

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 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  
Tracy Peterson (Absent)  
H. David Miller  
Denise Stine  
Lisa Gantner  
Brian Hoffa  
Robert Metzgar  
Jack Malandra

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; OIC James Oxenreider, and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item on the Agenda is the Public Hearing for the inter-municipal transfer of a Liquor License. Mr. Haws explained that the number of liquor licenses that are eligible to be issued within the Borough is based on census data. He stated that all of the available licenses have been issued so an option is this inter-municipal transfer which is completely discretionary on Councils part as to whether they want or don't want more than what the allotment would be. He stated that if Council allows it then it is subject to review by the LCB. Mr. Haws introduced the applicants' attorney Ms. Latisha Bernard Schuenemann. Ms. Schuenemann stated that she is here on behalf of Go Fish Bowl, LLC, the proposed applicant. She stated that she has Heather Clark here who is the sole member of Go Fish Bowl, LLC. She stated that they are the applicant to ask for the approval to transfer Liquor License Number R-11873 from the City of Reading. She stated that the seller is the Estate of Marvis Jean Leaf, Deceased, and they are asking for it to be transferred to the Borough of Sinking Spring to be operational with the Go Fish Restaurant at 301 and 303 South Hull Street in Sinking Spring. She stated that she must get the Borough's approval for the transfer prior to applying for the Application to Transfer with the Liquor Control Board. Ms. Schuenemann explained to Council that her client would like to open a Restaurant and Market, Go Fish Bowl, at 301 and 303 South Hull Street in the Borough of Sinking Spring and that she is currently under an agreement of sale to purchase the property. She mentioned that the restaurant and market were previously located on Penn Avenue in West Reading and her client would like to move it here. She added that the transfer of the Liquor License would not be detrimental to the wealth, health, peace and morals of the Borough because it is zoned Industrial in that area so there is very little residential properties in that area. Mr. Haws mentioned that they did go through a Zoning Hearing for zoning relief. Ms. Heather Clark addressed Council and explained that she was granted Variance Relief for a Special Exception to permit a mixed use seafood retail store and restaurant and off-street parking on the properties located at 301 and 255 South Hull Street. She also mentioned that Mr. Grande has offered to allow her to use his parking across the street. Mr. Hoffa asked Ms. Clark why she wanted to relocate to the Borough. Ms. Clark stated

**PUBLIC HEARING (Cont.):**

that she has a lot of customer in this area and that she loves this building, the price fit her budget and she lives right down the street. She stated that her old restaurant was only 2400 square feet and this building is 9000 square feet. She mentioned that she sat there on a Tuesday afternoon and seventy-five cars went by in a half hour. She stated that she really loves this community and believes that her restaurant will be a good fit for the Borough. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the liquor license transfer; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. Mrs. Gantner stated that this is a great start to our developing more restaurants in the area. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

The Public Hearing ended at 7:14.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no visitors.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

There was no correspondence to report.

**REVITALIZATION:**

Mr. Hoffa stated that they did not have a meeting last week and that is was rescheduled for tomorrow. He stated that he should have more to report next week.

**BUDGETS:**

Mr. Hart stated that they will start with the 2019 Sewer Budget. He stated that there is not much change from last year except for the Broad Street Main work and we will be getting a loan to do that. He also mentioned that there may be changes at the plant when the permit is renewed. There were no other questions for the 2019 Sewer Budget. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve advertising the 2019 Sewer Budget; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart stated that the next one is the 2019 General Fund Budget. He stated that he still has some questions on this one that have not been answered. He briefly went over the Draft #1 of the General Fund Budget pointing out that some of the items he was hoping to use the Capital Fund for again this year and some he would like to pay out of the Liquid Fuels Fund again this year. He stated that the Capital Fund items would total \$53,200.00 and the Liquid Fuels items would total \$104,500.00. He stated that with those items out we would still be short about \$100,000.00. He mentioned that the Chief had put in for an additional Full Time Officer and currently the budget cannot support that. He stated that the salary alone they have figured at \$68,293.00 and you can add another \$30,000.00 for benefits so we would have to the taxes a half a mill just to cover the officer.

