

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 7:10 p.m., after the Reorganization meeting, at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuillo. Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuillo
Tracy Peterson
H. David Miller
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; Alex Morrison, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Bryce Zohner, Public Works Director; Police Chief James Oxenreider, and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

Mr. Pachuillo requested a moment of silence to honor our fallen heroes and to honor our Police, Fire and EMS personnel and our Armed Forces who protect us every day here and abroad.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The first item was from CELG concerning their Borough's Association Meeting on January 29th at 6:30 p.m. They requested that one member of Council attend the meeting.

The next item was a letter from Mrs. June Duncan of 16 Miller Drive dated December 16, 2019. Mrs. Duncan is requesting reimbursement for expenses she incurred due to the flooding on August 31, 2018. Mr. Hart stated that he will send her a letter informing her that the insurance company found the Borough not liable for the flooding that took place. Mr. Miller stated that she should have reported it to her own insurance company. Mr. Haws stated that it could be as simple as rejecting her claim.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for December 2019. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2019 Council Meeting. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to accept the Treasures Report as written. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Captain Nevin Klahr went over the report for December 2019. He mentioned that they took the water rescue class and have ice water rescue coming up and also an advanced line class for more water rescue coming up in spring.

Mrs. Gantner thanked him for bringing Santa on the Fire Truck for our Open House.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to discuss.

Mr. Hoffa asked if there was an update on the HOP. Mr. Hart stated that it was resubmitted again today. Discussion ensued concerning the HOP. Mr. Hart stated that he is concerned because of the tight time frame that we may lose some of our financing. Mr. Hoffa asked if we could send out the bid package now to save some time. Mr. Haws stated that they could but not award it. Mr. Miller asked about using Penn Bid. Mr. Hart stated that we could look at that. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to authorize Mr. Hart to get the bid package prepared and get it reviewed so we are ready to go once the HOP is approved; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his report for December 2019.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that they had a clarifier go down and that he needs to have that drive rebuilt. He stated that the cost is \$6,529.00 and he is looking for Council's approval to have that repaired. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve having the drive rebuilt; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried. He stated that the rebuilt drive will be used as a spare.

Mr. Zohner mentioned that Mr. Barry Schlouch, in the Public Works Department, got his CDL A which qualifies him for the operator 1 position at a rate of \$20.27 per hour for 2020 budget season. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to approve Mr. Schlouch's increase; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – ALEX MORRISON:

Mr. Alex Morrison thanked Council for reappointing ARRO. He mentioned that ARRO sent the close out documents and the final change order to Amerigreen to complete the project but they have not been returned yet.

Mr. Miller asked the status of the Pennvest funding. Mr. Morrison stated that the meeting is scheduled for January 29th and that they will vote/authorize it at that time.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that his year-end permit review is in everyone's packet. He stated that the income looks good for 2019 but the big project at the shopping center hasn't had inspections yet and they will hit in 2020.

Mayor Cirulli asked about Kline's property on Penn Avenue. Mr. Hart stated that Kraft reviewed the plans and sent them back because of issues. He stated that he is not sure where that is at this point. He mentioned that he has to meet our zoning requirements for the buildings and parking.

Mayor Cirulli asked about Senda Auto Sales parking cars in the Rita's lot. Mr. Hart stated that they obtained permission from the owner of the property and that they also applied for and were granted a temporary permit.

Mr. Hart mentioned that we were awarded another recycling grant for almost \$12,000.00 that we can apply to recycling containers. Mr. Pachulo mentioned the trash contract and that we will need to go out for bid this year and the possibility of including those larger containers. Mr. Hart mentioned that they are great in areas that have no on street parking and that there are issues on streets with parking.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that they have to schedule a meeting for January.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that he was at a Lidl store in Royersford on Sunday. He stated that it is a very nice store and that he believes it will do really well here.

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that the state is cutting back on a lot of the road projects in Berks County and the state. He stated that he is concerned about Phase four of our project. He stated that he wrote an e-mail to Mr. Alan Piper who confirmed that our project has not been cancelled so we are still on for Phase four.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner thanked everyone that was involved with the Holiday Open House. She stated that we had a really good turnout. She mentioned that she and Mrs. Peterson met with a gentleman about a grant for the playground.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. to discuss a land acquisition and a personnel issue.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:12 p.m. The following action was taken.

Mrs. Stine made a motion to hire Mrs. Diane Toontas as Full Time Police Clerk and to bring back Mrs. Bonita Zerbe back Part Time for four (4) weeks to train her; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

Mrs. Stine made a motion to accept Mrs. Denise Curtis's resignation from Full Time Police Clerk; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Peterson.
AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eageman
Borough Secretary