

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., 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 (Absent)
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar
Jack Malandra (Absent)

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder, Borough Solicitor; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Bryce Zohner, Public Works Director; 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 recognize our Police, Fire and EMS personnel that protect us here and our Armed Forces who protect us every day here and abroad.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 6, 2018 Council Meeting and the September 26, 2018 Workshop Meeting. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

The first visitor was Mr. James Skipper from Fleetwood. Mr. Skipper addressed Council concerning the storm water issues and the sewer back up issues. Mr. Miller explained that a sanitary sewer system is not water tight and that the Borough staff is continually looking at, evaluating and doing maintenance to the system and contracting out some of the needed repairs. Mr. Zohner added that they clean and televise the entire sewer system on a five year cycle. He stated that if they find issues they are recorded and they repaired and that there are no issues that are left on solved. He stated that the Borough is very diligent in comparison to most surrounding municipalities for the frequency in which we inspect our collection system. Mr. Skipper asked about the \$300,000.00 Grant that the Borough received. Mr. Zohner explained that the grant was applied for in the spring, and was applied for because of the additional flow that we will have because of the BOSS2020 Revitalization Project. He stated that it has nothing to do with the recent flooding issues.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.):

The next visitor was Mr. Justin Mancias from 15 Octagon Avenue. Mr. Mancias addressed Council concerning the sewer backups also. He mentioned that Tuesday night the Sinking Spring Fire Company's sewer backed up and it was not raining. Mayor Cirulli stated that the Fire Company has always had sewer backups and that it has nothing to do with the flooding. Mr. Mancias wanted to know what could be done to stop the sewer backups on Broad Street. Mr. Pachuillo stated that since this has happened it is on our radar and we are going to continue to look at what we can do to remediate that.

The next visitor was Deb Heckman from 233 Park Avenue. Ms. Heckman stated that she also had sewer water come up in the basement and that she is afraid to go to work because she doesn't know what she is going to come home to. She wanted to know if Park Avenue was on the Borough's radar. Mr. Zohner assured her that it is and mentioned that in the past five years Park Avenue has been televised and all the leaks were fixed.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for September 2018. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. 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. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that their report is included in the email packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that we have the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant Commitment Letter and Grant Agreement to accept. Mr. Miller made the motion to accept and sign the Commitment Letter and Grant Agreement; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**H. DAVID MILLER – SEWER & SANITATION:**

Mr. Miller had nothing further to report.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner stated that people have been asking about Trick-or-Treat night and she just wanted to confirm that it will be October 31st from 6 pm to 9 pm. Council and the Mayor agreed.

Mrs. Gantner handed out copies of an article concerning House Bill 2564 that could strip municipalities of their right to manage wireless facilities. Mr. Pachulo stated that he has contact information for both our State Representative and State Senator and will contact them tomorrow and express that Sinking Spring Borough Council is not in favor of House Bill 2564. Mr. Haws stated that he will circulate an Ordinance that was used by other Municipalities concerning this.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Hoffa stated that they had a meeting earlier this week with the Admin Committee and Sam Loth about the DCED Grant that he is currently working on. He stated that they are not making any commitments but want to keep working on funding. Mr. Pachulo stated that just because we apply for a grant doesn't mean that we have to accept it if awarded. Mr. Hoffa mentioned that the grant is for \$2.5 million (\$1.6 million for part one and \$900,000.00 for part two). He stated that Mr. Loth is looking for additional funding also.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that they had their meeting on the 24th of September and that it was very productive. He mentioned that their next meeting will be at 10 a.m. on October 15th.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Library will be having a Book Sale this weekend. She also mentioned that they are going to start having quarterly Staff Meetings.

MAYOR GARY CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli stated that he and the Chief sat down with the new part time officer, Chris Orzech, and that all of his background checks were good. He also mentioned that the Western Berks Fire Department hired two new full time paid drivers.


SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that Sludge Removal from the Reed Beds is out to bid on PENNBID and that the bids will be opened electronically at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 24th.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary