Resolution to declare the property a public nuisance. Once that is complete, the property can be posted and the home owner would have 10 days to complete repairs to get the property in line with code specifications. Mr. Apfelbaum further explained that he has learned about a new law in place that allows a property to be taken into conservatorship by a court order, the property is held for a period of time and the owner has the opportunity to do something in that time frame to improve the property. This law also allows for the City's costs to come before any mortgages and the mortgages can be wiped off. Someone else can then do something good with the property, including tearing it down. Mayor Persing asked if that would apply to double homes where one side of the home is a mess and Mr. Apfelbaum answered yes, that would be an opportunity to have something done in a case like that. The code office has been trying to work with the owner of the property since 2007. Some repairs have been completed however, there has been no progress in a long time. Councilman Bartello moved to adopt the Resolution to have the property declared as a public nuisance. The property will then be posted by the code office and the owner will receive notification by mail.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT/HOME PROGRAM

Mayor Persing moved to adopt the Professional and Technical Services Agreement with SEDA-COG to administer the Home Program. This is a \$500,000 owner/occupied program that helps income eligible home owners bring their property to code. The Agreement is until all the money is disbursed. Second – Eister. Yes – Bartello, Troup, Eister, Persing. Abstain – Snyder. Motion carried.

HIRE ICE RINK SNACK BAR WORKERS

Councilman Eister moved to hire 12 applicants to work part-time at the snack bar at the ice rink. Most of the applicants are 15-17 years old. The ice rink opens October 2nd. Councilman Snyder asked if Councilman Eister had names and wages. He has the list of names and the wages are mostly below minimum wage since they are part-time temporary recreation jobs. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

PAY BUDGET ROOFING/INSTALLATION OF CITY HALL ROOF

Councilman Eister moved to pay the contractor from grant money that installed the new rubber roof on city hall in the amount of the bid of \$47,824. It has a 30 year warranty. The check will not be sent until the roof has been inspected. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

SEPTEMBER OPEN INVOICE REPORT

Councilman Snyder referenced the September open invoice report and moved to pay the bills included on the report in the amount of \$90,183.08 from the general fund. The Liquid Fuels bills are \$591.21. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Councilman Bartello asked what the invoice for Scottsdale Insurance Co. in the amount of \$15,000 was that was charge to Dept. 3. The answer is that it is a deductible payment to the insurance company for a lawsuit that was initiated in 2006. The lawsuit is still an open issue and is now in the 3rd Circuit Court, which is one level below the U.S. Supreme Court.

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

Councilman Snyder explained that he previously asked council to approve the expenditure of \$1,600 in 2010 toward the accounting software package to proceed with the lease. At this time, the lease amount has been lowered to less than \$1,300 for monthly payments. He further explained that the 2010 budget includes \$175,000 for reimbursement for health care premiums from Benecon. At this time, approximately \$25,000 more has been received. Of the remainder of the funds, Mr. Bill Roll's support of the Riverfront Project has been paid from the overage as well as the new part-time AP/Purchasing clerk's wages for a total of approximately \$4,800. For the rest of 2010 he anticipates using about \$8,000 of that money. To reduce the cost of the lease for accounting software and a new server further, he asked council to consider putting \$10,000 of that money toward the system. He will e-mail more details to council members in the next few days. Councilman Snyder also mentioned the funds that were set aside from the Fiber Optic contract in the amount of approximately \$13,000. Councilman Eister felt that all the \$13,000 should be used for the project. Ms. Kremer said they want to bring the equipment in by the middle of October to have it installed and start training prior to the end of the year. Mayor Persing said he would like to see the figures again before voting on this topic. Councilman Troup said he knows his budget is looking grim and was wondering how the other department's

budgets are looking. Councilman Snyder answered that as a whole everyone's is in line. There are certain line items that are over budget. There are revenues in interest bearing accounts that can be transferred to the general fund as necessary. The funds accumulated from the debt service tax are in a separate account and Councilman Snyder said he is trying to keep that for unbudgeted Riverfront Project expenses and interest payments for the Riverfront Project Line of Credit if necessary. Councilman Troup asked why council members have to sign 3 different pieces of paper for items they have approved for purchase. Councilman Snyder explained that the purchase order is to authorize the purchase. The payment authorization is used after the purchase has been made to be sure the item was received and is satisfactory. If it is not, a payment authorization should not be signed. Councilman Troup said it is very time consuming and his department has had phone calls because bills have been paid late. There is a problem with the public works department because emergencies occur more often than the other departments.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. David Whipple asked about paving on Joseph St. between Susquehanna Ave and Ft. Augusta Ave. Councilman Troup told him it is not included in the 2010 paving schedule. He hopes to include it next year. Councilman Troup will see if he can get hot patch and millings in the potholes in that alley.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Snyder told council members their 2011 Budget worksheets are due in the finance office by October 11th. If anyone wants to schedule an appointment they should get in touch with him to discuss their departmental expenses.

Councilman Troup announced that 2010 milling and paving will begin the week of October 4th. The public works department has been paving alleys themselves and it has worked out very well so next year they are going to try to pave more alleyways. Mayor Persing said he knows there is a lot going on in the City and it will all be worthwhile in the end. PA DOT started all the projects they could with the federal recovery funds and it is for the betterment of the City's streets.

Mayor Persing said responses for the Flea Market for Saturdays in October have been slow. Anyone interested in a stand in Stroh Alley any or all Saturdays in October should contact the city clerk's office at 286-7820.

October 16th is the cemetery tour at the Spruce St. cemetery – contact SRI at 286-7768 for more information.

Mayor Persing announced that an executive session of council to discuss personnel issues would be held immediately following this meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk