

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuillo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth Eageman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuillo
T.J. Huckleberry (absent)
George Butkus
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner(absent)
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa (absent)

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 Eageman, 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 November 3, 2016 Council Meeting. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mr. Scott Dreibelbis of 3922 Penn Avenue addressed Council concerning a letter he received Friday from Mrs. London of Kozloff Stout. He stated that the letter was very upsetting and stated that he was not cooperating with the Borough. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ludgate stated that they must have been given wrong information. Mrs. Stine made a motion to have a letter sent from Kozloff Stout to the Dreibelbis's apologizing for the first letter; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried. Mr. Ken Pick stated that he would handle it.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Hart mentioned that we received a letter from the Historical Society thanking us for items from the old Borough Hall. He also mentioned that we received letters from the Borough of Wyomissing and Alcon supporting the Borough opposition to the PP& L High tension line.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

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

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Loth addressed Council. He mentioned that the BOSS 2020 committee has sent another letter to Mrs. Jessica Long of PP&L. He also mentioned that included in everyone's meeting information is a status report for the Façade Improvement Grant Program and a draft of a 5-Year Plan.

Mr. Loth also mentioned that he had a Resolution for Council to pass authorizing the filing of a proposal for funds with the DCED in the amount of \$50,000.00 for Round 2 of the Façade Improvement Reimbursement Grant Program. Mr. Butkus made a motion to pass the Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

Mr. Loth went over the 5-Year Plan.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the \$1,100,000.00 MTF Grant Commitment Letter. He stated that they are going to continue to table it.

The next item was the Resolutions approving the Budgets. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to approve the 2017 General Fund Budget; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve the 2017 Sewer Fund Budget; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the 2017 Fire/Ambulance Budget; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

The next item was the Ordinances establishing the Tax Rates for 2017. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Ordinance setting the 2017 Fire Tax Rate of .82 mills; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve the Ordinance setting the 2017 Ambulance Tax Rate of .31 mills; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to approve the Ordinance setting the 2017 General Fund Tax Rate of 6.86 mills with 0.5 mills going to the Capital Improvement Account; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 3, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Butkus), ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is a Resolution setting the meeting dates for 2017. Mrs. Stine made a motion for pass the Resolution; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

The next item was a Resolution waiving member contributions for the Police Pension Plan for 2017. Mr. Butkus made a motion to pass the Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:53 p.m. for a personnel matter and possible litigation.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:28 p.m. No action was taken.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that there were a lot of traffic issues today because of the construction on Penn Avenue and that they will be there again tomorrow. Discussion ensued concerning the flaggers.

ROBERG LUDGATE SR. – BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that he is dealing with the H & H Construction project on Columbia Avenue. He stated that they submitted a request for release of funds and asked that Ludgate support it. He stated that they did an inspection and cannot support their request because what they built does not match their plans.

Mr. Ludgate stated that he and Mr. Hart have discussed MS4 and they are both working on filling in some of the gaps in the plan.

Mr. Ludgate stated that he heard from PennDOT today and that we are one step closer to getting their change order needed for the intersection of Cacoosing Avenue and 422 that they would build the things with in the right-of-way.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that they are waiting for responses for the Inspector for the Pedestrian Safety Project. Mr. Haws stated that he sent a letter to McTish but has received no response.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that Council had approved \$22,000.00 to repair the Oxidation Ditch aerator drive unit. He stated that there is another bearing that needs to be replaced and will cost an additional \$2,400.00. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve an additional \$3,000.00 to repair the drive unit; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

Mr. Zohner asked for Council's approval to hire Kyle Chelius and Duane Feeg for the Operator positions at the Waste Water Treatment Plant withholding \$.50 from each until they get all the licensing that they need. Mrs. Stine made the motion to hire both; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith stated that ARRO has prepared a Corrective Action Plan for the Mt. Home Road Pump Station for DEP. He stated that the CAP includes installing improved data collectors and semiannual updates to DEP. He mentioned that the CAP also includes allowing two additional hookups if needed. He stated that he is looking for Council's approval to execute the CAP. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve executing the CAP; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

ELIZABETH EAGELMAN – BOROUGH SECRETARY:

Mrs. Eagelman mentioned that the Auditor's from the Auditor General's Office that were here auditing the Pension Plans had a finding on the Non-Uniformed Pension. She stated that due to incorrect data filed in 2015 on the AG385 Certification Form the Borough received an overpayment of State Aid for 2014 and have to pay back \$3,921.00 plus interest. Mr. Hart explained that there were three employees that were not eligible to be certified that were listed on the certification form and there were two employees that were eligible that were not listed so we have to reimburse them for one unit.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that we have to buy another allotment of service hours from LYNX for the computers. He stated that the cost is \$5,500.00 for 50 hours of service. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve purchasing another 50 hours at a price of \$5,500.00; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart stated that he has a Right-of-Way Agreement for PP&L to supply power for the Cell Tower. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to approve the Right-of-Way Agreement; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER (Cont.):

Mr. Hart stated that the next item is the Teamsters Contract. He stated that the Teamsters got back to him and that they approve what Council approved him to offer which was discussed in Executive Session. He stated that if Council approves this then he will e-mail the Teamsters Union and have them sent the signed copy so Council can sign it. Mr. Pachulo asked if we would need to come back before the end of the year to vote on this. Mr. Hart stated yes. He also mentioned that he was served notice from the Labor Relations Board that our non-uniformed employees have decided to decertify. He stated that we still have to go through all of the steps of approving the Contract as it stands. He stated that the non-uniformed union employees will sit down at a later date at a meeting and physically vote on what they are going to do.

JAMES PACHULO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pachulo stated that we will be having a Workshop Meeting on December 28th. He stated that we will vote on anything that we need to and approve the December bills. He stated that Engineers and legal counsel do not need to attend. Mr. Pachulo also mentioned that we do not need a Reorganization Meeting for January so it will just be the regular first Thursday.

MAYOR CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli mentioned that Officer William Skelton has asked permission to use sick time from March 1 to March 31, 2017 for the birth of his child. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve Officer Skelton using sick time; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

TRACY PETERSON – REC BOARD:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that we are having Coffee with a Cop this Saturday at McDonalds from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. She also mentioned that next Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. will be the annual Holiday Open House.

GEORGE BUTKUS – SEWER COMMITTEE:

Mr. Butkus asked Mr. Smith if they need a Sewer Committee Meeting. He stated that we are still in limbo with the HOP. Mr. Zohner stated that he doesn't have anything. Mr. Butkus stated that they will not have a meeting for December.

Mr. Butkus reminded everyone about filing paperwork in January or February for election of Municipal seats next year. Mr. Butkus stated that it looks like he will not be running this time.


TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pachulo 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 Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Butkus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary