

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, December 2, 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 (Absent)
Robert Metzgar

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 November 4, 2021 Council Meeting and the November 24, 2021 Council Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Peterson 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 he received two letters from Wilson High School students about concerns/issues they see in the Borough. He stated that it is a project for their history class and that he will email their teacher back and thank them for reaching out to the Borough.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for November 2021. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pachuilto asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report for November 2021. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Pachuilto stated that Mr. Renshaw was unable to make it tonight and that his November Activity Report is included in everyone's email packet.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mr. Pachuilto stated that their November Activity Report is in the email packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Pachuilto stated that the first item is the Wireless Update. Mr. Hart stated that there is nothing new on that and that they just need to get together to go over it. Mr. Pachuilto stated that we will table it until another time.

The next item was the Police Contract. Mr. Pachuilto stated that it was sent out to everyone today and asked if everyone had a chance to go over it. Mrs. Stine stated that the wage increases stayed the same as last contract at 3.5% and the only thing that increased was the longevity from \$90.00 to \$100.00 and they removed the cap off the longevity. Mrs. Stine recommended that Council approve the new Police Contract for 2022 thru 2024. Mr. Haws mentioned that there were a lot of asks that the answer was no to. He also mentioned that there was one thing that may be goofy for figuring out payroll. He stated that they did not add New Year's Eve as a holiday but have a provision that any officer working were the shift is on New Year's Eve that the entirety of the shift be paid at time and one half (1 ½). Discussion ensued concerning if it would fall on a Sunday. Mrs. Stine made a motion to accept the contract and have Mr. Pachuilto sign it; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

The next item was the Resolutions adopting the 2022 Budgets for the General Fund, Sewer Fund and the Emergency Services Fund. Mr. Pachuilto asked if we could do them all in one motion to which Mr. Haws stated that they could. Mr. Pachuilto asked if anyone needed to discuss any of the budgets at all. There were no questions or discussion. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to adopt the Resolutions for the 2022 Budgets for the General Fund, Sewer Fund and Emergency Services Fund; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

The next item was the Ordinances setting the tax rates for 2022 for the General Fund, Fire and Ambulance Tax. Mr. Haws stated that the Fire Tax rate will be 1.155 mills, the Ambulance Tax rate will be .35 mills and the General Fund Tax rate is 7.16 mills. Mr. Metzgar asked if they could cover again briefly what those changes were from prior. Mr. Hart stated that the General

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTIONABLE ITEMS (Cont.):

Fund Rate did not change and that it is the same as 2021. He stated that the Fire Tax increased because they increased our fees to them as did the Ambulance. He stated that Fire tax was .90 last year and the Ambulance was .31 last year. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to approve the Ordinances setting the tax rates for 2022; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried. Mr. Pachuillo asked about the Sewer rate increase. Mrs. Eageman stated that we will need to do a resolution for that also and that we can do that in January.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTIONABLE ITEMS:

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

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that their report to Council is in the email packet. Mr. Metzgar stated that he had a question about the grants received and if these are new. Mrs. Gantner stated that they are not.

POLICE CHIEF JAMES OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider thanked the Fire Department for using their Drone to search for a missing person. He also went over his report for November 2021. Mrs. Stine asked if the missing person was ever found. Chief Oxenreider stated that he has not.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Smith gave an update on the road projects. He stated that they have confirmed that UGI has submitted their HOP which is under review by PennDOT and that their monthly meeting with PennDOT is scheduled for December 14, 2021. He mentioned that Mr. Felty is preparing base drawings and verifying property lines and corners for the Phase Two Final.

Mr. Smith mentioned the Village Green Subdivision and Land Development Plan and that they received conditional approval of the floodplain map revisions along Broad Street. He stated that they are requiring a bunch of stuff to be submitted to FEMA upon completion of the construction which are basically ‘as built plans’ stating how it was designed is how it was built. He stated that he spoke with their engineer today and he is going to incorporate that into his contract with the developer to get that information to the Borough because the Borough should not have to bear that burden. He mentioned that they are also reviewing the revised cost estimate that he sent them back and that they had a meeting to discuss that along with the various easements and right-of-ways that they need to do with the solicitor. He stated that we are hoping that they will be in here for signed plans in January.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER (Cont.):

Mr. Smith mentioned that Empire has finally moved equipment back to the WWTP to clean out the reed beds and should begin on Monday. He also mentioned that Ms. Cherry gave him some preliminary data on the sanitary sewer capacity for Alcon and their engineer that works on flow models is looking that over.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that she and Mr. Hart did some interviews for the Library Director position and that they found a candidate that they really like. She stated that her name is Mrs. Wenonah Riegel and that she would like to make a motion to hire her contingent on everything coming back ok for the clearances; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

JAMES PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that this is his last meeting and he thanked everyone for everything that they do. He stated that when he first took this on the meetings were very turbulent but the Council that we have had over the last six (6) years has been fantastic and it is about this Council caring about our community more than anything else and keeping it fiscally sound. He stated that the work that the finance committee and Mr. Hart do is awesome and that the Recreation Department is far better than any that he knows of. He also mentioned that he wants to keep our Police Department intact and that one of the highlights was bringing the Sewer Department back in house. He thanked everyone who helped move the Borough along and wished everyone Happy Holidays. He mentioned that he promised to help out with the Recreation Board. Everyone thanked Mr. Pachuillo for his service.

MAYOR GARY CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli thanked Council for approving the Police Budget and approving the new vehicle that is desperately needed. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

LISA GANTNER - RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that we are doing the Holiday Decorating Contest and asked Council to drive around and vote for their favorites. She also mentioned that they are also taking Letters to Santa at the Borough Hall and the Library. She stated that the Holiday Open House will be on December 8th and the Staff Appreciation Lunch will be at the Railroad House on December 17th.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Pachulo adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary