

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuillo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth White called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuillo
Edward Oswald (absent)
George Butkus
Christiana Stallone (absent)
Gary Cirulli
Denise Stine
Steven Suruskie (absent)

Other officials present were: Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; Justin Brewer, Ludgate Engineering; David Schlott Jr., ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Public Works Director; Police Chief Lee Schweyer, Regina Shade, Interim Borough Manager and Elizabeth White who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

Mr. Pachuillo requested a moment of silence to honor those who serve us on a daily basis at home and abroad in the Armed Forces, our first responders, and he also asked for everyone to continue to keep Mrs. Schmidt and her family in their thoughts and prayers.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Ed Swoyer of the Greater Berks Development Fund which is a private non-profit economic development organization addressed Council to discuss a program that is available through the Department of Community and Economic Development. He stated that the program is under a heading called the Keystone Communities Program and under that is a special category called Enterprise Zone. He stated that the Enterprise Zone program is an opportunity for municipalities to join together to try to assist businesses or property owners in redeveloping only industrial or manufacturing zoned land. He stated that there is no financial commitment by the municipality, no request to modify or change any zoning or land use requirements, only requirement is that the Borough pass a Resolution that would say that we would be willing to participate and that we designate the Greater Berks Development Fund as the administrative entity. Mr. Pachuillo stated that they would look over the information and bring it up at the next Borough Council meeting in November.

BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first order of business is to ratify the appointment of a Deputy Tax Collector. He stated that Mrs. Shade had sent out an e-mail from the County about having a deputy tax collector in case of emergency so the bills can be paid and the taxes collected. Mrs. Stine made the motion to ratify the decision to appoint Mrs. Shade as Deputy Tax Collector; seconded by Mr. Cirulli. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried.

BUSINESS: (Cont.)

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item under business was hiring the Sewer Plant Supervisor. He mentioned that the Borough is taking over the Sewer Plant as of January and Mr. Hart was given authorization to advertise for a Plant Supervisor. He stated that Mr. Hart and Mr. Schlott conducted interviews and their recommendation is to hire Bryce Zohner. Mr. Hart stated that Mr. Zohner is currently working as a waste water treatment plant superintendent and he believes he is a good fit for our position. He stated that Mr. Zohner has the required licenses that we asked for except for the commercial driver's license which he said he has no problem getting. Mr. George Butkus asked how many years' experience Mr. Zohner has in the waste water field. Mr. Hart stated that he has 4 ½ years' experience. Mr. Hart stated that the salary was going to be \$55,000.00 per year but he told Mr. Zohner that he was going to hold back \$1.00 per hour until he obtained his CDL and Mr. Zohner agreed to that. Mr. George Butkus made the motion to hire Mr. Bryce Zohner and to extend his probation period to six (6) months to give him time to get the CDL in place; second by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item under business was establishing the meeting dates for 2014. He stated that they needed to be advertised in the newspaper He asked for a motion to approve the dates as listed. Mrs. Stine made the motion; seconded by Mr. Cirulli. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried. Mrs. Shade stated that she did not list the Workshop meeting dates because they were on an as needed basis. Mr. Pachuillo stated that they could revisit it in January when the new members are on board.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item under business was to exonerate the Tax Collector for Per Capita. Mrs. Shade stated that these are for people that have moved out of the Borough or have passed away. Mr. George Butkus made the motion to exonerate the Tax Collector for the Per Capita bills; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried.

LUDGATE ENGINEERING – JUSTIN BREWER:

Mr. Brewer mentioned that they are having a meeting on November 7th with PennDOT to go over the realignment and revitalization of Penn Avenue. He mentioned that part of it is to see about getting Cacoosing Avenue, Columbia Avenue and 422 (Penn Avenue) put in with the Betterment Project that is set to go through in 2015. He stated that they are requesting to have STV attend the meeting also and he is looking for Borough Councils approval of that. Mr. Pachuillo stated that he believes that it is an important step towards the whole revitalization project. Mrs. Stine made a motion to allow STV to attend the meeting at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.00; seconded by Mr. Cirulli. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried. Mr. Robert Ludgate thanked Council and stated that it took him three (3) years to get PennDOT to come to the table and seriously discuss our plan and give us an indication of whether they find our plan acceptable or not in a general way and this meeting is really very important to the future of the Borough. He mentioned that PennDOT has a \$15,000,000.00 budget for the betterment of route 422 and one of the things that we hope to do is have them include the intersection of Columbia and 422 at the old Borough Hall.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – MICHAEL HART:

Mr. Hart stated that the Rental Inspector, Mr. Todd Miller, has started and they are working together to come up with a check list to go out and start the inspections. He mentioned that Mr. Miller has also started working on a mailing list for all of the rental units. He stated that he would like to extend an open invitation to the rental property owners to get a free inspection up until the end of the year. They would just need to call the office to set that up. He stated it would help the property owners if they do have violations. He also mentioned that they will be sending out a short newsletter shortly informing them what they will be looking for during the inspections.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he was approached by the fire drivers about difficulties they are having getting in to the Grecian Terrace driveway due to two cars that are always parked on Spring Crest Blvd. right at the driveway entrance. The fire drivers would like the Borough to remove parking on that side. Mr. George Butkus made a motion to start the process to change the ordinance and have the Chief and Mr. Hart check to see if there are any other areas that need changed; seconded by Mr. Cirulli. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried.

LIBRARY – DENISE STINE:

Mrs. Stine mentioned that she had Library meeting Monday night and that they would like to hire another full time librarian. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Shade mentioned that we do not have any full time employees and that they are considered full time/part time with some benefits but no health care. Mr. Cirulli asked what the reason is. Mrs. Stine stated that it is because they go through part timers so fast. Mr. George Butkus stated that they should come to Council with an actual presentation and we would need to look at what the additional add on costs are.

COUNCILMAN – GARY CIRULLI:

Mr. Cirulli mentioned that they set a meeting up with Mr. John Muir in regards to the Civil Service Commission to hire another full time officer in January.

POLICE CHIEF – LEE SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that the Borough signed the yearly agreement with the Animal Rescue League so they will handle all the animal complaints in the Borough. He mentioned that the drug disposal box, which is in the lobby of the police department, has been a huge success. He also mentioned that they should be getting the new radios from the County any day.

Chief Schweyer reported that two of our officers just completed the Advanced Road Side Impaired Drug Enforcement School which is for detecting drivers that are impaired by drugs only. He stated that it was a good class and that he was one of the officers that completed the class.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into an executive session at 7:55 pm for personnel issues.


RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:32 pm. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Butkus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. White
Borough Secretary