

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, November 3, 2016 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 (arrived at 7:24)
George Butkus (absent)
Denise Stine (absent)
Lisa Gantner
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa

Other officials present were: Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; Robert Ludgate Sr., Ludgate Engineering; 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 October 6, 2016 Council Meeting and the October 26, 2016 Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for October 2016. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Renshaw mentioned that October was their Fire Protection Month and they visited the elementary schools in the area and daycares. He also mentioned that they had their Open House on October 10th at station 18-1. He stated that they had the Home Fire Preparedness Campaign in parts of Sinking Spring Borough on October 8th and they installed 171 new smoke detectors. He mentioned that Mr. Pachuillo and Mrs. Gantner both volunteered.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mr. Anthony Tucci gave the October Activity report for Western Berks Ambulance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that they would first go over the revised General Fund Budget for 2017 and turned it over to Mr. Hart. Mr. Hart stated that he pulled all the Capital items out (as they discussed using the Capital Fund money to pay for them) and he also pulled out the Salt Shed which will be paid out of Liquid Fuels. He stated that even after removing all those items he had to increase the tax base by .67 mills in order to balance the budget. Mr. Hart mentioned that he attended the Comprehensive Plan meeting and they are looking to move forward. He stated that the cheapest way is to share the cost and let it go through the County. He stated that our portion would be between \$5,000.00 and \$8,000.00. and is not included in the budget. He stated that there is a lot of work that needs to be done and will take about a year and a half. Mr. Pachuillo asked if Council wanted to entertain a motion to approve advertising the General Fund Budget. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to advertise the General Fund Budget with the increase of .67 mills; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is the \$1,100,000.00 MTF Grant Commitment Letter. Mr. Haws stated that there is no deadline to accept it in the agreement or the cover letter. He stated that it does say to sign and return upon receipt. Mr. Pachuillo stated that we are in a holding pattern with unknowns with the PPL Power Line Project. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to continue to table signing the Commitment Letter until next meeting until we have a better understanding from Mr. Ludgate and Mr. Loth about what is going on and due to the unknowns with PPL; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Hart stated that they need to pass a Resolution for the Joint Comprehensive Plan to join forces again and stating that we are committed to it, that we agree to it and that we will help pay for it. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to authorize the Resolution to join the Joint Comprehensive Plan; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried. Mr. Hart explained that the Joint Comprehensive Plan is a Comprehensive Study of the boundaries, land use and density.

Mr. Huckleberry arrived at 7:24 after a prior work commitment.

MAYOR CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli mentioned that the Animal Rescue League is asking for a \$2,000.00 donation for 2017. He stated that last year the Borough donated \$500.00 and he believes that is sufficient. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to authorize donating \$500.00 to the Animal Rescue League; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried. Chief Schweyer stated that the Agreement needs to be signed by Mr. Hart.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith stated that ARRO spoke to DEP about the HOP for crossing Penn Avenue and Dep stated that they would respond by Friday.

Mr. Smith mentioned that the Small Grants Application was submitted on October 28, 2016.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that we received correspondence back from Lower Heidelberg Township. He stated that we sent them a letter about their waste that the Borough is receiving and the fact that it is a little on the hot side. He stated that according to their letter they are basically refusing to pay the fees for that. He stated that we are going to respond stating that according to our agreement they have to pay it and see where that goes. Mr. Hoffa asked if we had any other recourse if they still refuse to pay. Mr. Haws suggested putting a nice letter together to send to them and copy DEP.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner stated that they had to cancel the Halloween Party due to bad weather. She mentioned that some people did post pictures on our Facebook page so they chose the winners from them.

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they had Coffee With a Cop at McDonald's on Friday and that they have planned another one for Saturday, December 3rd from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the blessing of McDonald's.

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the Annual Holiday Open House will be Wednesday, December 7th at 7 p.m. She mentioned that the Library is also participating again this year.

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the News Letter is being put together but she is still waiting for something from Mr. Loth about BOSS2020.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. for a personnel matter.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:03 p.m. No action was taken.

ROBERT LUDGATE SR. – BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Pachuillo asked about the inspector selection. Mr. Ludgate stated that there are two issues. He stated that they we need to send a letter to McTish & Kunkel because there is a clause in their contract that if they got into the trouble that they have then they should have sent us a letter informing us of that problem. He stated that he would like Mr. Haws to send them a letter stating that they have failed to comply with the conditions of the contract. Mrs. Peterson made a motion authorizing Mr. Haws to send a letter to McTish & Kunkel stating that they have not complied with the conditions of their contract with the Borough; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried. Mr. Ludgate stated that PennDOT is requiring us to go through a brand-new selection process. He stated that in order to not have that selection process follow a timing he requests that the Borough Manager form a Selection Committee and that upon recommendation of the Selection Committee that the Borough Manager be allowed to select a substitute inspector. Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to have Mr. Hart create a Selection Committee to explore options for a new inspector and to make the hiring based on the Selection Committee recommendation; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that \$1,100,000.00 MTG Grant and stated that they hope to have more information available for the December meeting. He mentioned that he sent out two memos because they had extensive meeting at his office with Mr. Ken Pick and Mr. Sam Loth dealing with going forward and what issues are involved. He stated that they are proceeding hopefully but cautiously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

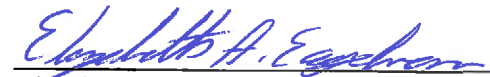
Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to accept the Treasures Report as written. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that they will not have the Workshop meeting on November 23rd due to the Thanksgiving Holiday and that the next meeting will be the regular Council meeting on Thursday, December 1st.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary