

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
June 28, 2010
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
Todd E. Snyder, Director of Accounts and Finance
Joseph J. Bartello, III, 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
Stewart Graybill, City Administrator
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Stephen A. Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were eleven (11) visitors present.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Graybill reported that the city hall renovation project is approximately 60% complete.

RIVERFRONT PROJECT UPDATE

Councilman Eister explained that Phase I is approximately 60% complete. Within 2 weeks they will start the sidewalk/trail walking path beginning at the north end. Phase II progress is approximately 200-300' of the work on the WPA wall complete. There will be an onsite meeting regarding Phase II on Tuesday June 29th. Mayor Persing asked what was happening with the engineering portion since Mr. McBryan was off on leave. Councilman Eister explained that he should be back in mid-July. In the meantime City Engineer John Bakowicz will temporarily fill that position.

Councilman Snyder moved to pay an invoice for Kinsley Construction (Phase I) from the line of credit in the amount of \$12,190.23. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. He further announced that reimbursement funds have been received from PA DOT and it has been used to pay-down on the line of credit.

ROAD CLOSURE/NATIONAL NIGHT-OUT

Councilman Troup moved to approve the road closure as requested by the City's Crime Watch for National Night Out on August 3, 2010. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

2ND READING ORD. 1264/HOME RULE ORDINANCE FOR BALLOT

Mayor Persing explained that council is not endorsing any particular form of government, rather just putting the question on the ballot to see if the general public wants to elect a study commission to consider a Home Rule Charter for the City of Sunbury. He feels there should be 7 people on the study commission (first reading had 9). Councilman Eister asked how many signatures would be needed on petitions and the answer is a minimum of 41 (2% of the votes cast in the last gubernatorial election). Anyone can run for the study commission that is a registered voter in the City. The commission is an 18 month process. Mayor Persing moved to place the question on the ballot in November "Shall a government study commission of seven (7) members be elected to study the existing form of government of the municipality, to consider the advisability of the adoption of a home rule charter; and if advisable, to draft and to recommend a home rule charter?" Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

CITY PROMOTION/BUSINESS SITE SEARCH

Mayor Persing explained that the PA Site Search to locate new business and industry is very successful and he wanted to know if Councilman Snyder thought it would be a good idea to tie something similar into the City website. They will get together at a later date to discuss this topic. Councilman Snyder said that since there will be \$14,000 from the Fiber Optic Project it could be allocated to projects such as this since that revenue is technology oriented.

NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN AREAS

Mayor Persing wants to find a way to have grassy areas planted when demolition is done to properties in the City, instead of shale lots. The City Solicitor is researching selling several properties the City owns where the structures were torn down and the lot is still shale. The lots demolished with CDBG funds must be top soiled and planted as part of the project. Mr. Graybill said it can be added to the subdivision/land development ordinance and he will research the procedures for the Mayor. Councilman Bartello stated that through the EIP council learned that the zoning ordinances are not updated and this could be part of the update.

TEMPORARY PART-TIME AP CLERK

Councilman Snyder moved to hire Jentine Balducci as a part-time, temporary Accounts Payable clerk for a period of 6 months at \$10/hour for 20 hours per week. She will also work with the purchase order and requisition process. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Councilman Eister suggested her office and computer be set up in the office next to the City Clerk's office. That area would be isolated from everyone and she could work in the quiet and be undisturbed. Councilman Snyder stated that there is an area in the treasurer's office set up for that function. He would like to keep all the documents in the finance department (treasurer's office).

HARB

As requested by the Historic Architectural Review Board:

Councilman Bartello moved to approve vinyl siding at 41 S. 5th St. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote. Councilman Bartello moved to approve new shingles at 244 Market St. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

CAFÉ TABLES ON MARKET ST.

Councilmen Eister and Bartello and Mr. Graybill attended the PLCM Conference in Bethlehem in June. Councilman Eister said most of the restaurants had outdoor seating on the main street at the curb line. He would like council to consider dropping the \$10 per month fee for outdoor seating and allowing restaurants to put tables outside. It helps the area to look busy and would entice people to go downtown and eat in Sunbury. He likened it to 2nd St. in Harrisburg. A walkway is left for people to walk through and they do not have to move the tables indoors at closing. Councilman Snyder asked Mr. Graybill to come up with a list of items that council should be doing to help facilitate the development of plans such as this for the downtown area. Councilman Snyder said it would be nice to schedule entertainment at different venues downtown. Councilman Troup moved to waive the fee for restaurants for outdoor seating only for the rest of this year. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Fred Campbell asked whether Home Rule would be discussed so the public learns more about it and the answer is yes. During the next 2 months it will be discussed and publicized. The dates to pass petitions for anyone that wants to run to be on the Home Rule Study Commission are August 3rd to August 24th. There will also be at least 1 public meeting. Councilman Snyder said anyone can look information up online about Home Rule by going to the DCED website or just by googling PA Home Rule Charter. PLCM also has information about Home Rule pros and cons.

Ms. Donna Swanger thanked council members, the code office and police department for their prompt action regarding a situation on 12th St.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk