

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
September 12, 2011  
7:00 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable Todd E. Snyder, Vice-Mayor, presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

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:

John R. Bakowicz, City Engineer  
Michael Kula, City Solicitor  
Stephen Mazzeo, Chief of Police  
Daniel Saxton, EMA Coordinator  
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer  
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were five (5) visitors present.

An executive session to discuss a personnel matter was held at 5:30 pm prior to the beginning of this meeting.

### **MINUTES AND REPORTS**

The available departmental reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Health Dept., Fire Dept., City Engineer, Code Office, Park and Recreation Department, Public Works Dept, Planning Commission and Police Pension Board are in the City Clerk's office for review. On motion by Eister, second by Bartello, the available reports were approved as presented. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at [cityofsunbury.com](http://cityofsunbury.com)

### **RIVERFRONT PROJECT**

Councilman Eister moved to pay Kinsley Construction for payment request #10 in the amount of \$88,648.19 for Phase I of the Riverfront Project. Second- Troup. Unanimous vote.

Councilman Eister moved to pay Buchar Horn in the amount of \$75,000 toward several old invoices. This amount comes from a DCNR grant. Second – Troup. Vote, Yes - Eister, Bartello, Troup. No – Snyder. Motion carried. Councilman Troup asked if the City was receiving RACP funds back yet. The answer is yes and he asked for a report at each council meeting. That report will be included in the packets.

### **2011 CDBG ALLOCATION**

Councilman Eister moved to authorize the Mayor to sign all paperwork in regard to the 2011 CDBG allocation in the amount of \$319,557. The projects were selected earlier in the year and the funding will be allocated proportionately to those projects. Second – Bartello. Unanimous vote.

### **PA DOT ROAD CLOSURE/HALLOWEEN PARADE**

Councilman Troup moved to authorize the closure of a portion of Market St. for the Halloween Parade to be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Second - Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **2<sup>ND</sup> READING ZONING CHANGE/S. FRONT AND S. 2<sup>ND</sup> STS**

Councilman Bartello moved to pass on a second reading a change to zoning on S. Front St. to S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. from Walnut St. to Bainbridge St. and S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. from Penn St. to Bainbridge St. including S. River Ave. to Neighborhood Business (NB) from Residential 2 (R2). Second – Eister. Unanimous vote.

### **VOUCHER'S PAYABLE REPORT**

Councilman Snyder moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$38,643.99 as funds are available. Second- Eister. Unanimous vote.

## **TAX EXONERATION**

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

## **3<sup>rd</sup> STEP GRIEVANCE/POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDITIONAL DUTIES**

Councilman Snyder explained that a grievance has progressed to Step 3 with the Sunbury Police Officer's Association (SPOA). The police have requested reimbursement or additional compensation for administrative duties that were performed by Steve Brown who left the employ of the City in June. The police chief and the mayor have both denied the grievance at Steps 1 and 2. Councilman Snyder moved to send a letter to ask the SPOA to talk with council members so they can come to a better understanding of the grievance. If they do not want to do that, the next level will be sending the grievance to arbitration. Councilman Eister said he is upset because during the 2011 budget talks, council knew the administrative assistant position would only be funded for ½ year and that money was set aside, as well as money taken from other departments, to hire 2 more police officers because the police department personnel said they needed more officers. Council hired the 2 officers and no one at the time said anything about the extra duties that would have to be assigned to others. Chief Mazzeo said at that time, the officers were on board with that. There are only 2 officers on the force which were working when Mr. Brown was hired, Quinn and Hawkins, and their contract at the time was very specific that there was a time limitation to grieve this issue. At the time Mr. Brown was hired, his duties were performed by police officer supervisors. Chief Mazzeo said it is his understanding that according to the SPOA by-laws (which he does not have a copy of) the affected officers must vote on the grievance and his understanding is that only the 4 supervisors voted on the grievance and the other SPOA members could not vote on it (Chief Mazzeo stressed if what he is being told is correct). He feels the grievance should have been filed 12 years ago when Mr. Brown was hired, they waited until Mr. Brown left the employ of the City, they waited until after 2 new officers were hired in 2011 and there is a question of conscience on their part. Chief Mazzeo feels this is their opening shot for contract negotiations next year. They are talking about splitting what Mr. Brown made over 12 years amongst them, which is around \$400,000. Several of the supervisors are doing Mr. Brown's duties now and don't mind doing them. His duties have been split among the chief, 4 supervisors, the meter officer and records clerk. Councilman Snyder said 2 weeks ago at the very end of a council meeting, Officer Bennick delivered a letter to the mayor only and the council did not know the content of the letter. They did not ask formally to discuss their grievance with the council members. Since the grievance was at Step 3, a copy should have been delivered to all council members. Councilman Bartello said council cannot print money like the federal government can and the City only has the taxpayers to rely on to pay its bills. Councilman Snyder said this seems very extreme in relation to the volunteer fire company in Sunbury and what they dealt with in the past 2 weeks with the flood. Mr. Kula will send the letter to the city clerk's office. Councilman Troup asked if the work Mr. Brown did is being done and Chief said most of it is being done. Evidence is hurting right now because it takes time to get it done. Chief is paying one of the supervisors overtime to finish payroll every 2 weeks. It was decided that the finance dept would check with the accounting software company and get a module that would send time worked electronically to payroll. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

## **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Chief Mazzeo took a few minutes to thank the Sunbury Fire Department and Sunbury Fire Police, Dale Henry, the county EEOC, Jerome Alex, Dan Saxton, the City's EMA Coordinator and Connie and Mike Beegle who answered the phones at the police station, Mike Rhoads from the code office, and Mayor Persing for all the hard work done during the flood event. Councilman Eister said he wanted to thank Mayor Dave for attending the meetings at the 911 Center and contacting council members to keep them up to date on the situation. Also, a thank you from the mayor to Dan Saxton and Dale Henry, Cheryl Delsite, Mark Getz, Hal Fazzini, Josh Buck and Todd Snyder who moved all the computers from city hall to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Chief Mazzeo, Mike Rhoads, the fire department, Mike Bordner and the public works crew who helped put the flood closures up with the Municipal Authority flood control personnel including Greg Wilt and his crew, the fire police and Mr. and Mrs. Beegle. Councilman Troup said whenever a volunteer is needed; there is someone available from Sunbury to help others.

Mr. Dan Saxton, EMA Coordinator said the City didn't have a lot of problems. The shelters were opened early and there were 4 school busses with drivers on stand-by in case the City had to be evacuated and they would have gone to the high-rises to evacuate the seniors. Had the worst happened or the crest was higher than anticipated, the City would have had issues. They learned a lot from this event and there will be discussions regarding what should take place in the future. Councilman Eister said the volunteers from the fire department went above and beyond to help others. There will be county and PEMA/FEMA volunteers to help anyone from Northumberland County complete forms to be sent to FEMA on Wednesday from 9 am to 9 pm at the county administration center.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht  
City Clerk