**BUDGETS:**

He stated that just to give us an idea of where we are at, if we do not increase taxes and we remove the capital items, the liquid fuels items and the additional officer we would still be short \$32,200.00. Discussion ensued concerning the extra police officer. Mr. Metzgar asked if they could put something together showing how we are impacted and the need for the additional officer. OIC Oxenreider stated that he will put something together. Mr. Hart noted that Draft #2 of the General Fund Budget shows an increase in taxes of .17 mills and if we remove the capital items, the liquid fuels items and the additional officer we would have a surplus of \$4,000.00.

The next discussion was concerning the Fire Fund Budget and the increase for 2019. Mr. Hart stated that he did meet with Mr. Renshaw but he still does not understand why our increase is so high compared to the other municipalities. Mr. Hart stated that he would like Mr. Renshaw attend out next meeting.

Mr. Pachulo concluded that we are going to get more information on the Police so we can make better decisions on the General Fund Budget and also we will get our questions answered on the Fire Fund Budget.

Mrs. Stine asked if there were any street projects in the budget. Mr. Hart stated that he had \$300,000.00 budgeted for N. Hull Street paving but had to take it out. She asked if you could use liquid fuels. Mr. Hart stated that we can but right now we are relying on that to cover other costs.

Mr. Pachulo stated that we will wait to advertise the Sewer Budget so we can advertise them all together.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Pachulo stated that he would like to move forward with adding Chief Schweyer's name to the Memorial and plan a service for that in the spring. Mayor Cirulli stated that he would get a price on adding his name.

**SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:**

Mr. Smith stated that the Bids were opened this afternoon for the Reed Bed Cleaning and the apparent low bidder was AmeriGreen at a price of \$80,488.80 for two year. He stated that ARRO recommends that the Borough give notice of intent to award for the cleaning of the reed beds. He also mentioned that AmeriGreen did the cleaning the last two times. Mrs. Stine made the motion to award the contract to AmeriGreen; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

**SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH (Cont.):**

Mr. Smith mentioned that the DRBC has finished their review of the Borough's application for the WWTP and they have a draft docket. He stated that there are no changes to that except that the DRBC is now lining up more with the NPDES Permit renewal cycle whereas we are now required to hand in the application six months prior to the docket running out instead of a year.

**MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:**

Mr. Hart stated that he had a few items. The first is the engagement letter from Mrs. Barbara Akins for this year's audit that needs Mr. Pachui's signature. Mr. Hart mentioned that he received an email from the County Conservation District stating that they are going to hold a tire event on November 2, 2018. He mentioned that you do need to make an appointment. He stated that the information will be posted on the Borough Website and Facebook page. He informed Council that he received the Lebron Agreement and that he has signed it and returned it for the other firms to sign and then it will be complete. He mentioned that he wanted to get Council's approval to pay off the loan for the Pedestrian Safety Project in the amount of \$63,000.00. He mentioned that he had it in this year budget to pay out of the Capital Fund. Mr. Metzgar made the motion authorizing Mr. Hart to Pay off the loan from the Capital Improvement Fund; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. Mr. Hoffa asked what the status of the Capital Improvement Fund was. Mr. Hart stated that he believes it is around \$400,000.00. Mrs. Egelman stated that she pulled up the last Treasurer's Report and that the Capital Fund's checking account balance was \$189,000.00 and the Capital Fund's Invest Account balance is \$300,000.00. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

**LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:**

Mrs. Gantner reminded everyone that Trick-or-Treat night will be Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 pm to 9 pm. Mr. Pachui asked if the Rec. Board would be interested in doing a Trunk-or-Treat night at the Playground next year. Discussion ensued and the Rec. Board will discuss at committee meeting for next year.

**MAYOR CIRULLI:**

Mayor Cirulli thanked OIC Oxenreider for the great job he did with Chief Schweyer's funeral and setting stuff up with Mr. Brown and the FOP.

**DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Stine mentioned that the Fire Company had an Open House on Saturday and that it was well attended.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Elizabeth A. Eagelman  
Borough Secretary