

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
April 13, 2009  
7:00 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. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

Jesse C. Woodring, Mayor  
John K. Shipman, Director of Accounts and Finance  
James R. Eister, Director of Parks/Recreation and Public Buildings  
Mark Walberg, Director of Public Safety

Other City officials in attendance:

Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police  
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer  
Cheryl Delsite, Asst. City Clerk  
Kenny Long, Public Works  
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor  
Brianna Apfelbaum, Apfelbaum Law Offices

There were twenty-one (21) visitors present.

### **MINUTES AND REPORTS**

Mayor Woodring made a motion to accept the minutes and reports as presented on the agenda. Jim Eister seconded the motion and the motioned carried.

### **EARLY INTERVENTION**

Mayor Woodring noted that Robert Sabatini was unable to make it to today's meeting.

### **STIMULUS MONEY**

Jamie Shrawder from SEDA COG informed council that the City of Sunbury will be receiving approximately \$93,960.00 in federal stimulus money. SEDA COG is recommending using the money for the Cameron Park Project. The Cameron Park Project was picked because it is shovel ready. This money must be used within 120 days. \$297,000 is currently budgeted for this project from the CDBG funds.

Mayor Woodring made a motion to use the stimulus money for the Cameron Park Project. Mr. Eister seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bill Seigel showed the council the preliminary design from Stahl Shaffer. The plans include grouping all the monuments together at the east end of the park. It also includes incorporating more seating and a fountain.

Mr. Walberg noted that Cameron Park was designed by William Maclay who also designed the exact park for the City of Harrisburg.

Mr. Shipman reflected that he likes the concept of having the monuments and quiet reflection area that is buffered by the planting area.

Mr. Walberg informed the council that he had the cast iron fountain that was once in the park and he has restored the bulk of the work. He indicated that he and his wife would donate the fountain back to the city as long as the city moves it from its current location to the park. If the fountain is sold in the future it reverts back to the Walberg Family.

Ms. Shrawder also updated the council on the Stroh Alley project. The city has removed the metal awning. The city has \$50,000 designated from its CDBG funding to complete this project. She hopes that work will begin in the late spring.

She also informed the council that she is setting up meeting with several parking meter companies in order to find a parking station machine to be used in the Edison Plaza.

Ms. Shrawder will also be meeting with Brianna Apfelbaum concerning the demolition of some blighted properties in the city.

She also noted there will be some Energy Block Grant monies from the federal stimulus money.

#### **APRIL EXPENDITURES**

Councilman John Shipman reported the first expense run of expenditures total \$114,285.70. He noted the city is current on-time all the bills. Mr. Shipman made a motion to pay the expenditures as presented. Mr. Eister seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **TAX EXONERATION**

Councilman Shipman made a motion to accept the tax exonerations as presented. Mr. Walberg seconded the motion and the motion carried.

#### **OFFICERS COMMENDATION OF MERIT**

Mayor Woodring read a commendation for Officers Vern Petty, Travis Bremigen, Steve Bennick, Brad Hare and Corporal Mike Miller concerning an incident on March 2, 2009 in Northumberland, PA. The officers assisted Northumberland officers in capturing a barricaded and armed man without incident.

The second commendation was for Officer Wade Lytle and Mike Hawkins concerning an incident on March 24, 2009 in Sunbury, PA. The officers responded to a PFA violation where the offender had a loaded weapon. The officers were able to apprehend the offender without incident.

The third commendation was for Officers Vern Petty, Christopher Blasé, Brad Hare and Wade Lytle concerning an incident on March 26, 2009 at 75 Catawissa Avenue, Sunbury. The officers responded to a report of a man with a gun threatening a woman. The officers were able to apprehend the offender without incident.

#### **MARKET STREET CAPITAL FUND**

Mr. Shipman made a motion to use the money in the Market Street Capital Project account for the Cameron Park Project. Mr. Eister seconded the motion and the motion carried

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **DOG PARK**

Councilman Jim Eister presented a rough sketch of the dog park and he is requesting a line item be designated for donation for the building of this park. Mr. Eister noted that no tax payer monies will be used for this project. The city is donating a piece of property on North 4th Street by the skate board park. The anticipated cost is \$10,000.

Mr. Eister made a motion to set up a line item for the dog park donations. Councilman Mark Walberg seconded the motion and the motion passed.

##### **OWNER OCCUPIED REHAB**

Mayor Woodring reported to date eleven recipients have participated in the program. The city with the help of SEDA COG will be applying for another \$500,000 grant.

The homeowner applies through SEDA COG for the program. If they meet the income guidelines, SEDA COG inspects the house. After the inspection, a work list is developed and SEDA COG goes out for the bids.

#### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Dave Whipple 1127 Edison Avenue Sunbury questioned if the dog park would be fenced in and if the dog owners would be responsible for cleaning up after their animals. The answer to both questions is yes.

Mr. Walberg posed a question to the council concerning temporary signs that advertise a new business. A local business has put some yard signs out that do not meet the sign ordinance. The business owner questioned if the council would consider adopting a temporary sign permit ordinance that would allow a new permanent business to advertise their opening.

There was discussion on whether it would be for just new businesses or businesses that wish to advertise a sale. Mr. Walberg stated the participating businesses would have to purchase a permit; the signs would have a limit on how long they could be displayed, the size of the sign and the sign could only be displayed on the business' property.

Mr. Eister stated temporary signs are allowed now on the business' property. Mike Rhoades noted the temporary signs may be put on at the beginning of the business day and it must be removed at the end of the business day.

Mayor Woodring suggested forming a committee to look into this issue.

Mr. Walberg questioned the inspection of the flood wall. He assumes it is inspected by the Municipal Authority and the Army Corp of Engineers has inspected and now we have to have it inspected by FEMA. Or does FEMA hire the Corp to inspect the wall.

Mr. Eister stated that FEMA is mandating the inspection. The inspection is done either by the Corp or by a private engineering firm. The last inspection by the Corp was six months ago. The Corp does not do any sub surface inspection. They only do visual inspection of the wall and dike.

A private engineering firm will have to be hired to do the inspection once a money source has been identified. Further discussion was held concerning identifying money sources and the River Front project.

Cora Campbell asked Mr. Walberg, Mr. Shipman and Mr. Woodring about opening an antique business at 430 Market Street

Both Mr. Walberg and Mr. Woodring said this was considered.

#### Announcements

Mayor Woodring announced on April 25<sup>th</sup>, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a group of 291 volunteers will be in town to do a clean up project.

There will be a city wide clean up on April 28<sup>th</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Items must be taken to the transfer station. Nothing with Freon will be accepted.

With nothing further to report, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl E. Delsite  
Asst. City Clerk