

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
February 22, 2016
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
Elizabeth R. Kremer, Director of Accounts and Finance
Richard L. Reichner, Director of Public Safety
Dale L. Henry, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Kevin E. Troup, City Treasurer
Lisa J. Martina, City Controller
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor
Michael Bordner, Public Works Supervisor
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were twenty (20) visitors present.

A moment of silent reflection was held after the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Persing asked for comments on agenda items and there were none.

PRESENTATION/NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD

Mr. Leon Jackson and Mr. Dave Pidgeon explained that Norfolk Southern would like to propose a safety program to include upgrades of all of the railroad crossings and closing three crossings. The crossings proposed to be closed are Church St., Linden St. and Woodlawn Ave. This is the beginning of the discussion and there will be more meetings to get this out to the public.

BUDGET REVISION/CHESTNUT ST. PHASE 1 TO CHESTNUT ST PHASE 2

Councilman Eister moved to make a budget revision in the amount of \$130,598.42 to Phase 2 from Phase 1 of the Chestnut St. project. There is one bill left to pay in the amount of \$87,552.70. He also included \$1,394.62 from program income to Phase 1 in the motion. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote. Ms. Jamie Shrawder announced that Glenda Ruch would be taking her place until others can be trained.

POLICE CONTRACT

Mayor Persing explained negotiations have been in progress for the new police contract. They met last week with the police negotiators and instead of being 3 items apart as they left it several weeks ago, they went backwards and the police negotiators wanted about 15 different changes. Arbitration will probably be in June although they will do what they can to settle the issues before then. He has been the biggest defender of the police department and having as many officers as possible but this contract will not only prohibit hiring any new officers but it will also be impossible to maintain the officers on the force now. He believes that 12 officers is the goal for this department. The process is not moving the way it should be and he wanted the public to know that.

SOLAR FARM ON DUMPSITE

Councilman Eister said Tangent Energy wants to do a no cost feasibility study to see if it would be feasible to put solar panels on the old dumpsite to produce electricity. Councilman Henry said he

spoke to someone from the company and they said generally there is a fee but they were waiving it. That is not included in the agreement. Councilman Eister said he asked the solicitor to look at the agreement and he said it was alright. Mayor Persing said if they agree on this tonight there is 120 days for the study. He would like to visit one of the solar farms they have now. There is a bridge to get to that site that is privately owned. It would help pay the municipal government's electricity and that would be a cost savings. A power purchase agreement would be required if Tangent Energy decides it would be feasible. Ms. Julie Broschious asked if this was discussed with Lenape Solar in Sunbury and the answer is no, Tangent Energy came to the city. Lenape would not have the resources to do a project like this. Councilman Henry said it will be .085/kw and go up 1.9% each year and the city would have to sign a 25 year agreement. Ms. Regina Russell asked if the city would be eligible for federal grants for this project. Councilman Eister said the study needs to be done to see if it is feasible. Mr. Joe Bartello asked if the company would be using the site for free and the answer is eventually it will be owned by the city but it is too soon to know that. Tangent will fund the project and they will take a percentage out of it to get their money back over 25 years. It is the same concept as leasing a vehicle. Councilman Eister moved to allow Tangent Energy to complete the study. Second – Reichner. Yes – Reichner, Eister, Persing. No – Henry, Kremer. Motion carried.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$131,271.94 from the General Fund and \$4,398.62 from the Liquid Fuels fund. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATION/MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Mayor Persing moved to pass a motion to adopt a Proclamation (see attached) for Multiple Sclerosis week. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Steve Mazzeo: There is a letter from the SPOA for a 3rd Step Grievance on an issue.

Ms. Regina Russell, Community Activist: Has a concern about mosquitoes in the summer with standing water. Is the city discussing a plan to deal with the Zika virus? Will code enforce fines on properties that have junk in yards, including Mr. Eister's tenant at 406 Walnut St. who has a dumpster in front of the garage with rusty materials with water in it. She took a video of it. There are rentals on S. 4th St. with no handrails. She also has an issue with sidewalks. Councilman Reichner said if they get a viable complaint they address it. She asked why does Councilman Eister's tenants dumpster not have to be removed because it is in front of a garage door. Ms. Laurie Johnson said maybe there is no place else to put the dumpster. Councilman Reichner said the code officers and the police have been to that property 6 or 8 times and found no violations.

Ms. Julie Broschious: There is no resolution for a lot of areas in town that have standing water that is not being addressed. The rocks on the 2nd St. bank do not work. It is not a solid barrier. Rain comes down through the rocks into 2nd St. and floods her yard and others. Why isn't it being resolved? Councilman Reichner said there is no construction on the Bimbo site. The Municipal Authority is trying to make changes to deal with it. North of that, there are many meetings about storm water with the site that is being developed. Now that construction has begun, the storm water plan is in the process of being compiled. There are different entities working on that plan. Now that construction has started, the city can mandate what they have to do.

Ms. Broschious also asked if the robbery near Purdy Insurance was ever solved. She asked if the camera on the gazebo would show anything in that area. There are also private citizens that have cameras on their properties.

Ms. Jan Dockey: With the prison construction, won't they have to have water management and the answer is yes, the county is working on it at this time. Councilman Reichner said the best thing to do with questions about the site is attend the commissioner's meetings. This topic is discussed at all of their meetings right now. Ms. Dockey said hopefully whatever they do will help Ms. Broschious.

Mr. Dave Whipple: There is a lot of crime that does not get taken care of. Someone burglarized his property 3 times in the last 9 years. He called today and was told to look around the neighborhood to

see if he could find what was stolen off his porch. Mayor Persing said if he gets another answer like that to let him know.

DISCUSSION

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk