

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by Vice President T J Huckleberry. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth White called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuillo (Absent)
T.J. Huckleberry
George Butkus
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa

Other officials present were: Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; Robert Ludgate Sr., Ludgate Engineering; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Public Works Director; Police Chief Lee Schweyer, Regina Shade, Borough Manager and Elizabeth White who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

Mr. Huckleberry requested a moment of silence to honor those who serve us on a daily basis at home and abroad in the Armed Forces and our first responders.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Huckleberry asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2014 Council Meeting and the August 27, 2014 Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Gantner made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

The first visitor was Mr. Randy Hope. Mr. Hope stated that he is the applicant for the project at Spring Market and he was hoping that Council would hear their application and if appropriate take action this evening. He stated that they made an application to build a 14,000 square foot building on the pad site adjacent to the former Food Lion and that they received conditional approval from the Planning Commission and Zoning Board approval for a signage variance. He stated that they are seeking final approval from Council. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that the recommendation from the Planning Commission was with conditions and there were three (3) principal things. One being approval from the Conservation District, one was PennDOT approval for connecting to their system and the other was clearance from the Sewer Engineer. Mr. Ludgate stated that the plans have been resubmitted showing adjustments but he did not have time to review it. Mr. Smith stated that he issued a review letter today. Brian Myers from Landcore Engineering addressed Council. He stated that the reason they decided to come tonight was that they don't see any major changes in how the plan is going to look and they are looking to move forward with some of the steps needed to be taken for construction. He stated that they would like to get it under construction before the weather turns. Mr. Ludgate stated that the Planning Commission recommended conditional approval and one of the conditions was a letter from the Borough Sewer

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.):

Engineer that the plan is satisfactory. Mr. Smith stated that they have some minor house cleaning items to do on the plan and the only thing of note is they are raising a manhole but want to use riser rings but it may need a new barrel section. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that the second issue was the connection to the PennDOT Storm Sewer which they believe has been resolved. The third issue was the Conservation District approval of the Erosion Control Plan which they believe has been resolved. He stated a waiver was requested to combine the Preliminary and Final Plans which the Planning Commission has recommended approval of. He stated that another issue was the Sewer Planning Module Exemption and a letter from the Water Company about service which have both been taken care of. He stated that the only other issue was the question of the guaranteed access. Mr. Haws asked if they were all addressed in the review letter. Mr. Ludgate stated yes expect the guaranteed access came later after the Planning Commission recommendation. Mr. Ludgate stated that if the Board was so inclined to grant approval conditioned upon the two review letters, he would be prepared to recommend that. Mr. Haws stated that if Council was inclined then they could made a motion to grant the waiver conditioned on compliance with all these terms and then granting the preliminary/final approval subject to the review letters and the conditional review on the access issue. Mr. Ludgate stated that the motion should also include the requirement for posting of the Financial Surety and Storm Water Agreement and Improvements Agreement. Mr. Butkus asked for verification from the Sewer Engineer that there is sufficient capacity in the sewer plant and how many EDU's they are purchasing. Mr. Smith stated that they only need one EDU and that there is sufficient capacity in the plant. Mr. Hoffa made the motion as stated above by Mr. Haws and Mr. Ludgate; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

The next visitors were Mrs. Venning and Mr. Foster from Woodrow Avenue. They addressed Council concerning the traffic situation and the large trucks coming up Vester Place and running over their properties. Chief Schweyer stated that if they get registration numbers the Police and cite them. Mrs. Shade asked that they come into the Borough Hall when it happens and they can fill out complaint forms. Mr. Huckleberry suggested that they increase police coverage and place a no trucks sign on the barricades at Penn and Columbia Avenue. Discussion ensued.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Huckleberry asked for a motion to approve the bills for August, 2014. Mrs. Stine made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Kulp gave the report for August 2014. Mrs. Shade mentioned that she has received several calls from residents at Grecian Terrace Apts. asking why Spring Township Fire Trucks show up before Western Berks. Chief Kulp stated that Spring Township has someone in house 24/7. Discussion ensued.

Chief Schweyer asked Chief Kulp about the Fire Police and stated that it is very difficult to get them to come out anymore. He stated that he had someone to cover the traffic light during the construction and they backed out. Chief Kulp mentioned that all of them have full time jobs. Chief Schweyer asked if they could use Spring's Fire Police. Chief Kulp stated yes but they need thirty days' notice but could do on an emergency basis.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that the BOSS2020 Committee had a meeting on August 21, 2014. He mentioned that they had a discussion with Mr. Tom McKeone the Berks County Industrial Development Director, who suggested the Borough consider a Market Study. He stated that Mr. Loth looked up an eligible grant which could fund up to \$25,000.00 for a Market Study but it requires a 50% match. He stated that they are looking to local businesses to help fund this. Mr. Butkus made a motion to direct Mr. Ludgate, the Economic and Community Development Committee and BOSS2020 to work together towards the Grant Application for the Market Study, seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that the Façade Grant is ready to roll and is available to any property owner or tenant on Penn Avenue from the Borough Hall Westward. He stated that they have to apply for it and it is a matching grant up to \$5,000.00. Mrs. Peterson asked if it could be put in the newsletter. Mrs. Shade mentioned that she could put something on Facebook also.

