

CITY COUNCIL  
225 Market St.  
Sunbury PA 17801  
February 11, 2008  
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:

Mark W. Walberg, Director of Public Safety  
James R. Eister, Director of Parks/Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor  
John Bakowicz, City Engineer  
Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer  
Mike Bordner, Public Works Supervisor  
Chad Betts, Fire Chief  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were twenty-two (22) visitors present.

An executive session of council was held to discuss personnel matters at 5:30 pm prior to this meeting.

### **MINUTES AND REPORTS**

Reports of the Police Dept., City Treasurer, City Controller, City Engineer, Code Office, Redevelopment Authority, Health Dept., Public Works Dept., Parks and Public Buildings, Park and Recreation Board, Planning Commission and Fire Dept. were accepted on a motion by Woodring, second by Eister – unanimous vote.

### **LEGAL SEMINAR/RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CITY AND OTHER AGENCIES AND COURT SYSTEM**

Mr. Apfelbaum explained that the important agencies in the legal system the City works with are as follows:

District Magistrate's Office – code office and police dept. citations are directed to the DM office. City council sets the fines for ordinances and the District Magistrate decides what the fines should be within the range set by council. They do not write the rules, but they do hear the cases and decide what the fines should be.

District Attorney's Office – the police officers also report to the DA's office because they are the ones that run the cases where the police officer is involved. The DA's office also conducts training sessions for police officers.

State Agencies – most often worked with are DCED (Dept. of Community and Economic Development and the State Ethics Commission. DCED's involvement is through grants and loans. They are advisors for grants and loans and must approve all grants and loans the City receives. The State Ethics Comm. requires that all officials that have anything to do with state or federal monies must file a Statement of Financial Interest on an annual basis. They also provide advisory opinions for the City if there is a question regarding conflicts or doing business with people.

State Representatives Office - if someone is unhappy with City government they will "call Merle's office" – which would be the local state representative. In practicality, the City can get to people in Harrisburg through the Representative's office. Mayor Woodring asked if the City has a fine of \$1000. and the District Magistrate decides it is excessive, what criteria does he use to make that decision. Mr. Apfelbaum stated that the DM cannot go beyond the ordinance for the maximum fine. Most ordinances define the maximum fine.

### **FINAL REVIEW FY2008 CDBG PROJECTS**

Mr. Bill Siegel announced that the final public hearing for the 2008 CDBG projects was held at 5:30 pm, prior to this meeting. All projects submitted were reviewed. The following projects were approved on a motion by Woodring, second by Walberg:

Sunbury Fire Dept.	Fire equipment replacement	\$20,265.
Sunbury Fire Police	Communications equipment	\$ 3,000.
Sunbury Riverfront Project	Public/community facilities project	\$135,000.
City of Sunbury	Parking lot lighting improvements	\$12,000.
City of Sunbury	Stroh Alley upgrade	\$20,000.
City of Sunbury	Demo of Blighted properties	\$30,823.
City of Sunbury	DLP Recreation Complex	\$65,000.
City of Sunbury	Sidewalk improvement (income eligible)	\$10,000.

The vote was unanimous. Eister moved to pass the Resolution to apply for FY2008 CDBG Funds and allow the Mayor to sign all documents associated with the application. Second by Walberg – unanimous vote. Walberg moved to appoint Mayor Woodring Environmental Control Officer. Second by Eister – unanimous vote. Walberg moved to have SEDA-COG complete the Application and Certification of Compliance – the actual general application which includes the projects awarded as well as the certification that Sunbury is an entitlement community and can receive the funds. Second by Eister – unanimous vote. Woodring moved to adopt the Minority Business Enterprise Plan which requires the City to adopt a plan to utilize minority and women businesses. Second by Walberg – unanimous vote. Woodring moved to adopt the Statement of Goal for 2008 – 3% of the City’s funds to be earmarked to go toward minority and women businesses. Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan which is a formal document that states the City will not lower the net amount of low/moderate income households and if they are displaced the City will assist with relocation. Second by Walberg – unanimous vote. Woodring moved to pass the following: Code of Conduct which states that council has no interest in the activities to be funded. Disclosure Report – required to disclose who the beneficiaries of the projects are and what the other revenue sources are for the projects. Statement of Assurances – a document that itemizes all the state and federal laws relative to the Community Development Block Grant Program and the City agrees to comply. Second by Walberg – unanimous vote. Mayor Woodring thanked Mr. Siegel for all he and SEDA-COG has done for the City in the recent months.

**2008 LIQUID FUEL BUDGET**

Woodring moved to pass the 2008 Liquid Fuel Budget (see attached). Second by Eister –unanimous vote. Estimated Liquid Fuel funds to be received in 2008 is \$216,092.24.

**RELEASE TREASURER FROM COLLECTING 2007 TAXES**

Woodring moved to release the City Treasurer from collecting 2007 personal real estate taxes. Second by Eister – unanimous vote.

**2007 TAXES TO BE TURNED OVER TO DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR**

Eister moved to turn the uncollected taxes to the delinquent tax collector, Statewide Tax Collections Inc. Second by Walberg – unanimous vote.

**AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Mr. Preston Ross introduced Dr. Al Lonoconus, the Shikellamy School District Superintendent. Mr. Ross explained that he has been working with the delinquent tax collector for several years to set up a program where delinquent occupation and per capita taxes can be collected. The City is in the same quandary. Mr. Ross proposed to council that a Resolution be passed to enter into an Agreement with Statewide Tax Recovery to offer a 60 day period (could be changed to 90 day period) for the collection of select years of delinquent occupation and per capita taxes owed to the City under the following terms: tax years 1998-2002 will be liquidated by offering a 35% reduction in taxes only. In addition, tax years prior to and including 1997 will be rewritten as uncollectible, however, they can be collected if the individuals can be located. At that time, collection procedures will proceed. Tax years 2003 through 2007 will be collected through Statewide Tax Recovery at their current and normal procedures. The school district has already passed a Resolution to this effect. Mr. Ross suggested that a different collection system is needed but a new system would have to come out of Harrisburg. They have worked on changes to the system but have never agreed on a system. Sharing information is also another concern. Mr. Ross asked whether the City would like to participate with this program. Councilman Eister suggested that anything that can be collected would be better than nothing. Eister moved to participate with the school district to collect delinquent taxes. Second by Walberg – Vote – Abstain Walberg Yes Eister, Walberg. Motion carried.

Mr. Ken Romberger, representing the Hill Neighborhood Council Safety Committee, asked council to be more aggressive in regard to sidewalk improvements. There are many sidewalks that are desperately

in need of repair. They have a list of those the Safety Committee feels are the worst, as well as in high traffic areas. Councilman Walberg suggested that since there will be 2008 CDBG funds for sidewalk repair, perhaps a program can be started in the fall. Councilman Walberg will have the code office send a letter stating that sidewalks need to be repaired for safety reasons. The letter will also describe the help property owners can get to fund the improvements.

Mr. Dale Henry discussed a device that the fire dept. is asking the City to consider using at certain intersections to allow fire and emergency vehicles to have the green light to pass through safely. Mr. Toby Neff said he has installed them in Lewisburg and they work very well. He read a letter from Mr. Rick Shemory, secretary of the Fire Dept. (see attached). The intersections they are recommending to have these devices are 4<sup>th</sup> St. and Reagan Sts. and Front St. and Reagan St. The cost is approximately \$10,000. to \$15,000. per intersection. This project could be in conjunction with the Penn DOT retrofit on Market St. All the other traffic lights have been retrofitted with LED lights. Council will take this recommendation under consideration. CDBG funds could be used for a project like this.

Mr. Bob Lagerman asked what can be done about accumulated junk on properties. He is the President of the Hill Neighborhood Council which is a very active group with an Elm St. designation. He knows the code office has issued warnings but Mr. Lagerman feels it is time to follow-up with citations. There are also dumpsters in some front yards which detract from the neighborhood's aesthetics. Northumberland Borough instituted a dumpster ordinance and he feels Sunbury should also have one. Council is still reviewing dumpster ordinances for Sunbury. Councilman Walberg said he would check the dumpster in question to see what can be done about it.

Mr. Dale Henry said municipalities must be very careful with dumpster laws now because of the Act 140 Waste Ordinance. He also reminded council that recycling grants are available.

### **2008 FIREWORKS CONTRACT**

Woodring moved to allow himself to sign the Zambelli Internationale Inc. contract for \$18,000. for 2008 fireworks on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Second by Eister – unanimous vote. The money to pay for the fireworks does not come from the general fund – it is strictly through fundraising and donations.

### **FEBRUARY EXPENDITURES**

Woodring moved to pay February expenditures in the amount of \$160,690.50. Second by Walberg – unanimous vote.

### **TAX EXONERATION**

Woodring moved to pass tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second by Walberg – unanimous vote.

### **HIRE PATROL OFFICER**

Mr. Apfelbaum explained that the process for hiring a patrol officer is that first, an ad is placed in the paper for qualified officers to apply for the position. A specific time frame is given for applications to be returned to the City Clerk's office. The Civil Service Commission then administers testing as deemed appropriate to make sure the person is qualified for the position. Mr. Terry Roden proctored and graded the test with the results going to the Civil Service Commission. The Civil Service Commission also conducts oral interviews as well as physical agility testing if they deem it necessary. After that, the Commission makes a recommendation to the Mayor and the Mayor provides the name for council to vote on. Woodring moved to hire Mr. Stephen Mazzeo as a patrol officer with the Sunbury Police Dept. as recommended by the Civil Service Commission. The position has been budgeted in the 2008 Budget.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht  
City Clerk