

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuillo. Debra Bohn called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuillo
Tracy Peterson (Absent)
H. David Miller (Absent)
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder; Ed Overberger, ARRO Consulting; Bryce Zohner, Public Works Director; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Chief Oxenreider, and Debra Bohn, Treasurer, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

Mr. Pachuillo requested a moment of silence to honor our Police, Fire and EMS personnel 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 October 3, 2019 Council Meeting and the October 23, 2019 Workshop Meeting. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES –5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that Council received a thank you note from Mrs. Stine for the snack basket that they sent for the passing of her father.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is a letter from Lower Heidelberg Township concerning this year's Shredding Event that took place on June 22nd. The letter states that Tompkins Vist Bank sponsored the event and paid the entire bill of \$555.00 so there will be no charge to the participating municipalities.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for October 2019. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. 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. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Jared Renshaw went over their October activity report. He pointed out that they visited 5 schools during fire prevention week delivering fire safety messages to over 1,000 kids. He also mentioned that they had their annual open house on October 12th and had about 200 attendees. He stated that fifteen of their members are now certified to the Water Rescue Operations Level. Discussion ensued concerning revisiting the Fire Tax formula. Mr. Renshaw stated that they are looking at getting together with all the contributing municipalities in 2020 and figuring this out because it is based on the total taxable assessed value of the Borough as a whole.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mr. Anthony Tucci went over their October activity report. He mentioned that there is no fee increase again this year. He also mentioned that they were awarded one of three of the United Way Community Venture Grants for \$25,000.00 for wheel chair transportation. Mr. Hart mentioned that he would give Mr. Tucci a call to go over the agreement in a little more detail.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that we have an Animal Control Services Agreement from Safety Net Sanctuary to discuss. Mr. Hart mentioned that he had reached out to the ARL three times and that he has not gotten much of a response. He mentioned that last week the police picked up a dog and had it penned in the basement all day. He stated that during the process of trying to find someone to take the dog we came in contact with Safety Net Sanctuary which is located in Fleetwood. He stated that he spoke with the owner Mrs. Lisa Poper who e-mailed him an agreement. He stated that the agreement would start in January 2020 and the cost is \$1,000.00 per year with no extra costs. He did mention that they take dogs and cats but will not take feral cats and that we would have to

NEW BUSINESS (Cont.):

take the animals to them. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to accept the agreement with Safety Net Sanctuary; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES -5, NAYS - 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart mentioned that Mr. Loth sent him the Resolution for the Green Light Go Grant for the traffic signals. He stated that the grant request is for \$250,000.00 from PennDOT. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to accept the Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES -5, NAYS - 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

BUDGETS:

Mr. Hart stated that he would like to start with the Sewer Budget. He mentioned that Council had approved advertising the Sewer budget at the last meeting and that he noticed after the meeting that the amounts listed for sewer rents and penalties from Lower, South and Spring Townships were incorrect. He stated that the previous numbers were low and that what Council sees now are the good numbers. Mr. Haws stated that Council could just make a new motion to approve the updated budget. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve the updated sewer fund budget; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES -5, NAYS - 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart stated that the next one is the Emergency Services Fund Budget. He mentioned that the County dispatch fees have increased again and with the reduction of our assessed value in the Borough we have a shortfall. He stated that we were assessed at about \$213 million and that it has dropped to \$211 million with all of the reassessments. He mentioned that currently the Fire Tax is at .89 mil and will have to be increased to .90 mil and the Ambulance Tax is currently at .30 mil and will have to be increased to .31 mil. There were no questions on the Emergency Services Fund Budget. Mr. Pachulo asked for a motion to accept the Emergency Services Fund Budget for 2020. Mrs. Gantner made the motion to accept the Emergency Services Fund budget for 2020; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES -5, NAYS - 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart stated that the next one is the General Fund Budget. He stated that the same thing reflects in the General Fund Budget as far as the net income based off of the taxable assessment. He mentioned that most of the line items have been reduced over the prior year so we are doing everything possible to cut back but there are certain things that are outside of our control and with the cut in the assessment that really hurts the net income. He stated that the current tax rate is 7.13 mils and to balance out the budget we would have to go to 7.16 mils. He mentioned that there are no capital items in the budget for next year. Discussion ensued concerning the Capital Improvement Fund. Mr. Metzgar thanked Mr. Hart for all of his hard work on the budgets. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to accept the General Fund Budget for 2020; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES -5, NAYS - 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachulo asked for a motion to approve advertising the budgets for adoption at the December 5th Council Meeting. Mr. Hoffa made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES -5, NAYS - 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

VISITOR:

MaCherie Dunbar, Constituent Advocate for Representative Chrissy Houlahan, addressed Council. She stated that they do case work and community outreach. She mentioned that they do grant support letters and also assist with finding grants if we need any assistance.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his report for October.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner asked for Councils approval to move forward with Duke's Root Control to treat approximately 7,100 feet of sewer lines for roots. He mentioned that there is a three year guarantee. He stated that the quote is for \$1.59 per foot so the cost would be about \$11, 290.00. Mrs. Stine made a motion to authorize Mr. Zohner to move forward with Duke's Root Control; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES –5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Zohner mentioned that they have been working on an agreement between the Borough and Spring Township to do some collection system work on some parallel trunk lines. He stated that Spring Township is going to be presenting it to their Board on Tuesday.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – ED OVERBERGER:

Mr. Overberger mentioned that PADEP has issued the Water Quality Management Permit for the Broad Street Project. He stated that now it is just a matter of the PENNVEST loan. He mentioned that the PENNVEST application has been submitted. He stated that they are currently offering a thirty (30) year loan with a rate of 1.402% for the first five years and then increasing up to 2.008% for the remainder of the term.

Mr. Overberger mentioned that they are also working on the PA Small Water & Sewer Grant application for the Septage Receiving Station. He stated that he has a Resolution that needs to be passed authorizing the Borough to request the Sewer Grant from DCED. Mrs. Stine made a motion authorizing the Resolution; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES –5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried. He mentioned that it is really critical to have your state representative and local senator offer a letter of intent.

Mr. Zohner mentioned that the TV truck that was ordered over the summer is set to be delivered to the dealership next week and we should have it here the next week.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that he has an update on the HOP. He stated that Mr. Tom Ludgate was waiting for a response from Pennoni which he received this morning. He stated that it should be resubmitted by the end of next week.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Metzgar reported that they had a good budget prep meeting on the 28th and mentioned that their next meeting will be Monday November 18th.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Hoffa reported that his committee is looking at the rezoning and revitalization. He stated that they met on Monday and the committee members all started putting together ideas of what they would like to see in that downtown district. He asked the other Council members to start thinking about what they would like to see and to write it down and e-mail it to him.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the Newsletter is finally out. Mrs. Bohn mentioned that someone called yesterday and complimented on how nice the newsletter was. Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the Holiday Decorating Contest was also in the newsletter. She stated that they will do the judging on Sunday, December 15th. She also mentioned that the Open House is Wednesday, December 4th starting at 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Pachulo stated that they need to go into a brief executive session to discuss a possible land acquisition. Council went into Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.


RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:12 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary