

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
March 24, 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. The meeting was held at city hall. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

Jesse C. Woodring, Mayor
John K. Shipman, Director of Accounts and Finance
Kevin E. Troup, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks/Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Lisa Persing, City Controller
Mike Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were six (6) visitors present.

RIVERFRONT PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. Craig Harley is finished with the Feasibility Study in regard to raising funds for the Riverfront Project. He explained that this study was very successful. Since the study began the project costs have been lowered and are more attainable. 60% of the people that received a letter to discuss the survey with Mr. Harley responded – which is a very high percentage for a study like this. The survey had 20-25 questions. Recommendations include:

- √ Reevaluate the goal – an attainable goal would be closer to \$1 million.
- √ Strengthen the case through effective marketing and public relations – when the project begins the public will become more involved
- √ Electronic screening- acquire information from which to develop a list of potential donors
- √ Establish the campaign organization – a firm to do the actual fundraising
- √ Begin cultivating the campaign team – committed campaign leadership is a crucial ingredient to conducting and sustaining a successful campaign.
- √ Show progress – activity along Front St. the community can see.

The naming opportunities for the project were extremely positive – more than ½ the respondents said they might be interested. This might be the best way to raise funds, instead of focusing on a financial goal, get the community more involved by different levels of fundraising projects. Mayor Woodring explained that he has been working with Mr. Harley for several months and feels the study is very comprehensive. Mayor Woodring asked Mr. Harley to put together a proposal in regard to running the campaign.

SUNBURY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPT.

Ms. Specht explained that the 90 day deadline for plan review is up on April 8th. At this time Mr. Bakowicz is suggesting that the City extend the deadline for 60-90 days, with the provision that the developer provides a written request by April 24th. If the deadline is not extended the plan is automatically approved. Mayor Woodring moved to extend the deadline by 90 days, with the provision that the developer provides a written request by April 24th. Second by Eister – unanimous vote.

FRONT ST. TREES UPDATE

Councilman Eister stated that the trees are all down (40 trees) with the exception of 3 which are too large for the public works dept. to take down. He said the public works crew, in conjunction with the flood control dept., did an excellent job of removing the trees, per the Army Corps of Engineer's request. Councilman Shipman explained that SPARC discussed moving up the annual stump grinding project to June.

SHIKELLAMY SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSAL/OCC. AND PER CAPITA TAXES

Councilman Shipman told council that in February council voted to partner with the school district to collect delinquent taxes at a discount rate. This would include taxes from 1998-2002. At this time it would be appropriate to meet with school district representatives to work out a format and rules. He will discuss this with Ms. Kremer and they will contact the school district.

FY08 DAVID L. PERSING RECREATION COMPLEX

Mr. John Briel explained that SEDA-COG has completed an application for DCNR which would provide \$65,000. toward the DLP Recreation Complex that would be a matching grant with the FY08 CDBG funds. The application is due to DCNR by April 25th so he is asking the Mayor to sign the Resolution and all other documents as soon as possible. Councilman Eister moved to authorize the Mayor to sign all documents in regard to the DCNR C2P2 application. Second by Shipman - unanimous vote.

HARB/COUNCIL APPROVAL

Rear 244 Market St. Motion – Eister. Second - Troup unanimous vote.

356-358 Arch St. Motion – Troup. Second - Eister unanimous vote.

157 Chestnut St. Motion – Eister. Second – Troup unanimous vote.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/COPIES TO TENANT

Councilman Eister explained that Mr. Rhoads suggested that all landlords are given a copy of property maintenance items that the code office will be looking at to give their tenants so they know what needs to be done to keep the property in good order. With spring coming there are always a lot of complaints in regard to high grass, weeds and garbage. It is the property owner's responsibility to see that their tenants follow the City's ordinances. Mayor and council all liked the idea and ask Mr. Rhoads to follow through with it.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. George Walterick asked council if when the "hole" is put in the wall would flood insurance rates go up? Mayor Woodring said he is attending a meeting with FEMA to receive a plaque for the City's flood control initiatives and as a result the flood control premiums will be reduced. There will be no effect on the rates with the opening proposed for the flood wall. Mr. Walterick felt that if the rates were not going to go up it would be good to get the word out because the "rumor mill" is exaggerating the point. Councilman Shipman explained that the "rumor mill" has been working over-time in regard to the Riverfront Project. Wilkes-Barre is now in the process of putting 2 openings in their river wall and their rates will not be affected either.

Ms. Barbara Hoffman presented council with a petition signed by 116 people that oppose the \$100. business professional fee as passed by council in January. After general discussion, Ms. Hoffman understood better the fact that the "service" oriented people that work in the City are the only group that does not have a special tax levied on them.

Councilman Shipman said he has been reviewing the insurance policies with the City's broker and there is a discrepancy with the flood insurance. The city garage is insured for \$450,000. and there is no coverage for contents. He will continue to follow-up with this project.

Mayor Woodring announced that a "summit" will be held in conjunction with the United Way on Tuesday March 25th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm to discuss in an open forum what is happening in Sunbury. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. They will be given a chance to ask the panel questions. The panel will consist of:

Jesse Woodring – Mayor

John Shipman – Council Member and Chairman of SPARC

Stephen Mazzeo – Police Chief

Frank Sawicki – North'd County Commissioner, Chairman

Tim Fister, Shikellamy School District President

Cory Fasold, SRI President

SRI is sponsoring their 2nd "Shining in Sunbury" Business Expo on April 24th at the Sunbury Youth and Community Center.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk