

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
October 8, 2012  
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  
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor  
Elizabeth Kremer, City Treasurer  
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police  
Michael Bordner, Public Works Supervisor  
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were seventeen (17) visitors present.

City council members had an executive session prior to this meeting to discuss the police contract.

### **MINUTES AND REPORTS**

The Minutes of 8/27/12, 9/10/12 and 9/24/12 and the available departmental reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Controller, Health Dept., Fire Dept., City Engineer, Code Office, Park and Recreation Department, Park and Recreation Board, Public Works Dept., Planning Commission, Redevelopment Authority and Police Pension Board are in the City Clerk's office for review. Motion to accept was made by Councilman Eister. Second – Snyder. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at [cityofsunbury.com](http://cityofsunbury.com).

### **SRI UPDATE**

Mr. Slade Schreck reported the SRI board and committee members are receiving training from the Pennsylvania Downtown Center to help SRI grow and expand. SPARC is looking at options to apply for funding for rehab of properties in the City. The Veteran's banner project is underway. Again this year a banner will be \$200. The New Year's Eve party planning is underway – children's activities will begin at 6 pm to 8 pm. The adult portion will begin at 8 pm to 12:30 am. Interviews are being held to fill the Elm St. manager position. Historic Cemetery Tours will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 9 pm at the city cemetery.

### **REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE**

Councilman Eister said the new house at 202 Washington Ave. will be brought in and set on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The code office will work with the police to clear the travel route. There has been interest shown in purchasing this property.

### **PUBLIC NUISANCE PROPERTIES**

Mr. Apfelbaum explained that council should act as the Board of Health and declare the following properties a public nuisance: 702 Chestnut St, 850 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St and 217-219 12<sup>th</sup> St. After that, the owner will receive notice that they have 10 days to bring the property back to code. To date, no one has ever brought a structure up to code that has been deemed a public nuisance by council. Councilman Eister moved to adopt the Resolution (see attached) to declare the above named properties a public nuisance. Second – Snyder. Unanimous vote.

### **CAMERA UPDATE**

Councilman Snyder explained the bid has gone out for the cameras and will be due and opened at the next council meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Also, Councilman Snyder will seek approval to order some of the other equipment needed that does not have to be bid. All equipment should be in house by the end of November. Relevant locations for cameras have been supplied by Chief, Mayor and Councilman Eister.

### **APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES/VOUCHER PAYABLE REPORT**

Councilman Snyder moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$42,001.94/General Fund and \$37,106.89/Liquid Fuels. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **TAX EXONERATION**

Councilman Snyder moved to pass the tax exoneration list as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Persing announced that Mr. Nick Fleming of Fleming's Nursery in Elysburg approached him and said the DLP Recreation Complex was a nice facility but it needed more shade trees. He donated 11 mature trees including ash, maple and sweet gum for the complex at an estimated value of \$1,695. Mayor Persing said he is very appreciative of the donation.

Mayor Persing also announced that he has been in discussion with Mr. Charlie Ross of the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce regarding a PPL matching grant to promote and market several empty buildings in Sunbury, to include the Bitner building, Runnerless Knits building and the Albright Church. The grant is for \$2,000 with a local match of \$2,000. Mr. Rick Reichner asked what the grant was and it is a PPL Blue Ribbon grant for marketing vacant properties.

Councilman Eister said he watched a good program about Chesapeake Energy developing natural gas stations on PCN and would like to see if he can get a copy of the program. Councilman Snyder said SEDA-COG is developing a new authority that will focus on developing the pipeline infrastructure to get natural gas from the main lines into communities for the purposes of residential and business and also to develop stations for fuel. Councilman Snyder suggested that someone from city council should be involved with that.

Councilman Snyder told council members that 2013 budget worksheets are ready and will be distributed to council members. Meetings are scheduled on the opposite Monday night of council meetings through December if needed.

Councilman Eister asked if a list could be made and published in the newsletter and/or on the website to let property owners know what they need permits for when rehabbing homes. Also, requirements of rental property owners. Councilman Eister asked where the property on Susquehanna Ave. stands that has not had a rental permit since the 1950's. Councilman Bartello said he will bring that up at the next meeting. Mr. Apfelbaum said he thinks it would be wise to look at the rental property ordinance again because of odd situations like this. General discussion was held regarding rental properties.

Ms. Jan Dockey asked why the \$1,000 fee is charged and the answer is it was put in place to deter new rentals. The City is 53% rental properties which is twice the national average.

Ms. Julie Brosius asked if the \$1,000 fee encourages blight properties? Councilman Eister said it is for new rentals only and it is a one time only fee.

Ms. Jan Dockey asked what Clean Harbors is doing on the Moran property. Mayor Persing explained they are doing the same thing they have been doing. They have equipment there for hazardous waste mitigation. Mayor Persing said he spoke to someone from Clean Harbors recently and he estimates that 50% of the drilling is shut down so they do not have a lot of work. They do their truck maintenance at the Moral property also. Councilman Bartello said there are cleaning supplies stored there.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Mr. Bob Miller asked if there was an ordinance concerning yard sale signs and taking them down when the sale is over. There aren't any specific ordinances for yard sale signs but it is illegal to put any signs on utility poles. Mr. Rhoads said they and the public works crew take them down when they see them and have time. Mr. Miller also said there are several Hill St banners that should come down because they are worn out.

Councilman Snyder asked if it would be possible to make Ft August Ave. at Front St. a one-way street. Vehicles speed in through that area and perhaps it could be one-way from Packer St. to Front St. A question was raised about safety issues pulling onto Front St. in that area. Chief Mazzeo and Councilman Troup should discuss this before the next meeting.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht

City Clerk