

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuillo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth White called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli, Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; Robert Ludgate Sr., Ludgate Engineering; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Public Works Director; Police Chief Lee Schweyer, Regina Shade, Borough Manager and Elizabeth White who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

Mr. Pachuillo requested a moment of silence to honor those who serve us on a daily basis at home and abroad in the Armed Forces and our first responders.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2014 Council Meeting. Mr. Huckleberry made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that he had a letter from the Department of Transportation that was sent to Mr. Loth. He stated that it is a letter congratulating the Borough on receiving the \$783,000.00 Grant. He stated that the letter needs to be signed by a representative of the Borough within forty-five (45) days. He stated that even though things are up in the air right now, we can still accept the Grant and if we don't spend it then they would just take it back anyway. He stated that there is no reason not to accept it. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve signing the letter; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mrs. Shade mentioned that we also received a letter from the Department of Transportation stating that we were getting an additional \$6,900.00 for the Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Plan and that the Agreement needs to be signed. Mr. Hoffa made the motion; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for November 2014. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Weidner gave the report for November 2014. He mentioned that we did have a fire loss in the Borough of about \$4,000.00 at Williams Metal Finishing due to a small fire in the duct work that services one of their machines.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Ludgate gave the Revitalization report for November. He mentioned that Mr. Loth was trying to set up a meeting in Harrisburg with Pennsylvania Downtown Association and members of Council to learn about their programs and the market study but no one signed up. He stated that Mr. Loth is now trying to set up a conference call to be held Monday or Tuesday of this coming week and he urged Council to respond. Council members stated that they have not received anything. Mr. Ludgate stated that he would send out the information.

He mentioned that they were invited to attend the RAT's meeting and that he, Mr. Hoffa & Mr. Huckleberry attended. He stated that they asked that PennDOT continue to follow up with the Borough if we do our share in terms of getting highway work done that they do their share. He stated that they could not make a concrete commitment but the general tone was that they were receptive.

He also mentioned that he was at a meeting here this evening with a developer that has potential to bring the economic development project to phase II.

He stated that he gave some information to Mr. Hoffa about Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank (PIB) which seems to have potential for application to our financial needs and would give us borrowing at a much lower rate than has previously been quoted. He stated that it has good potential to help us but we are a long way away.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the Spring Market Outparcel Plan Approval. Mr. Hart stated that from what he gathers everything is ok legally. Mr. Haws mentioned that we sent them the two (2) Municipal Improvements Agreements but they have not executed them yet and they haven't posted the required security. He stated that his recommendation is that Council approve the plan and have formal execution of the plan but not release the plans until all agreements and security bonds are received. Mr. Butkus made the motion to approve that with those conditions; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Cont.):

The next item was the Holiday Open House which is Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. here at the Borough Hall.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachulo mentioned that the January Council meeting will be Monday, January 5th since the first Thursday is January 1st. Council also decided that there will not be a Workshop meeting in December.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that the VFW donated \$1,500.00 to the Police Department and he was able to buy two (2) Patriot III Flexible Ballistic Shields. He stated that they roll up into a gym bag and you can deploy them in seconds.

He mentioned an agreement with the ARL and asked Mr. Haws if the language in the agreement was ok. Mr. Haws stated that the language was fine but there was no value. Chief Schweyer stated that it would be the same as last year which was \$250.00. Mr. Butkus made a motion to continue to use the Animal Rescue League as the Borough's animal control for 2015 for a donation of \$250.00; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Chief Schweyer mentioned the current Verizon project and that they are getting conflicting information as to when the project will end but last information was that they will be done tomorrow at 5 p.m. Mrs. Shade mentioned that they have met numerous times about the situation.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that there is a Police Officer that speeds through their neighborhood and the one time he didn't even stop at the stop sign. Chief Schweyer stated that if she has dates and times he can discuss it with the officer.

MICHAEL HART – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Hart stated that the two new Public Works employees started and it is going well. He mentioned that they were rushed into service because of the snow. Mr. Hoffa mentioned that he attended the PennDOT meeting at Conrad Weiser High School and that he was approached by a resident of a neighboring municipality about how great the Borough's road crew is as far as snow removal.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that the contractor for the SCADA Project was there today trying to debug the system. He stated that he believes that everything has now been addressed and they will be coming in for an extension because they want to make sure they got all the bugs.

Mr. Smith mentioned that the Reed Bed Bids came in and were opened today at 1:30 p.m. He stated that the apparent low bidder is Amerigreen Inc. He stated that they need to provide some additional information on their experience so he is not recommending any action at this time. Mr. Butkus made a motion to table awarding the bid until the January 2015 meeting; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith also mentioned that the NPDES Permit is still pending.

REGINA SHADE – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mrs. Shade mentioned that the pre-audit will be done on Wednesday, December 17, 2014.

MAYOR GARY CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli mentioned that people are complaining because we are citing them for not moving their cars during the snow storm and that they didn't know. Mr. Butkus stated that all we can do is make it easily available. Mrs. Shade mentioned that it is in the Newsletter that should be going out shortly. She also mentioned that when properties are sold an information packet is sent to them but sometimes we are not notified about renters.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson stated that they would like to set up a meeting with Mrs. Shade and Mr. Nelka a couple times a year to go over the Library Budget so they are on the same page. She also mentioned that the Library is helping with the Holiday Open House this year and will be giving out books and doing crafts.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Hoffa thanked Mr. Ludgate for all that he has done in fighting for the Borough.

GEORGE BUTKUS – SEWER COMMITTEE:

Mr. Butkus mentioned that the sewer committee will not be meeting in December. He mentioned that they are coming up with notes for the Trash Contract for next year and they are looking into modifying the Trash Ordinance per Mr. Hart's recommendation.

TREASURER'S REPORT:**General Account**

Opening Balance – October 31, 2014		\$473,481.74
PLGIT		9,122.49
Invest	Recreation	29,237.05
	General	75,320.95
Capital Improvement Acct.		107,308.88
McDonald's Escrow		4,008.14
Susquehanna Bank Acct.		100.00
Deposits as of November 30, 2014		85,999.68
Checks Written		89,103.77
Payroll		95,030.22
PENNVEST auto debit		2,785.50
To be Paid		<u>21,400.70</u>
Balance as of December 4, 2014		\$576,258.74

Sewer Account

Opening Balance – October 31, 2014		\$817,738.93
PLGIT		61,457.24
Invest		322,957.53
Deposits as of November 30, 2014		169,128.91
Checks Written		85,437.25
PENNVEST auto debit		15,243.07
To be Paid		<u>10,666.70</u>
Balance as of December 4, 2014		\$1,262,935.59

Liquid Fuels Account

Opening Balance – October 31, 2014		\$311,925.14
Invest		<u>30,779.01</u>
Balance as of December 4, 2014		\$342,704.15

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. White,
Asst. Borough Secretary