

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 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
TJ Huckleberry
George Butkus
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli, Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; Tom Ludgate, 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.

BUSINESS - REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that we had a presentation from Revitalization and turned the meeting over to Mr. Loth. Mr. Loth thanked Council for giving them more time tonight. He stated that after last month's meeting it became clear that they need a more accurate picture of what kind of costs are involved for the project and what the funding gaps are. He stated that they put this packet together to do that. He stated that when they were going through the Borough Project Budget for Phase Two, after last month's meeting, Mrs. Hollenbach started questioning Mr. Ludgate about whether or not there was any way to lower the cost of the project. He stated that Mr. Ludgate came up with a great idea to slim down the curve and remove the spur, the part that leads you to a new Retail Street. He stated that the first page of the packet shows the Original Project #1 and the Alternative Project #2 and there is substantial savings with Project #2, approximately \$1.3 million, because there are less properties being taken. He mentioned that the additional \$700,000.00 listed under construction is additional money needed to move the traffic signals if the Borough elects not to move forward at this time. Discussion ensued concerning funding and grants. Mr. Loth stated that the funding gap for project #2 is \$1.2 million if we go forward and \$1.9 million if we wait and have to pay for the intersection ourselves. Mr. Tom Ludgate mentioned that in the eyes of the County for the \$675,000.00 and in some degree in the eyes of PennDOT for the \$783,805.00, they are going to expect the Borough to secure the entire full financing of \$1.9 million not taking into account the \$700,000.00 savings from PennDOT. Discussion ensued concerning the vacant lots that will be created by moving the intersection and who will own them. Mayor Cirulli asked about the breakdown for the millage increase due to the project. Mrs. Shade stated that for a \$2,000,000.00 loan we would need a millage increase of 1.287 if we go with a 10 year term (\$275,220.00 annual payment), .7458 for a 20 year term (\$159,060.00 annual payment) and .59 for a 30 year term (\$127,248.00 annual payment). Mr. Butkus asked what the Borough's bowring power is. Mrs. Shade stated that it is between \$7 and \$8 million. Mr. Huckleberry thanked Mr. Loth and the BOSS 2020 Committee for the outstanding work and for getting everyone on the same page.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into executive session at 7:41 p.m. to discuss other items in more detail.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:08 p.m.

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to have the Borough Manager secure \$2,000,000.00 in financing for the project; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 5, NAYS – 2 (Mr. Butkus and Mrs. Stine). Motion carried.

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to enter into an agreement with the Berks County Redevelopment Authority; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to begin negotiations with PDC (Pennsylvania Downtown Center) for the purpose of securing a Market Study for the Downtown Redevelopment; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Library would like to purchase six (6) desktop computers in the amount of \$3,174.00. She mentioned that the Library did receive a \$5,000.00 grant. She made a motion to purchase the six (6) computers; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried. She also mentioned that they have another candidate for the Library Board but she can't remember her name. Mr. Butkus stated that we can table it until next meeting.

Mr. Butkus mentioned that the Sewer committee will meet next Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that eight (8) of last year's Playground Leaders will be coming back this year. She also mentioned that the Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 28th (same as the egg hunt). She has tickets to sell and the cost is \$7.00 in advance or \$8.00 at the door and children up to age 11 are \$3.00.

Mr. Huckleberry stated that the Finance Committee had a productive meeting with Mr. Tom Ludgate concerning engineering, prior to the Workshop Meeting.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith stated that he had Contracts to sign for Amerigreen for the Reed Bed Cleaning Project. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize the execution of the Contracts; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. White
Asst. Borough Secretary