

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuillo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth Egelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuillo
T.J. Huckleberry
H. David Miller
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa
Jack Malandra

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; 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 Egelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

Mr. Pachuillo requested a moment of silence to honor our fallen heroes and to reflect on this past year and how our first responders, Police, Fire Fighters, EMS and our Armed Forces protect us every day here and abroad.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 2, 2017 Council Meeting and the November 22, 2017 Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Gantner made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for November 2017. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that Mr. Renshaw was unable to make the meeting and that the report was sent to everyone in their packets. He stated that he wanted to thank Mr. Renshaw and Western Berks Fire Department for bringing Santa to our Open House last night.

IEP:

Mr. Hart mentioned that Mr. Paul Jansen was supposed to be here this evening to go over the first draft of the General Budgets and where we are at so far with the IEP Study. He mentioned that he would like to meet with the Admin Committee and Mr. Jansen after the new year and start working on the study for the Five-Year Forecast. He mentioned that he would also like to incorporate the BOSS2020 Vision.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the 2018 Budgets. He stated that we need to pass the Resolutions approving the 2018 Budgets. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to approve the 2018 General Fund Budget; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the 2018 Fire/Ambulance Budget; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve the 2018 Sewer Fund Budget; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

The next item was the Ordinances establishing the Tax Rates for 2018. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to approve the Ordinance setting the 2018 General Fund Tax Rate of 6.96 mills with 0.5 mills going to the Capital Improvement Account; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Ordinance setting the 2018 Fire Tax Rate of .73 mills; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Ordinance setting the 2018 Ambulance Tax Rate of .30 mills; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item was the Western Berks Ambulance Agreement for 2018. He stated that the cost for 2018 will be \$55,530.70. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Agreement; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

The next item was a Resolution for 2018 member contributions for the Police Pension Plan. Mr. Haws mentioned that this year's is a little different because the Police have to contribute one half of one percent (.5%) of their salary per their contract. Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to approve the Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (Cont.):

The next item was a Resolution to Prohibit Category 4 Casinos in the Borough. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to approve the Resolution; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. Mr. Pachuillo asked if there were any questions on it. Discussion ensued. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

POLICE CHIEF LEE SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that he got a letter from the US Department of Justice regarding the COPS grant. He stated that 1,100 municipalities applied and they only funded 16% of that and we were not one of them. He stated that they went to municipalities that had high homicide rate.

Chief Schweyer mentioned that we have four out dated tasers and that there is a company out in Las Vegas called Accredited Security that would agree to purchase them for \$200.00 apiece. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to authorize selling the out dated tasers to Accredited Security for \$200.00 a piece; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

ROBERT LUDGATE SR. – BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Ludgate gave an update on the Revitalization Project. He stated that we are making progress on the next piece to go to construction.

Mr. Pachuillo asked if there was anything pressing with Revitalization that would require us to have a Workshop Meeting on December 27th or if it could wait until the new year. Mr. Ludgate stated that it could wait until the January meeting but asked for permission to contact the Committee if need be.

BRYCE Zohner – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that they have a spot to fill in the Road Crew. He stated that they have a few applications to go through. He also mentioned that Mr. Tom Chelius stated at the Sewer Plant on a part-time basis and that he will start full time next Monday. He stated that the Reed Beds are being cleaned again and that it is an ongoing project.

Mr. Zohner mentioned that they had a Scum Pump go down and he had to get it fixed right away. He stated that the cost for the repair was \$11,700.00. Mrs. Stine made a motion to ratify approving the repair cost of \$11,700.00 seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

Mrs. Stine made a motion to ratify the hiring of Mr. Tom Chelius at a rate of \$19.09 (withholding .50 until he gets his CDL); seconded Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that we still do not have a new NPDES Permit so we are operating under the extended one. He mentioned the Mt. Home Road Corrective Action Plan and that, over the last year of monitoring, no dual pump events have occurred. He stated that the report was sent off to DEP last week and we are waiting to hear back from them.

Mr. Smith mentioned the Solids Handling Study and that they are finalizing their report and waiting for some of the equipment suppliers to get their reports to us.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that Council will need to make some decisions on the next series of construction activity for Penn and Columbia. He stated that he would like to put it before the Admin Committee because there are a couple of different ways that we can go.

Mr. Hart mentioned that, while working with the budgets, it was discovered that we have an issue with the trash fees. He stated that a couple years ago we reduced the fees and we should not have. He explained that it is not just the fee from the trash hauler but also the yard waste fees from the Township of Spring and we are actually short. He stated that we are looking at numbers and should have a new Resolution ready for January.

JIM PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pachuiilo thanked Mr. Huckleberry for his service to the Borough over the last four years.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Library was involved with the Open House last night. She stated that next year we will have to look at the starting time for the Library because they started an hour before us.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner thanked Mrs. Egelman and Mrs. Bohn for all of the help with the Open House. Mrs. Egelman mentioned that Mr. Hart did most of the clean up this morning. Mrs. Gantner also thanked Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Smith for all of their assistance. She also mentioned that they will be having the holiday luncheon for the employees on December 15th at 1pm. She stated that everyone is invited.

Mrs. Gantner also mentioned that she wanted to thank Mr. Hart for all the hard work he did on the Budget and making it so easy for Council.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pachuillo 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 Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. for personnel issues.

RECONVENE:

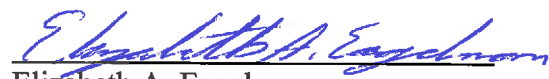
Council reconvened at 7:34 p.m.

No action was taken. Mr. Pachuillo wished everyone a Happy Holiday and stated that we will meet again on January 2nd at 7pm for the Reorganization and then do regular business afterward. There will not be a meeting on January 4th. He thanked everyone for their service over the last year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary