

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., 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
H. David Miller (Absent)
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar (arrived at 7:12)

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2021 Council Meeting and the October 27, 2021 Council Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Ralph Driebelbis Sr. of 34 Woodrow Avenue addressed Council concerning his neighbor and the junk yard starting there. Mr. Hart stated that we are aware of it and that Mr. Miller is working on it and has sent out violation notices. Mr. Driebelbis also mentioned that they are burning trash in an iron kettle with the flames shooting up three 3 feet. Chief Oxenreider advised him to call the police when that is occurring.

Mr. Metzgar arrived at 7:12 p.m. after a prior engagement.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that we received correspondence from the County concerning a vacancy that will exist as of January 1, 2022 on the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee. He stated that if anyone on Council is interested in serving on the Committee they should send a letter of interest to the Berks County Planning Commission no later than December 10, 2021.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachulo asked for a motion to approve the bills for October 2021. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pachulo asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report for October 2021. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Renshaw stated that everyone should have his October Activity Report. He mentioned that their Open House will be this Saturday from 11 – 2 at the Wernersville station. He also mentioned that their drone was used in Marion Township to help locate a missing person and that they found him in twenty-five minutes in a corn field using the thermal camera. He stated that it has been used a few other time since then and they have done demonstrations for the County Commissioners and Senator Argall's office. He also mentioned that the Reading Eagle and Berks Weekly both did articles on it today.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mr. Pachulo stated that their October Activity Report is in the email packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTIONABLE ITEMS:

Mr. Pachulo stated that the first item is the Wireless Update. Mr. Hart stated that there is no update for that but we really need to start looking at this before someone comes in and wants to install one. Mr. Haws stated that we have a draft but Council needs to go through it and see what they want and what they don't and that the state mandates what you can charge. Mr. Pachulo stated that it should be turned over to the Safety Committee and Mr. Hart to review. Mr. Hart stated that he will pass around what we do have and everyone can review it.

The next item was the Police Contract. Mrs. Stine stated that she has not heard back from the Police. Chief Oxenreider stated that he believes that Officer Skelton had reached out to Mr. Joe Brown. Mrs. Stine stated that she has not heard from either of them.

The next item was the 2022 Meeting Dates. He mentioned that we had talked about the meeting dates moving forward in 2022 at the last meeting and possibly moving the regular meetings to the second Wednesday of every month and keeping the Workshop meetings the fourth Wednesday as needed. Mrs. Peterson asked if we could keep it a Thursday because she has

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTIONABLE ITEMS (Cont.):

other commitments on Wednesdays. Mr. Pachuillo suggested the second Thursday then for regular Council meetings which seemed to work for everyone. He stated that we will wait and vote on it at the Workshop meeting.

The next item was the request from the Tax Collector to raise the fees that he charges for certifications, and create new fees for duplicate bills, payment verifications and nuisance requests. Mr. Pachuillo stated that Mr. Glantz came to Council back in February but it appears that it fell thru the cracks. Mr. Haws stated that there are two existing Resolutions that we can combine into one. He stated that the tax cert fee from a resolution in 2004 is currently \$20.00 and Mr. Glantz would like to raise that to \$30.00 and he would like to add a \$5.00 fee for duplicate bills and a \$10.00 fee for payment verifications from mortgage, title and settlement companies. Mrs. Eagelman mentioned that the one resolution includes fees that the Borough pays to the Tax Collector and the other resolution includes fees the tax collector charges the requesters and asked if they should stay separate. Mr. Haws agreed that they should. He stated that he will clean them up and bring them back to Council for approval.

The next item was the Alcon capacity request that we discussed last meeting. Mr. Smith stated that based on the computer model of the sewer system from 2006, there is adequate flow capacity to convey Alcon's request with approximately 54,000 gpd of capacity available after Alcon flows are included. He mentioned that the Borough staff is monitoring the flow at two locations down stream of Alcon, and ARRO will update the model once the Borough provides data to verify capacity as the current date used in the model is sixteen (16) year old. Mr. Hart mentioned that they will start monitoring the flow on Monday. Mr. Smith stated that ARRO recommends that the Borough also monitor the flows in manholes 113, 109 and 236 to update the model to check capacity for BOSS future development. Mr. Pachuillo stated that we will table this item until we get the data.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTIONABLE ITEMS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that there was no new business to be discussed.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they had a meeting today with the Reading Berks Commercial and Industrial Council and that they had about twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) realtors come in. He stated that they put on a presentation about where Sinking Spring has come from and how we have grown and what our project is over the four (4) phases. He stated that it went over really well and we will see where it goes from there.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Smith gave a status report on where they stand for the design for Phase Two Final. He stated that Earl Felty has completed the field work for the survey and is preparing base drawings for ARRO to do the design on, and verifying property lines and corners. He stated that they expect to have that sometime after Thanksgiving.

Mr. Smith mentioned that the Reed Bed cleaning and refurbishment was supposed to start this week but the contractor got called out to deal with an environmental cleanup. He stated that they are hoping to be back in Sinking Spring next week.

POLICE CHIEF JAMES OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his report for October 2021. Mr. Pachulo asked if the videos from Ring Doorbells was admissible in court. Chief Oxenreider stated that any ring footage they have they can use.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that they are going to have to start doing interviews for the Library Director position. She stated that she will send the information to Mr. Hart and Mrs. Eagelman so they can coordinate the interviews. She also mentioned that someone else gave their notice today and three people are out with COVID. She stated that they are looking at doing raises for the first of the year.

LISA GANTNER - RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner stated that the Holiday Open House is on December 8th this year with the Library and that so far we have Santa and his transportation confirmed. She mentioned that she is still looking for a piano player. She also mentioned that she is working on a place for the staff holiday luncheon and also needs to come in and work on a date for that.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine mentioned that she is getting a lot of complaints about Mr. Leiby's junk and that it keeps getting bigger. Mr. Hart stated that short of us taking a major legal action against him and condemning the property and going in and cleaning it up, we are doing everything that we legally can.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eagelman
Borough Secretary