

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by Council President James Pachuillo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder; Tom Ludgate, Ludgate Engineering; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Police Chief Lee Schweyer, and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that we received a letter from Masano Bradley, solicitor for the South Heidelberg Township Municipal Authority, concerning the Strong Waste Surcharge bills that the Borough has been sending them. Mr. Haws stated that they drafted a letter and that it is the same thing that we just went through with Lower Heidelberg. Discussion ensued.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they met with Ms. Fadia Halma of DCED today and took her on a tour of the Borough and the Mt. Home Road area (Sunoco). He mentioned that we have a lot of money coming as a result of our Projects. He stated that we have \$50,000.00 for the Façade Program which is scheduled to run out by the end of June. He stated that we have used \$47,500.00 and need to spend the other \$2,500.00, which Mr. Loth is working on. He also mentioned that we have \$75,000.00 that was designated for the West End Sidewalk and \$150,000.00 that was designated for widening the sidewalks up by the Tomcat Café that has to be spent, audited and closed out by the end of June. He stated that they spoke with Ms. Halma and she stated that we can use it for the demolition that was done. Mrs. Peterson and Mr. Pachuillo both stated that they would like that in writing. Mr. Hoffa stated that we could get that in writing.

REVITALIZATION (Cont.):

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they also discussed the Municipal Assistance Program and that it would pay half of the cost of hiring someone to organize the financial end of the projects including costs, grants, matching loans, etc. He stated that Mr. Pick wants the TIF program included in that and that the County would pay 25% of the cost also.

Mr. Hoffa stated that Ms. Halma also talked about a program called Greenway Trails and Conservation Program. He stated that when we do the intersection there may be unused pockets of land that we can turn into green space. He stated that the Greenway Trails and Conservation Program can grant up to \$250,000.00 and the match is only 15%.

TOM LUDGATE – BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Ludgate mentioned the Pedestrian Safety Project. He stated that the base bid came in at \$392,000.00 and that there is a \$50,000.00 fee for an inspector. He stated that in the last week PennDOT contacted them and wants the Borough to put the sidewalk in at the Sunoco. He stated that Mr. Ludgate Sr. told them that the Borough may do that but the Borough doesn't want to pay for an inspector separately when there is a Betterment inspector already there. He stated that it is just a verbal agreement that has to be shored up that PennDOT will take care of the inspection, but still bill the Borough, and \$27,000.00 for an Inspectors Office would come off the \$392,000.00. Mrs. Peterson asked if this is all going to be done by the end of June. Mr. Ludgate stated that we will probably have to go back to DCED and ask for an extension.

Mr. Ludgate stated that he was contacted by Penn DOT on the Columbia Avenue intersection. They stated that the Betterment Project is going to pick up the Columbia Avenue intersection work in the right-of-way and that they are going to have a meeting to decide what is actually going in the right-of-way.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that Officer Skelton's daughter came early so he is on Family Medical Leave a week earlier than expected and will take personal or vacation time for the extra week.

Chief Schweyer mentioned an incident from Monday and that they do have the person that placed the suspicious package on the bench and that they are still getting statements.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that he visited the plant today and toured the facilities which appear to be in good shape. He stated that it is part of the Chapter 94 Report which is due at the end of March. He mentioned that Mr. Zohner supplied all of the data that they needed to complete it and that the contributing Municipalities have forwarded all of their information.

Mr. Smith mentioned that Wexcon should be starting in the next two weeks.

CHARLES HAWS – BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Mr. Haws mentioned that the Tax Collector wanted Council to pass a Resolution at the last meeting so he could charge mortgage companies fees if they don't submit a sufficient breakdown of what accounts are covered under the checks that they are submitting for tax payments. Discussion ensued. Mr. Pachuillo suggested that Mr. Haws draft a letter to go to the companies that are not sending sufficient information informing them of what information is needed. He asked Mr. Haws to have a draft for the next meeting.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that the building modifications they were doing are complete, a new door was installed and every window in the building is covered with the protective covering. He also mentioned that every window at the Sewer Plant is also covered. Mr. Pachuillo asked about putting security cameras in and asked Mr. Hart to get prices. Mr. Huckleberry stated that there may be grants available.

Mr. Hart stated that he would like to start working on getting an Ordinance together for the mini cell towers that Mr. Haws touched on at the last meeting. He stated that they are putting them in the planting strips/right-of-way's. He stated that the Borough's Zoning Ordinance addresses the typical cell tower or co-locating on a building but this is a newer technology. Mr. Hart mentioned that it wouldn't actually be an Ordinance but an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance and will have to be approved by the Planning Commission and then come back to Council for approval.

Mr. Hart stated that he has been shopping for an Electric Supplier and used two brokers this time to come up with the best price. He stated that he would like to stick with the same broker we had through APPI. He stated that they came back with a new contract for four years at a fixed rate of .054 which is less than what we are paying now. He stated that the new contract would go into effect on December 31, 2017 and the supplier would be Source Power. Mrs. Stine made a motion to authorize Mr. Hart to sign the Agreement; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

JAMES PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pachuiilo asked where we are at with the Newsletter. Mrs. Gantner stated that it is at the printer and they are just finishing up organizing it and proof reading it. She stated that a lot had to be changed.

MAYOR GARY CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli mentioned that there was a lot of confusion with the last snow storm and a lot of people were complaining because they received warnings about the new Snow Ordinance. He stated that they moved their cars back after the one side was cleaned but they got notices because the Ordinance states 24 hours. He would like the Ordinance rewritten so it is easier for the residents to understand. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hart stated that it will be hard to come up with something that is crystal clear because every storm is different.

T J HUCKLEBERRY – ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Huckleberry mentioned that the Admin Committee met with Mr. Hart and went over the Handbook at Council's request. He stated that Mr. Hart is going to clean up some stuff and should have something in a meeting or two to present.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Library finally got their shelves and that they also received another grant. She asked if anyone knew what was going on with the new Spring Township Library. Mr. Pachuiilo and Chief Schweyer both stated that it fell through. Mrs. Peterson also mentioned that the Passports are going well. She stated that they would like to take the Passport photos at the Library also so they are looking into that. She also mentioned that they are looking into offering Notary services too.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:57 p.m. for personnel matters.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:32 p.m. The following action was taken.

Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to terminate Mr. Duane Feeg as of Monday, February 27, 2017 prior to the end of his 90-day probation period; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

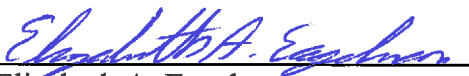
RECONVENE (Cont.):

Mrs. Stine made a motion to advertise for a Sewer Plant Operator; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mrs. Egelman asked when they wanted it advertised. Mr. Hart recommended to advertise on the next two Wednesdays and Sundays starting March 1st.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary