

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
March 13, 2017
6:15 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable Mayor David L. Persing 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 Troup, City Treasurer
Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Stephen Bennick, Captain Police Dept.
Terry Specht, City Clerk

Visitors present: 14

A moment of silent reflection was held prior to the beginning of the meeting.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The Minutes of 2/13/17 and 2/27/17 and available departmental reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Controller, Health Dept. (quarterly), 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 (quarterly) are in the City Clerk's office for review. Motion to accept was made by Councilman Henry. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at cityofsunbury.com.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

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

NON-PENN DOT ROAD CLOSURE/JUNE 24, 2017 5K/RIVER FESTIVAL AUG 18 & 19

Councilman Henry moved to pass the road closure on June 24th for a 5K and for River Festival on August 18th and 19th. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

AMEND CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS

The Civil Service board met to make recommendations (see attached) for a change to promotion to the position of captain within the police department. It is a management position and they felt the promotional process should be similar to hiring a chief. Mayor Persing moved to make the change. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

1ST READING/REVISE JUNKYARD ORDINANCE

Ms. Kula explained this article is being updated to correspond more closely with the state statutes. The update to 175-4C updates the definition of junkyard and adds definitions for abandoned vehicle, junk, non-repairable vehicles, recycling, recycling center, repair or towing business, salvage vehicle, screening, trailer, truck-camper, vehicle and vehicle salvage dealer. Prohibited Uses Article 175-70 excludes junk yards anywhere in city limits except Highway Commercial or Industrial Park zoned areas. Articles 175-38 and 175-59 were updated to allow recycling center, vehicle salvage dealer and repair or towing businesses to be established in IP or HC zoned areas with restrictions. Included is a grandfather clause for those businesses already established with the Comm. of PA and following all

applicable Penn DOT regulations. Councilman Reichner moved to pass these amendments on a 1st reading. Second – Kremer. Unanimous vote.

HARB APPROVAL

Councilman Reichner moved to pass the recommendation by the HARB for Higher Hope International Ministries to put a church structure at 618 Market St. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

STORM WATER WAIVER/618 MARKET ST.

Councilman Reichner moved to pass the storm water waiver approved by the Sunbury Municipal Authority and requested by Brinkash & Associates, Inc. for the property located at 618 Market St. They will not be increasing the discharge by more than 10% and Brinkash & Associates, Inc. did all the necessary testing and show only a 7% increase. The water will go into a 36” storm water separation line and will not cause any additional problems. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL/BIDDING PHASE FOR CHESTNUT ST PROJECT PHASE 2

Councilman Eister moved to have council’s permission to go out for bid on the Chestnut St. Project Phase 2 from 3rd St. to 10th St. The project should start this year and be completed by spring 2018. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY ENGINEERING INVOICES/CHESTNUT ST PHASE 2

Councilman Eister moved to pay 2 invoices in the amount of \$16,576.00 for engineering fees for the Chestnut St. Project Phase 2. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher’s payable report in the amount of \$102,683.38 from the General Fund and \$45,483.72 from Liquid Fuels (\$38,000/street sweeper payment). Second - Eister. Unanimous vote.

TAX EXONERATION

Councilwoman Kremer moved to accept the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Persing toured the old Bittner building and it is not in as bad of shape as thought. It would be nice to find a business to go in that building.

Mayor Persing explained that at the last council meeting Ms. Russell stated the city received a Safe Routes to School grant and spent it in a manner in which it was not intended. The city did apply for a Safe Routes to School grant but was not approved in conjunction with the Chestnut St. Project Phase 1 and therefore received no funding to spend.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Regina Russell, Community Activist: Regarding the junkyard ordinance, would this pertain to people storing and accumulating trash in yards. Ms. Kula answered it comes down to the definitions and within the definition, junk is well beyond just vehicles. So it will include junk in people’s yards. Ms. Russell said if there is a gray area council will use it and she is asking that it be more specific to people storing furniture which draws rodents. Ms. Kula said she made note of that and will address this with council members to see if a minor change should be made. Mr. Rhoads said there is already a section in the code book that deals with indoor furniture being stored outdoors.

Chris Wilkinson: How many vehicles can be in a yard before it is considered a junkyard? There is an exception for Sunbury Motors because they are grandfathered and licensed with the state. Mr. Wilkinson said there are 2 vehicles at the Sunbury Motors body shop they are waiting for payment

and how long will they be able to keep them there? Again, they are grandfathered and they can verify they are waiting payment and it is outside the parameters of being considered a junkyard.

Joseph Bartello: What about construction materials such as doors or windows? Councilman Reichner said they are trying to eliminate the old construction materials laying around long after construction is over. If construction materials are at an active construction site, that is ok.

Ann Marshall: Has complained about a rental property located at 440 N. 8th St front and rear apartments. They have been trying to have a tree cut that has a power line going through it. The city can't take it down because of the power line. Councilman Reichner said he would look into this further. As far as the rental property, her neighbor called and told her there was a child in the yard going to the bathroom. When she asked him to leave he went to the porch at 440 rear N. 8th St and just stood there because he couldn't get in the house. She is worried the children are not being cared for. People in the front apartment throw their cigarette butts in her yard.

Becky Enders: The neighbors near the Soup Kitchen throw their snow out into the street whether the plow has gone by or not. It is a hazard for the people that go to the soup kitchen. Is there anything that can be done to get them not to throw snow into the street? Councilman Henry said he will check with them on Tuesday.

Greg Oyster: Would like to have the noise ordinance amended to include all day instead of just between the hours of 11 pm and 6 am. His neighbors play music so loud you can hear it 50' away and it is during the day. Mostly it is the thumping of the bass that can be heard. Capt. Bennick said he cited an individual for playing loud music a home-owner could hear a block away and the court found them not guilty and said sometimes you just have to be tolerant. The police can't cite someone again if they will be found not guilty.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk