

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., by Council President James Pachuiilo. After the pledge to the flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuiilo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2020 Council Meeting. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuiilo mentioned that he and the Mayor received letters from students at Wilson High School as part of their class project.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuiilo asked for a motion to approve the bills for November 2020. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pachuiilo asked for a motion to accept the Treasures Report for November 2020 as written. Mrs. Stine made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that their November 2020 report was included in everyone's packet.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that their October 2020 report was included in everyone's packet.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that Mr. Loth e-mailed a two page summary of the BOSS Committee's decision not to file a Letter of Protest against AmeriGas at Montello Refinery/Terminal and instead will invite all parties to a sit-down I&E meeting to forge cooperation amongst all.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the only item is the approval of the 2021 Budgets. He asked for a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Budget for 2021. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the Sewer Fund Budget for 2021; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the General Fund Budget for 2021. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to approve the General Fund Budget for 2021; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the Emergency Services Fund Budget for 2021. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the Emergency Services Fund Budget for 2021; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the Resolution setting the Trash/Recycling Rates for 2021. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to approve the Resolution setting the Trash/Recycling Rates for 2021; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is the Resolution maintaining the 2020 tax rates for 2021. He stated that the tax rate for the General Fund will remain at 7.16 mills; the tax rate for the Fire Fund will remain at .90 mills and the tax rate for the Ambulance Fund will remain at .31 mills. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve the Resolution maintaining the 2020 tax rates for 2021; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next two items are for the Village Greens Review Letter and the Village Greens Waiver Requests. Mr. Smith stated that the Planning Commission, at their meeting on November 24, 2020, recommended granting conditional plan approval based on complying with ARRO's review letter and finalizing the evaluation of the existing culver. He stated that the Planning Commission also recommended the granting of several waivers. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Pachuillo stated that Council will table both items until the Workshop Meeting. Council then decided to move the workshop meeting to Wednesday, December 16th and invite Mr. Robitzer to attend to go over the plan again in detail for Council before they make any motions.

POLICE CHIEF JAMES OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his report for November 2020.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner deferred to Mr. Smith.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Smith stated that PENNDOT issued the HOP for Phase 2 on Monday, November 30, 2020. He stated that ARRO is proceeding with writing the bid documents and he mentioned that a conference call is scheduled with Laura Montgomery of McCormick Taylor, to finalize the project advertisement.

Mr. Smith mentioned that Barrasso Excavation submitted Payment Application #3 in the amount of \$149,820.92 for the Broad Street Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project. He stated that ARRO recommends approval and payment to Barrasso. He mentioned that there remains \$380,385.25 in work and retainage left for this phase of the project. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the payment application; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried. Mr. Smith also mentioned that Barrasso submitted Change Order No. 2 requesting a time extension to complete the work. He stated that the contractor is encountering rock and poor soils that cause trench collapses slowing production. ARRO recommends approving the Change Order for a forty-five (45) day extension. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve Change Order No. 2 for a time extension; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that there is an issue on Broad Street with the trash pickup and that they are taking the recycling with the trash. He stated that when he confronted them about it they stated that because of the construction on the street they were told to collect them both at the same time so they would only have to be on the street one time. Mr. Zohner stated that there is no problem with the trash trucks and that the construction company will work with them.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that Mr. John Nelka resigned on November 7th. She stated that Christine Weida has been named interim Library Director and that her salary was increased to \$18.50 per hour. Mrs. Stine made a motion authorizing the salary increase; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried. Mrs. Peterson mentioned that they have created a hiring committee that includes herself, Mr. Hart, Stephanie Williams from the Library System and Lisa Domeshek from the Library Board to interview candidates for the Library Director position.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Metzgar stated that he did not have anything to report but mentioned that they met twice and need to schedule the next Admin Meeting.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they are doing Letters to Santa. She stated that mail boxes have been placed in the Borough Office and the Library for children to submit letters to Santa and the Recreation Board will see that Santa responds with a return letter. She also mentioned that they are going to do the Holiday Lights Decorating Contest again this year but they are asking residents to submit their nominations for each category via Facebook to call them into the Borough Office. We will be accepting nominations until December 21st at 4 p.m.

Mrs. Gantner also mentioned that they would like to do the staff luncheon at the Railroad House on December 18th and that she is checking with them to see if it is possible.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Smith mentioned that ARRO will be relocating their offices to Birdsboro.

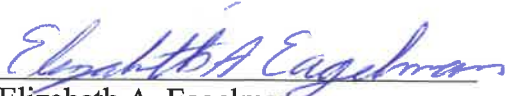
JAMES PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pachuiilo stated that they needed to discuss whether we should continue meeting in person or go back to having ZOOM meetings. No one in attendance had an issue with meeting in person for now.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary