

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by Council President James Pachuillo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Bryce Zohner, Public Works Director; Police Chief Lee Schweyer, and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that we received a letter from Jessica Baker of PPL stating that they have revised their route for the planned transmission line. The letter states that they plan to build it underground primarily in the public right of way under Van Reed Road and N. Dwight Street in Spring Township. He stated that Council is above elated about this. He stated that there were many people involved in sending letters and that he wanted to commend the residents of Sinking Spring, Lower Heidelberg, Spring Township, the citizens group, Wyomissing Borough and all that assisted in sending letters. Mayor Cirulli suggested that we send letters out to Senator Argall and Representative Cox thanking them for all their assistance.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item was a letter from the Township of Spring Parks and Recreation Department. He stated that they are requesting a donation again this year for the Trout Rodeo. He stated that we usually donate \$500.00. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Township of Spring Parks and Recreation Department for the Trout Rodeo; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Loth mentioned that we had a lot of support from State Senator Argall and from State Representative Cox who met with PP&L people at the State House a couple weeks ago, to discuss this issue. He stated that it probably had a lot to do with the decision that PP&L made.

Mr. Loth stated that he e-mailed everyone the revised Action Plan that he put together. He stated that it is to benefit Council so they know what BOSS 2020 is doing on a step by step basis to move the projects and revitalization forward. He mentioned that a representative of Senator Casey will be here next Wednesday if anyone is interested. He stated that they are going to take him around and show him what is going on and show him the Mt. Home Road/Columbia Avenue area. He mentioned that we could apply for Federal Grant money, FAST Grant, which would be 60% of the total project. He stated that the FAST Grants are really hard to get so they are going to see if they can get Senator Casey's and Senator Toomey's support for an application. He stated that as part of that we have to go through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which is the RATS Committee here in Reading to see if they are willing to support a sponsorship to sponsor us to be the project that goes to the Federal Government.

Mr. Loth stated that STV has submitted a proposal to complete the Engineering that needs to be done for the next phase of the project. He stated that we need to have this done because it takes PennDOT a long time to turn it around and we will need HOP's from them. He stated that it is a \$130,000.00 proposal and that the money is in the \$1.1 million grant and will not be paid out by the Borough. He stated that the proposal will be sent out to Council to review and then a decision can be made at next week's Council Meeting.

Mr. Loth also mentioned the demolition costs. He stated that he believes that we can get money from previous grants. He stated that we have a DCED grant already for \$225,000.00 for the Pedestrian Safety Project. He stated that there is \$150,000.00 for sidewalks that they are not going to let us do. He stated that they are going to suggest to the DCED representative, when she comes to visit, that she support a change order for that funding so we can use it for demolition costs. He stated that another option might be to use some of the funding from the PennDOT Multi-Model grant for Phase Two since we are going to be building we might be able to add the demolition into that. He stated that they will look at both angles but believes the DCED is the better way to go because it is funding that is outside of the construction money.

Mr. Loth stated that they are looking into a Financial Analysis which may be a benefit to the Borough for this project. He believes that a financial professional is the way to go and Mr. Pick stated that they could add some funding into that. Mr. Loth stated that he could go to the Municipal Assistance Program and get some funding towards the cost of it also. He stated that they are at the beginning of this and just looking into it.

Mr. Loth also mentioned that the application for the \$50,000.00 Façade Grant program was sent in.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that Mr. Pete Ragonese has completed his ninety-day probation period and has qualified himself up to a Level Two Operator. He stated that he would like to increase Mr. Ragonese's wages to that of a Level Two Operator. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize Mr. Ragonese's salary to Level Two Operator per the contract; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Zohner mentioned that Mr. Cody Henn completed his ninety-day probation period around the holidays. He stated that Mr. Henn earned a personal day at the end of the year but was unaware of it. Mr. Zohner asked for permission to allow Mr. Henn to carry over the personal day. Mr. Butkus made a motion to allow Mr. Henn to carry over the 8 hours of personal time to take any time in 2017; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Zohner mentioned that they are in the process of renewing the bio solids permit. He stated that he sent in all the paperwork two weeks ago, and that DEP came out today and did an onsite visit and inspection. He stated that DEP was very pleased with everything and that they are going to issue our permit shortly.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that they are proceeding with the replacement of the sanitary sewer across Penn Avenue at Broad Street. He stated that they provided the contractor, Wexcon, with the PennDot plans. He stated that PennDot is requiring a significant amount of safety features that were not anticipated by the contractor so they have come in with a revised quote of \$152,615.00 and the previous quote was \$133,125.00. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve the change order of the price not to exceed \$153,000.00; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried. Mayor Cirulli asked when they were going to start. Mr. Zohner stated that it got pushed back to the end of February.

CHARLES HAWS – BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Mr. Haws stated that they got the paperwork together for getting a new loan in place to cover the betterment project. He stated that they have a notice to be advertised for the Ordinance to be adopted at the February 2nd meeting. Mrs. Stine made a motion to authorize advertising the Ordinance; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that the Teamsters voted last week to decertify. He stated that it won't be final until tomorrow because there is a five-day layover.

Mr. Hart stated that the Handbook is ready and out for review. He mentioned that he would get copies out to everybody for their review and comment also.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER (Cont.):

Mr. Hart mentioned the property at 3922 Penn Avenue and that they are still working on getting prices for the new wall. He stated that he is also getting a ballpark figure for the property and demo costs if we choose to go that way.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he would like to start moving forward with our electric supplier because the contract expires at the end of this year. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to authorize Mr. Hart to start shopping for a new supplier; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart stated that he would like Council to consider a Nuisance Ordinance that would cover noise levels, trash and other property related issues. He stated that we have been getting a lot of calls complaining about neighbors. He stated that he would like to start working on getting an Ordinance together that would give us another tool to help control some of the issues that we are having.

GEORGE BUTKUS – SEWER COMMITTEE:

Mr. Butkus mentioned Lower Heidelberg Township and that their outstanding balance right now is over \$155,000.00. Mr. Hart stated that the letter was already sent out to them. Mr. Butkus stated that he believes that we need to re-look at the Inter-Municipal Agreement. Mr. Pachuillo asked if he and Mr. Hart should attend one of their meetings. Discussion ensued. Council agreed to allow Mr. Pachuillo, Mr. Hart and Mr. Butkus to attend a meeting at Lower Heidelberg Township.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:37 p.m. for personnel matters.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize Officer Oxenreider to carry over his four hours of unused vacation time from 2016 to be used anytime in 2017; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Butkus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eagelman
Borough Secretary