

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
March 9, 2015
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
Lisa Martina, City Controller
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Brad Hare, Police Chief
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Michael Bordner, Workforce Supervisor
Cheryl Delsite, Administrative Assistant

There were thirty (30) visitors present.

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

An executive meeting was held at 5:15 pm before this meeting to discuss ongoing police personnel issues and an ongoing investigation.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The minutes of 2/9/15 and 2/23/15 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 – Shipman. 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. Meghan Beck said Business & Economic Development is requesting funds to support the marketing program they have been working on. Promotions is investigating potential businesses to move into the city. The Hill Neighborhood has 2 rain barrel workshops coming up on March 14th and March 20th. Old Town is looking for volunteers for specific projects. The Membership Committee has a new chair – Mr. Chris Rowe. They are at 87% of their annual campaign goal for the membership drive. Riverfront planning is working on the Wake the Lake event and a concert series over the summer. The Renaissance Festival planning is underway. The River Festival theme is “50 Years of Excellence” based on the merger of Sunbury and Northumberland into the Shikellamy School District. The Albright Council has a fundraising committee established and is chaired by Mel Purdy and Robert Roush. New banners and formerly hung banners for the Hometown Veterans banner project are currently being received. They are due by March 27th. The unveiling ceremony is scheduled for May 16th. A strategic planning session is scheduled for March 24th.

CDBG UPDATE

Ms. Jamie Shrawder explained quotes were received for the demolition of 2 properties to be paid with Keystone Community funds that are a part of the county housing program the city is participating with. 116 S. 10th St. will be under contract for demolition with J-Mar Construction in the amount of \$10,322 and 314 S. 3rd St. will be demolished by Burgess Excavating for \$8,000. Councilman Eister moved to approve the agreement to demolish 116 S. 10th St. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote. Councilman Reichner moved to approve the agreement to demolish 314 S. 3rd St. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

Ms. Shrawder also said the OPG resurfacing project is ready to be put out to bid after a correction to the bid document. Mr. Bakowicz will send the ad to the newspaper. The opening and the award should occur in April. Councilman Eister moved to give Mr. Bakowicz authorization to solicit for bids after the needed changes are made. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

Ms. Shrawder said she noticed Chestnut St. is closed so they must be starting to take the trees down. She asked if someone would make contact with the transportation department at the Shikellamy School District to get information for a grant Ms. Shrawder needs and has not yet received. Phase 1 of the Chestnut St. project is underway. The Multi-Modal Transportation grant is due in July. Betsy at SEDA-COG is still working on the ARC grant. She has been in touch with DCED and they like the Chestnut St. project but they want more support from the businesses. She is going to go in person to the businesses to see if she can garner more support. Mayor Persing asked if there are enough businesses on Chestnut St. and Ms. Shrawder said there are businesses but not really the type that will grow because of the construction.

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE

Mayor Persing explained that Ms. Apfelbaum Kula is getting a list of properties that will be auctioned in May. If anyone wants to be on the notification list they should contact the city clerk's office.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Councilman Reichner said he was approached by Dan Ramer of the Municipal Authority in regard to the clean-up. It is no longer funded and last year's bill for the city's share was \$6,700 and there is no money budgeted for this. They will be researching funding sources and then see if it is possible to hold another one this year.

SUNOCO EXTENSION

Mr. Rhoads explained the agent for SUNOCO asked for a 90 day extension for the development plan because they have not received the Highway Occupancy Permit from Penn DOT. Councilman Reichner moved to grant the 90 day extension. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote. Mr. Apfelbaum asked Mr. Rhoads to send out written notice that the extension was granted.

HARB

Councilman Reichner moved to approve replacement windows for 821 Market St. per request of the HARB. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Councilman Reichner moved to table the 249 Chestnut St. project because the owner of the property did not appear before HARB when he was supposed to. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$57,084.79 from the General Fund and \$5,628.86 from the Liquid Fuels Fund. Second - Henry. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Bill Shipman: Asking mayor and council for consideration on a problem he is going to endure regarding address changes requested by the 911 Center. He asked the audience if they know where Shamokin St. is. His property (721 Market St.) does not face Market St. but the post office said they don't change addresses when he moved in in 2011. He said it costs about \$100 per title to transfer

vehicle titles and he has approximately 30 vehicles, not to mention his bank account and vendors he deals with through his business. It will cost him thousands of dollars if his address is changed. He said he knows he is not on Market St. but the manufacturing company that had that building had a 721 Market St. address for many years. He doesn't feel like it should be changed now since the post office would not let him change it years ago. Councilman Reichner said he thinks the confusion is that Short Wolverton is now blocked off and Shamokin St. is not on the map at all. Councilman Henry said they knew county wide there would be issues with the address update project. He said the post master does not designate addresses, the county does. Last year council voted to change S. 5th St. to Stadium Drive where the county building is and they had to change all their titles, vendors, tax parcels, etc. He said the title does not have to be changed but owner's cards do which can be completed on-line. Driver's licenses can be changed on-line. Chief Hare said as long as the registration card is correct the vehicle title does not have to be changed. General discussion was held in regard to address changes. Councilman Shipman asked if the 911 Center does not have the property on their map now, why is there a Shamokin St.? Chief Hare said part of the problem is that the dispatchers don't know the areas like the older dispatchers did and can't direct emergency service providers to an address if it is not correct. He also said it costs \$5.00 to make a change at a notary and no charge if done on-line. Mr. Shipman said he would like the street renamed Horn Railroad St. because the railroad went down the street and he thought it would be nice to preserve the history. Mr. Shipman's house is the only one on the street. Mr. Shipman also said if someone wanted to paint a locomotive mural on the side of his building he would be happy about that. Councilman Shipman said when S. 5th St. was changed to Stadium Drive all that happened was notifying the 911 Center and the post office. Councilman Henry moved to change the street name to Horn Railroad St. and give it whatever number the 911 Center says is correct. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

Ms. Becky Enders: Accidents have occurred at Market & Center St. Center St. has elevated 1 ½" above the sidewalk. Several people have fallen. Councilman Henry said his department would look at it. She also said the sidewalk was not shoveled at Barone's Beauty School and asked if people were cited for not shoveling. The answer is yes.

Ms. Julie Broschious: Asked Councilman Henry to put Packer St. on the patch list. She also said there are a few addresses that use "rear" in their addresses off Packer St. and the 911 Center disapproves of using "rear" or ½ addresses on the county map.

Mr. Justin Strawser: Commissioner Bridy issued a statement that he wants the city to pass a Resolution saying the city will investigate all criminal activity at the new prison campus and Mr. Strawser asked if anyone on council had a statement to make about that. Mr. Apfelbaum asked if Chief Hare had a statement to make. Chief Hare said they already agreed that if anything major happened they would look into it. Anything that can be handled by the county detective they will not investigate. Mayor Persing said if the prison is kept in the City of Sunbury they will do their best to work with the county to benefit all the citizens of Sunbury. Mr. Strawser also said the county may move the courthouse as well and asked if the city thought about that yet. Mayor Persing said not much thought has been put into that at this time.

DISCUSSION

Haul for Heroes 5K Run/Walk will be held on July 11, 2015 in conjunction with Sunbury Celebration.

The Chestnut St. project has begun and vehicles should avoid that area. Ms. Enders asked if when they are digging on Chestnut St. would it affect S. River Ave. because there is a storm drain near there that is sunk down.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Delsite, Administrative Assistant