Mr. Ludgate stated that he asked STV for a progress report on their work. He stated that he received a report from Brian Miller who is their Project Manager and primarily he said that the plans have been sent to Brian Rasiul; who is the PennDOT Project Manager. He stated that the overall site plan has been forward to Kevin Mock who is PennDOT's Archeologist for his review. He mentioned that the old Borough Hall that is most likely to cause a delay and could take six weeks. He stated that they are in the process of revising the Traffic Impact Study on just this single intersection as asked. He mentioned that the environmental team at STV is going to clear the wetland question, hazardous waste question and the six week issue about the cultural approval process. He mentioned that they are concerned about the different requirements among different agencies. Mrs. Shade mentioned that we are still holding the check from the Liquid Fuels account for STV because we were waiting for approval from Mr. Paris from PennDOT. Mr. Ludgate stated that he would look into it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into executive session at 8:00 p.m.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:20 p.m. No action was taken

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The annual Shred Event will be held at National Penn Bank in Robesonia on Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is for residential shredding only – no businesses.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Shade mentioned that the MMO for the Non-Uniformed Pension is \$65,051.00. Mr. Butkus made the motion to approve the MMO, seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mrs. Shade mentioned that they had to advertise the meeting dates for 2015. She mentioned that she set the January meeting for Monday the January 5, 2015. Mrs. Stine made the motion approve the Resolution for establishing the meeting dates for 2015, seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mrs. Shade stated that per the Police Contract, they do not contribute to their pension so they need to pass a Resolution waiving the police contributing to their pension plan. Mr. Butkus made the motion to approve the Resolution waiving the police contribution to their pension plan, seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that the VFW donated \$500.00 for one of the police officers to be on the SWAT team, but he and the Mayor have decided that it is not fiscally or financially sound to do that at this time. He stated that he talked to the commander of the VFW explaining that and they still want the Police Department to keep the donation and use it in the equipment fund. He stated that he sent a thank you letter and that he received a letter from them authorizing the Police Department to keep the money for their equipment.

Chief Schweyer mentioned that on September 16th the Chiefs of Police are going to have a meeting involving the County Commissioners and Brian Gotshall. He stated that they received information that the dispatching services for the County are going to rise on an average of 18% per year. He stated that hopefully they can get some answers as to why the increase is so high. Mrs. Shade stated that she would attend the meeting also.

CHIEF SCHWEYER (Cont.):

Chief Schweyer mentioned that the Berks County Department of Emergency Services is hosting a Railroad Incident Exercise at the Berks County Fire Training Center on September 30, 2014. He also mentioned that last Wednesday after the meeting they executed two search warrants on a convicted felon and they seized numerous fire arms and fire arms making equipment and they will probably be turning it over to the ATF for Federal charges.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that Wernersville's 100th Anniversary parade is Saturday, September 13th and she has only heard from Mrs. Stine about attending.

She also mentioned that she is working on the Newsletter and that Mr. Hart is up for Meet our Employees.

REGINA SHADE – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mrs. Shade mentioned that she has started working on the Budget and will send it out to everyone when it is ready.

T J HUCKLEBERRY:

Mr. Huckleberry thanked Council for the support and the flowers sent to his family during the rough time with the birth of his son. He stated that everyone is happy and healthy.

GEORGE BUTKUS – SEWER AND SANITATION:

Mr. Butkus apologized that he did not get the added notes for the Trash Ordinance modifications out to the Sewer Committee and that they are meeting on Monday.

BRAD SMITH – SEWER ENGINEER:

Mr. Smith gave the monthly report. He stated that there is still no movement from the state on the permit. He also stated that the SCADA Project is moving along quite well and he will be inspecting tomorrow to see if they have achieved substantial completion. He stated that they are still waiting for a payment application and close out documents for the Reed Bed Cleaning Project. He also mentioned that ARRO is awaiting authorization from Council to proceed with preparing specifications for the cleaning of the remaining reed beds.

CHARLES HAWS – BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Mr. Haws mentioned that he raised the issue at the last meeting about the Verizon Cell Tower. He stated that he went through the Ordinance and couldn't find anything specific addressing towers. Discussion ensued. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize Mr. Haws to draft a letter to Verizon informing them that they need to go through with the Variance process and that we feel no need to oppose them, seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:**General Account**

Opening Balance – July 31, 2014		\$570,653.23
PLGIT		9,121.98
Invest	Recreation	29,233.88
	General	75,310.94
Capital Improvement Acct.		107,287.05
McDonald's Escrow		4,003.33
Fleetwood Bank Acct.		4,246.15
Susquehanna Bank Acct.		100.00
Deposits as of August 31, 2014		236,266.75
Checks Written		95,755.77
Payroll		89,573.68
PENNVEST auto debit		2,785.50
To be Paid		<u>23,793.30</u>
Balance as of September 4, 2014		\$764,555.62

Sewer Account

Opening Balance – July 31, 2014		\$895,420.90
PLGIT		61,453.69
Invest		322,916.84
Deposits as of August 31, 2014		172,391.48
Checks Written		188,047.19
Returned ACH		55.48
Returned Check		58.85
PENNVEST auto debit		15,243.07
To be Paid		<u>2,422.55</u>
Balance as of September 4, 2014		\$1,246,355.77

Liquid Fuels Account

Opening Balance – July 31, 2014		\$343,024.38
Invest		<u>30,775.13</u>
Balance as of August 7, 2014		\$373,799.51


Mr. Hoffa questioned some items on the Profit & Loss Report which Mrs. Shade explained.

Mrs. Stine made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Butkus asked for a brief Executive Session and stated that there would be no action taken afterward and made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. White,
Asst. Borough Secretary