

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
June 23, 2014
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
John K. Shipman, Director of Accounts & 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:

Lisa J. Martina, City Controller
Brad Hare, Acting Police Chief
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were seventeen (17) visitors present.

AUDIENCE COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Persing asked for audience comment on agenda items and there were no comments.

ANSWER TO LAMB LETTER

Acting Chief Brad Hare addressed Mr. Lamb regarding his police complaint from the prior council meeting. Acting Chief Hare asked what the suspicious activity was that prompted the call to the 911 Center. Mr. Lamb answered that they were outside the house and there were previous problems. Hare: Who did you confirm with there was a warrant for an arrest from Snyder County. Lamb: the probation officer handling the case, Carey Davis. Hare: you were a 3rd party caller, you weren't there? Lamb: yes. Hare: the officer was dispatched at 16:05 and he requested a 1029 check which is to find out the status of a warrant. Also, the blue car usually used by the chief of police is a patrol vehicle. Mr. Lamb's call came in at 16:00 and the call was cleared at 16:10. When Hare listened to the tape of the call the only thing Mr. Lamb inquired about was the warrant. Lamb: I was concerned there would be more trouble. Hare: A few days prior was there an incident that Mr. Lamb was involved in. Lamb: I was threatened. Hare: Are you the father-in-law? Was there a pushing match between the two of you? Lamb: the step-father. Hare: Was there a pushing match? Lamb: Yes. Hare: When I listened to the tape some of the problems are that county did not tell the officer about previous incidents and the 1029 check came back negative which means there was never a warrant on the gentleman and there is not a warrant now. I checked with Snyder County probation and Mr. Davis said he never spoke to you. He said you had called but he never spoke to you. The only thing related to the police department was if there was a problem, the police department was supposed to contact Snyder County probation and they would deal with it but there was no warrant. While Mr. Lamb said the officer was joking around and having a good time with him, he was actually waiting for the 1029 check to come back. He does not have a warrant for Union County either. Lamb: I did not contact Union County. Hare: That's what's on record from 911. There was another incident where you were involved in a scuffle. Lamb: I was there, not involved in a scuffle. Hare: if your question is why we didn't pick him up, we had no reason to pick him up or take him into custody. Lamb: I didn't speak to Carey Davis directly but he spoke to my step-son's girlfriend and he did tell her there was a warrant out for the guy's arrest. That's where I got the information from. Hare: Again, that's 3rd party. You just got done telling me you did speak to Mr. Davis. Lamb: I left a message for him. Hare: You have to be careful how you address that because you will get yourself in trouble by having false reports. I don't want to see that. Lamb: I spoke to Colleen I didn't speak to him. Hare: You need to be careful when you say someone has a warrant. You have to confirm that information before you go in a court room. The other thing was the dispatcher told Mr. Lamb to contact his step-son and call 911. Lamb: I did tell him to call. Hare: Did he call 911? Lamb: I don't know I wasn't there. Hare: He did not call 911. If he was that concerned he would have called 911 if he was in fear of his safety. There is a lot of miscommunication that involved you, 911, Snyder County probation and had nothing to do with the Sunbury police department. Ok? Lamb: Ok.

PUBLIC NUISANCE PROPERTY

Ms. Brianna Kula explained there are 3 properties to put before city council acting as the Board of Health to declare a public nuisance and they are: 416-418 Chestnut St, 966 S Front St and 460 Arch St which is the first commercial property and a separate set of guidelines will be developed to follow for that. Councilman

Reichner asked Mr. Rhoads about 966 S Front St being renovated. Mr. Rhoads answered 966 S Front is being renovated and 418 Chestnut St. is occupied but no renovation is going on. Councilman Reichner moved to pass the Resolution (see attached) to declare 460 Arch St a nuisance property. Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Shipman moved to pay the invoices on the vouchers payable report totaling \$145,285.91 from the general fund and \$4,000 from the liquid fuels fund. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

SRI UPDATE

Mr. Slade Schreck announced that the River Festival planning is going well. It is the 25th anniversary year and there will be new things happening.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Ms. Regina Russell, Community Activist: Follow-up on 354 Walnut St. She has been complaining about the parking issue and now the fire safety code of blocking the entrances in and out of the house. There was a fire in Selinsgrove at a 1 level house and 354 Walnut is 2 or 3 levels. She does not understand why code is not enforcing the codes at this property since Ms. Nolls is an advocate for the city and has several children plus 3 handicap children in the house. It takes 2 minutes for a fire to consume the house and she does not know if they have a fire plan. It took 11 fire departments to respond to the Selinsgrove fire. Ms. Russell asked the mayor to do something because the other departments won't do anything unless he says fix it. Mayor Persing asked if she has ever been in the house. Ms. Russell said she does not have to go in the house to see that she is blocking the sidewalk. Mayor Persing said maybe it is blocked from the inside and it isn't a real door. Ms. Russell said it is a fire code violation. There are plenty of parking spaces across the street from that house. Ms. Russell said if council does not want her to be right about something, so be it. Ms. Russell went on to say the American Red Cross is having a disaster drill at Evangelical Hospital and they are looking for volunteers. The event is on August 19th at 8 am. Call 570-524-0400 to volunteer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Eister moved to allow Front St. Motors to use a portion of Susquehanna Ave. to have a vehicle sale on July 18th and 19th. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

Councilman Shipman announced that the franchise agreement with Service Electric Cable Vision will be extended for 5 years instead of 10 years. The city is not asking for an increase in rates which is passed on to the consumer. Councilman Eister said the city has a right to ask for an audit and he would like to do that so the city knows if the customer base is changing. Councilman Reichner asked what the payment to the city is and Councilman Eister answered it is 5% of gross sales. Ms. Jan Dockey asked why there can't be competition for the cable TV in Sunbury. Councilman Shipman explained it is to protect the investment made by the company to run the cable throughout municipalities. The federal government said it was ok to have a monopoly. Councilman Reichner also stated that it is franchised.

Mayor Persing explained that he is going to have the police department personnel tag unlicensed and unregistered vehicles, including trailers beginning the 1st week of July. That includes in yards. Acting Brad Hare asked if anyone is calling to report an unregistered vehicle to call the department at 570-286-4587 instead of calling the 911 Center. Councilman Reichner said he put the code office personnel on notice that if they see anything to forward it to the police department.

Councilman Shipman announced that Terry has done research on Pickle Ball and the city will have some announcements by the next meeting concerning Pickle Ball. He is asking for people to recruit a few teams so everyone can have a good time. Ms. Dockey said her brother from Colorado will be in Sunbury in July and he would put on a clinic. Also, she heard Councilman Eister and Mayor Persing say they would play.

Ms. Meghan Beck said the North'd County IDA reviewed the proposal for the SRI marketing plan and tabled it until they receive more information. A private citizen approached SRI and said they would like to have a large tree at the intersection of Market St & Front St. at Christmas-time. A film company approached SRI that wants to do some filming in Sunbury. She will bring more details as they are available.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk