

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuillo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; 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.

Mr. Pachuillo requested a moment of silence to honor our Police, Fire and Ambulance personnel that protect us here and our Armed Forces that are continually fighting for us here and abroad.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2016 Council Meeting and the December 28, 2016 Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES -7, NAYS - 0, ABSENT - 0. Motion carried.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Loth addressed Council concerning the BOSS 2020 Action Plan for 2017 and the Phased Chart that was created by BOSS 2020. He stated that they will go over them in greater detail at the Workshop meeting later this month.

Mr. Jim Adams addressed Council and asked them to keep the Revitalization Project rolling. He stated that he has seen it work in other communities and encourages Council to do the same.

Mr. Joe Eways addressed Council concerning the Revitalization Project. He stated that he got involved in this project because he represents Mr. Pat Sickafus who owns property in the Revitalization area. He stated that he has always liked the project and the ambition that it has shown.

REVITALIZATION (Cont.):

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that one of the things that he asked the BOSS 2020 Committee to do is to start moving this project and start diving up the tasks and assigning them to people. He stated that they worked on the budget so we will know what it is going to cost the Borough, where it is going to come from, what are some possible sources and what we can do.

Mr. Hoffa also mentioned the acceptance letter for Phase 3 Section 1 which has been pending to get it signed and accepted. He stated that we can sign the letter and that it is not committing us financially to doing the project for phase 3. Mr. Pachuillo stated that this was one of the items under Unfinished Business. He stated that after speaking to Mr. Loth he believes that we need to respond to the letter and it would look better if we respond to the letter favorably. Mr. Haws mentioned that the letter that was sent to Mr. Pachuillo on October 3, 2016 from DCED includes the Commitment Letter and Contract for the Grant. Discussion ensued as to whether signing the contract would bind the Borough to doing the project. Mr. Haws stated that there is a provision that if we take the money and don't do the project then we have to pay it back but if we don't use the money there is nothing to pay back. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to accept the grant and sign the Acceptance Letter and Contract; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES –5, NAYS – 2 (Mr. Butkus and Mrs. Stine), ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Jared Renshaw went over the monthly report for December 2016. He mentioned that seven members participated in the department's promotional testing process for Line Officers. He stated that appointments took effect on January 1, 2017 and was a year in the making. He mentioned that six members of the department will be traveling to Indianapolis IN at the end of April for the Fire Department Instructors Conference. He also mentioned that they will be co-hosting a nationally recognized speaker for a seminar in March 2017 and will be hosting three nationally recognized instructors in April 2017 for a hands-on class.

Mrs. Gantner thanked Mr. Renshaw and the WBFD for bringing Santa to the Open House in December.

Mr. Hoffa asked about the training. Mr. Renshaw stated that as the building construction changes they have to change their tactics and strategies. Discussion ensued concerning Fire Police.

Mr. Renshaw mentioned that Performance Toyota donated \$1,500.00 for the Smoke Detector program. He stated that they will be doing campaigns in Wernersville and Lower Heidelberg.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No other unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuilto stated that the first item is Empire Wrecking's Request of Payment #2. Mr. Hart stated that Empire Wrecking has put in a Request for Payment #2 in the amount of \$64,584.72. He stated that we would still retain \$43,588.88 for them to complete the job. Mr. Butkus asked if there was an estimate on the additional work that need to be done because of the issue with the one property. Mr. Hart stated that it would be an overage and they don't have a figure because they don't know how they are going to handle it yet. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve Empire Wrecking's Request for Payment #2 in the amount of \$64,584.72; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that the loan we have for \$500,000.00 for the Pedestrian Safety Project matures on March 1, 2017. He stated that we need to make a decision as to whether to bail out of it and pay the principal costs we have incurred so-far or refinance it. He stated that he doesn't know if we can get rid of it because it is tied to the grant we received for the project. Discussion ensued. Mr. Haws explained that this is not a bridge loan but a loan that was taken to cover the Borough's portion of the project since it is a matching grant. Mr. Hoffa stated that according to Mr. Ludgate's notes they are moving on the project and it is out for bid and hopefully will be starting construction on April 1st. Mr. Pachuilto stated that we should refinance the loan. He also requested that Mr. Hart send a letter to our State Representatives addressing the issue of PennDOT holding up the project and us having to spend all this money to keep refinancing the loan. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize the staff to contact Concord Financial to investigate all practical options to extend this loan and keep up with our requirements of the contract for the Pedestrian Safety Grant; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart mentioned that Mrs. Eagelman, Mrs. Bohn and himself tried to get all of their vacation time in this year but couldn't do it. He asked Council for permission to carry over the remaining time. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize the listed staff to carry over any unused time through the entirety of this year; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES –7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that Mr. Nelka in the Library should have had the same days off as the rest of the full-time staff but the Library was open so he worked. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize Mr. Nelka to carry over two vacation days over from Christmas and New Year's; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith stated that PennDot finally issued the HOP for the work that we are hoping to do on Penn Avenue. He stated that they had a pre-construction meeting with the contractor, Wexcon. He stated that work should be starting at the end of this month and the project should take about three weeks.

Mr. Smith mentioned the Corrective Action Plan for the Mt. Home Road Pump Station. He stated that DEP came back with some comments which ARRO has addressed and got back to them within two days.

CHARLES HAWS – BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Mr. Haws mentioned that we have a letter ready to go to Lower Heidelberg Township addressing their unpaid bills for Bulk Billing, Surcharges, and Testing Fees. He stated that the total amount due from Lower Heidelberg Township is approximately \$155,000.00. He suggested that DEP be copied on the letter.

MAYOR CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli mentioned that there was an issue with the Recycling pick up today and a bunch of streets were not picked up. Mrs. Egelman stated that she did get some calls and contacted the hauler concerning the issue. Mr. Pachuillo suggested checking the contract to see if there is anything in about penalties.

TRACY PETERSON – REC BOARD:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Library had a great year and that Passports are continuing to increase. She stated that they are going to add another day that they will be doing Passports. She mentioned that they received a \$5,000.00 grant again this year from the Janson Foundation.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that at the Recreation Committee Meeting this week they discussed having a Winter Movie Night here at the Borough Hall. She mentioned that the Library already has an umbrella license so we can watch any movie we want inside for free. She stated that the Library will be involved and will do crafts.

Mrs. Peterson also mentioned that the street lights on Reedy Road at Brookfield Manor are not working. Chief Schweyer stated that he will look into it.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine mentioned that the junk at the Leiby property on Penn Avenue keeps coming out further and further again. Mr. Butkus stated that he thought it had to stay in the garage. Mr. Pachulo stated that the Code Enforcement Officer will look into it.

GEORGE BUTKUS – SEWER COMMITTEE:

Mr. Butkus mentioned that the Sewer Committee will meet, hopefully, next week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. for a personnel matter and possible litigation.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:35 p.m. The following actions were taken.

Mayor Cirulli asked for a motion to hire Mr. Steven Williams as a Full-Time Police Officer. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to hire Mr. Steven Williams as a Full-Time Police Officer; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

Mayor Cirulli stated that they have two more Part-Time Police Officers that they would like to hire. The first is Mr. David Hogan and the second is Ms. Micaela Heckman. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to hire the two Part-Time Police Officers, Mr. Hogan and Ms. Heckman; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES –7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

Mayor Cirulli asked for a motion to approve having a Letter of Appointment for the Civil Service Commission that states that if a Full-Time Police Officer is hired they have to work at least a year. Mr. Huckleberry made the motion; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES –7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

Mayor Cirulli asked for a motion to approve another letter for Full-Time and Part-Time Police Officers. He stated that the letter will state that if the candidate says that they are going to take the job and then don't that they are responsible to pay back the Borough for fees incurred for the medical, psychological, background, drug testing and any special equipment purchased for them. Mr. Butkus made the motion; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES –7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Butkus stated that based on the discussion in Executive Session he makes a motion to authorize Chief Schweyer to purchase two new service weapons and accessories not to exceed \$2,700.00; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.


RECONVENE (Cont.):

Chief Schweyer mentioned the Part-Time Police Officers pay rate for 2017 and that they usually get what the Full-Time Police Officers get which is 3%. Mr. Butkus made the motion to authorize a 3% pay rate increase for the Part-Time Police Officers for 2017; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Butkus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary