

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
July 27, 2009  
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. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

Jesse C. Woodring, Mayor  
John K. Shipman, Director of Accounts and Finance  
Mark W. Walberg, 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 Kremer, City Treasurer  
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer  
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were twelve (12) visitors present.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING/AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 121-7 SEXUAL PREDATOR**

Councilman Walberg moved to pass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of an amendment to Article 121-7 by adding 121-7(J)(1) and 121-7(J)(2) (see attached copy). This was in response to the ACLU who stated that the ordinance as passed was too restrictive. The amendment includes only sexual predators as defined by PA Statute. Second – Troup Unanimous vote.

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FEE**

After general discussion regarding an equitable way to enforce the Professional License Fee, Councilman Shipman moved to amend Section 151-44 by adding 151-44.1 which will exempt anyone with a professional license from the Commonwealth of PA from paying the \$100 fee if proof of income less than \$15,000 is provided to the City treasurer's office. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY REQUEST FOR REFUND**

The Northumberland County Historical Society sent a letter to Mayor Woodring asking for a refund of \$5,365.40 which was a permit for an addition to the Hunter House Museum. The plans were later rejected by the PA Historical and Museum Commission Bureau of Historic Preservation. The project is on hold at the present time. Councilman Walberg moved to follow the paper trail for the funds paid for the permit and if warranted, refund the money to the NCHS within 30 days. Second – Woodring. Unanimous vote.

**COMMISSIONER'S LETTER RE: EDISON HOTEL**

A copy of a letter sent to the county commissioners was sent to Mayor and council members from Megan Beck regarding past due taxes for 401 Market St, the Edison Hotel. In the letter, Ms. Beck stated that 1337 Holdings LLC recently entered into a lease-purchase agreement with the current owners of the Edison Hotel. Ms. Beck proposed paying the past due taxes in full at the current reassessed value and without penalties and interest. During general discussion council members agreed that the decision regarding Ms. Beck's request lies with the county commissioners. Mayor Woodring moved to send a letter to the commissioners stating that council would be in favor of reducing the delinquent taxes owed to the reassessed amount and dropping all penalties and fines. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

**HARB APPROVAL**

Councilman Walberg moved to approve the application of Mr. William Lytle to replace 26 windows at 154 Arch St. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

**PURCHASE LIGHTS FROM PPL/EDISON PLAZA & 5<sup>TH</sup> ST PARKING LOT**

Councilman Eister moved to purchase 2 poles and fixtures in the 5<sup>th</sup> St parking lot for \$122 and 4 poles and fixtures in the Edison parking lot for \$3,073 from PPL. The reason for the purchase is to save electricity costs. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

## **JULY EXPEDITURES**

Councilman Shipman moved to pay \$102,829.70 in bills for the 2<sup>nd</sup> AP of July. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

## **POLICE PENSION FUND/ASSET SMOOTHING METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE ACTUARIAL VALUE OF ASSETS**

Councilman Shipman explained that Mr. David Killick of Conrad Siegel Actuaries asked the City to consider “asset smoothing” which is a method used to take a longer period of time instead of going year by year to determine the actuarial value of assets. This will not lower payments, but it will level out the payment over the years, instead of having a year that is \$350,000 and the next year is \$105,000. This method will look back over a longer period of time to even out the annual payments. Councilman Shipman moved to adopt the asset smoothing method for determining the actuarial value of assets. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

## **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Ms. Ginny Mendler stated that the agency docs in the emergency room at the Sunbury Community Hospital said they did not have to pay the \$100 professional license fee. Councilman Shipman answered that they do because they are working in Sunbury. Ms. Kremer has already requested the records from the SCH for agency nurses and doctors. Ms. Mendler then asked whether police officers have to pay the fee and the answer is no, they do not have a state license. The fee applies to anyone that has a state license.

## **DISCUSSION**

Councilman Shipman would like to get a pool of volunteers to help to maintain the new gardens, planters, welcome areas and potted plants on the lampposts on Market St. that the City has been providing to make the gateway into Sunbury look better. A letter will be sent to churches, scout troops, neighborhood groups, non-profit organizations and service clubs asking for volunteers for these projects. If 20-30 people would donate 1 hour a week, a lot of the work would be kept up to date. The City would provide the materials needed by the volunteers. This would strictly be for the work as listed above, not normal City functions.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht  
City Clerk