

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuillo. Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder; Ed Overberger, ARRO Consulting; Bryce Zohner, Public Works Director; Chief Oxenreider, and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

Mr. Pachuillo requested a moment of silence to honor our fallen heroes and to honor our Police, Fire and EMS personnel and our Armed Forces who protect us every day here and abroad.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence to discuss.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2019 Council Meeting and the November 27, 2019 Workshop Meeting. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the minutes; 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:

Report in Council packet.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Report in Council packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first items are the Resolutions adopting the 2020 Budgets for the General Fund, Sewer Fund and the Emergency Services Fund. He stated that Council could make one motion adopting all three budgets. Mr. Miller made the motion to adopt the 2020 budgets; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

The next items were the Ordinances setting the 2020 tax rates.

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the Ordinance setting the 2020 Fire tax rate of .90 mill; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Ordinance setting the 2020 Ambulance tax rate at .31 mill; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the Ordinance setting the 2020 General Fund tax rate at 7.16 mills with .5 mill being placed in the capital improvement fund; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item to discuss is the Tax Collector. He mentioned that we received some new information. Mrs. Eagelman stated that she spoke to Kathy at Election Services and she confirmed that Mr. Glantz received five write in votes and that paper was sent to him. She mentioned that he has until December 26th to return the completed paperwork. Mr. Pachuillo stated that if he does not send it in we would be able to appoint someone at the Reorganization meeting. Mr. Hoffa mentioned that his wife Loryn Hoffa received three write in votes and has already filled out the paperwork. He stated that she is very interested in the position and is prepared to do the training. Mr. Haws stated that Council could make a motion appointing Mrs. Loryn Hoffa as tax collector effective January 1, 2020 in the event that Mr. Glantz doesn't send in the paperwork accepting the position. Mr. Miller made that motion; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuiilo stated that only item is the Sewer Agreement with the Township of Spring. Mr. Zohner explained that we had discussed this a couple months ago regarding the joint collection system project between the Borough and the Township. He stated that Mr. Haws drafted the Agreement and we were finally able to get it to a point where both parties agreed on it. He stated that he would like to have Council approve it and have it signed tonight so the Township can have it to approve and sign on Monday night. Mr. Haws stated that it is to coordinate on bidding but each party would let their own contract. Mr. Zohner stated that the agreement states that ARRO will handle the design of the project and putting together the bid specs and that we will share the cost of that and that we are both individually responsible for the contract with the contractor. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to accept and sign the Agreement; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his report for November.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – ED OVERBERGER:

Mr. Overberger mentioned that the contractor that cleaned out the reed beds is looking for final payment but we are waiting for a change order and a payment application. He mentioned that the total project cost was \$70,477.25, the Borough has already made a payment of \$35,727.67, and there is a deduct change order for \$10,011.55. He stated that the final payment would be \$34,749.58. He stated that they are asking for Council to make a motion approving that final payment contingent upon the engineer receiving the proper documentation from the contractor. Mr. Miller made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Overberger mentioned that the Broad Street Sanitary Sewer Improvement project and that we are still waiting on the approval from Pennvest. He stated that once that approval is received we can advertise to bid. He mentioned that the Pennvest Board will meet on January 29, 2020 to award loans.

Mr. Overberger mentioned that we did receive some letters of support from local legislators for the PA Small Water/Sewer Grant for the Septage Receiving Station. He stated that the deadline for filing is next week. He mentioned that he will send out a reminder to have Council re-reach out to the local legislators to have them push for us to get the grant.

JIM PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pachuiilo thanked everyone that was involved with the Open House. He stated that it was well attended and everyone had a great time. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday and New Year. He stated that he does not see the need for a Workshop meeting so he will see everyone at the Reorganization Meeting on January 6, 2020.

TRACY PETERSON – RECREATION:

Mrs. Peterson reminded everyone that tomorrow is the Holiday party for the Borough employees and Council. She stated that if you are going it is at 1 p.m. at the Railroad House. She also mentioned that the Open House last night had a great turn out and that there were a lot of new people attending.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that they are still planning on doing the Family Movie Night here but they are still not sure on the date or movie. She also mentioned that they met with someone yesterday about a small grant for the playground.

Mrs. Peterson also mentioned that they have an Admin Meeting on Monday.

H. DAVID MILLER – SEWER & SANITATION:

Mr. Miller suggested that Council authorize advertising to bid the Broad Street project once Pennvest funding is approved. Mr. Miller made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary