

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
August 22, 2011  
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  
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer  
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were twelve (12) visitors present.

### **WOLVERTON ST PROJECT/PCTI**

Ms. Kristen McLaughlin explained that everyone received the project information via email. Mr. Bakowicz reviewed the information and he found the proposal reasonable. Councilman Eister moved to accept the proposal as written and to include the electrical package (lighting) since alternates are not allowed with the new PA DOT system. If the package comes back beyond the budget amount it can be deleted. The proposal will be sent to PA DOT to create the contract with Larson Design Group and that should take approximately 1 month. Councilman Eister asked if the Sunbury Municipal Authority has been involved in this project and Councilman Troup answered that Mike Brockman and Mike Kerstetter have been involved with the meetings and in reviewing all the information received. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> READING/ZONING CHANGE N 4<sup>TH</sup> ST**

Mayor Persing moved to pass on a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading to change the zoning on N 4<sup>th</sup> St to N Awl St from Line St to Packer St to Neighborhood Business and tax parcel #051-04-006-154 (former Runnerless Knits property) to Industrial Park. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES/PHASE 1**

Mayor Persing explained that this project is being funded with a JAG grant in the amount of \$12,000 and will be used to purchase 4-6 surveillance cameras that would cover Cameron Park and city hall. Mayor Persing said he is a hands-on person and wants to see how the cameras work so the grant in the amount of \$200,000 can be used to purchase cameras for the rest of the City. Harris Micrographics was the low bid for this project at \$4,769. Mayor Persing moved to award this bid for professional services to Harris Micrographics in the amount of \$4,769. Councilman Troup agreed that this is a great way to start the project so council can see how it will work. Second – Troup. Yes – Troup, Eister, Persing, Bartello. Abstain – Snyder. Motion carried.

### **CDBG BUDGET REVISION**

Ms. Jamie Shrawder of SEDA-COG told council members there is an invoice for Ely Associates for the 2 additional picnic tables in Cameron Park. Ms. Shrawder is recommending a budget revision in the amount of \$2,162 from the Stroh Alley project to the Cameron Park project to pay for them. Councilman Eister moved to approve the budget revision as presented. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote. Councilman Eister said the last bench has been sold in Cameron Park and that money goes back into the fund. He would like to purchase 2 benches for in front of the Edison Plaza. There is still \$2,024 in the Stroh Alley program funding that can be used for benches at Stroh Alley.

### **CDBG PROJECT UPDATE**

Ms. Shrawder said the Cameron Park project is complete with the exception of selling the final bench. As the benches and/or picnic tables are sold the program income will be used for other CDBG eligible expenses. The demolition project with the Redevelopment Authority is moving forward. They have selected several new projects to look at for clearance (razing) in 2011. It doesn't appear the 2011 funds will be available any time soon. The Environmental Review process is being pursued for these

properties so when the funding is available they can move along quickly. The Riverfront Project is moving forward but the only CDBG funds at this time are with engineering fees. The final payment will be made when the 2011 funding is available. The Welcome Sign landscaping is almost finished. Some of the plants can't be planted until fall and the grass will need seeded. There may be some funds to re-budget when that project is finished. The street clock will soon be finished and returned some time in September. The Keithan's garden roof has been started and should be complete in a few weeks. The only item left is admin funds. As soon as she hears about applying for the 2011 funding the application will be completed and the 2011 projects can move forward when 2011 funding is available...

### **STREET CLOSURE/FIREMAN'S MEMORIAL OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**

Councilman Troup moved to approve the street closure for the Fireman's Memorial parade and memorial service on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **HARB APPROVAL**

Councilman Bartello moved to approve the request by HARB to approve the porch roof work being done for 208 (Victor Byers) and 210 (Steve and Connie Ravert) Chestnut St. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **NUISANCE PROPERTIES/REDEVELOPMENT**

Mayor Persing told council that the Redevelopment Authority has been active and has planned an auction for 3 vacant properties that are ready to be sold in September. The code office has received a lot of calls and visits regarding the papers that have been advertised as nuisance properties in the newspaper. Some of the property owners say they are going to go to the media about this situation and Mayor Persing said he hopes they do. Some of these properties have been in the process for many years and council is just not going to put up with blight properties any more. The ultimate goal is to get the properties sold and torn down and use that money to purchase more properties, etc. It should be a huge impact in the City and Mayor Persing is very proud of the Redevelopment Authority for taking this stance with the blight properties. Councilman Bartello asked if council could receive the minutes of the Redevelopment Authority meetings. Ms. Delsite will be instructed to include the minutes with the council packets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month when departmental reports are due.

### **APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES**

Councilman Snyder moved to pay the vouchers payable in the amount of \$118,016.64 from the general fund and \$3,338.22 from liquid fuels as funds are available. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Chief Stephen Mazzeo told council that on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm the Faith United Lutheran Church will be holding a memorial concert to remember the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9/11.

Ms. Carmen Campbell asked if the owner of the Bitner building at 4<sup>th</sup> and Market St is willing to do anything with that property. Mayor Persing said he has not heard from the owner in a long time. Ms. McLaughlin said SRI and the City completed paperwork on some vacant properties for a "Community Initiated Design" project for a branch of the PA Downtown Center. That building was one that was earmarked for this project. In June, several people from City government and Ms. McLaughlin went out with representatives of the PA Downtown Center to view the properties.

Mr. Scott Johnson mentioned that there are a lot of community co-ops going up in Williamsport in the older buildings.

### **SUNBURY RIVER FESTIVAL**

Mayor Persing said he heard many great comments about the River Festival and wanted to specially thank fair co-chairs Fred Sheller and Cheryl Delsite, Jim Eister for getting the electrical situation taken care of, committee members Slade Schreck, Bill Mackey, Cheryl Reitz, Jacqui Barone, Kevin Herr, Mark Lawrence, Deb Lucas, Chief Mazzeo, Deb Brubaker and Janet Yonkoskie. If he forgot anyone he apologizes for the over-sight.

### **TEMPORARY DOWNTOWN BUSINESS LICENSE**

Mayor Persing said the goal of this project is to fill the storefronts during the holiday season. At this time they are doing this in Pittsburgh and other large cities. Not only could retail stores go in the vacant buildings but the windows could be decorated in the vacant storefronts so people can come and

look at them and bring people to downtown Sunbury. This would include a free 90-day business license as long as the business is within the City's ordinances. Mayor Persing moved to go forward with this project and issue a temporary waiver of the business license for a 90 day period from October 17<sup>th</sup> to January 16<sup>th</sup> as long as the business is within permitted uses in the ordinances. Councilman Troup agreed this is a great idea and perhaps council would consider this for any business that would want to come to Sunbury to see how business is before they make a huge commitment. Second – Snyder. Unanimous vote. Councilman Snyder said council previously discussed an on-line business directory for businesses in Sunbury added to the City's website. There are funds available from the fiber optic project to launch this project. Councilman Bartello asked Mike Rhoads if this would violate the sign ordinance for businesses. Mr. Rhoads said he does not think it will cause an issue as long as the sizes of the signs are within the zoning requirements. Businesses that want to participate should contact the code office as well to be sure everything they are doing is within the zoning ordinance. Mr. Bob Werline asked if the property owners on Market St would be notified of this temporary business license and the Mayor answered yes, they would.

### **FRONT ST. ELECTRIC**

Councilman Eister said he will be bringing ideas back to council regarding the electricity on Front St at Riverfront Park.

### **TOWN HALL MEETING/REP. LYNDA SCHLEGEL CULVER**

Mayor Persing asked council if everyone would agree to cancel the council meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> so council members can attend the Town Hall meeting scheduled by Representative Culver's office. Councilman Snyder said he feels there is still City business to be conducted and that he would not be in agreement with cancelling the meeting. Councilman Troup agreed. Councilman Bartello said he would not have a problem with cancelling the meeting. Mayor Persing said if it would not be a unanimous vote the meeting will not be cancelled. The meeting time can be changed and it was agreed to have it at 5:30 pm and only have 1 meeting that day. The new meeting time change will be advertised in the newspaper.

Officer Stephen Bennick said he had a third step grievance to give the mayor.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht  
City Clerk