

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuiilo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

- James Pachuiilo
- T.J. Huckleberry (arrived at 7:20)
- 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, and Elizabeth Eagelman who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuiilo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2016 Reorganization Meeting, January 4, 2016 Council Meeting and the January 27, 2016 Workshop Meeting. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuiilo mentioned that he received a copy of the minutes from the Civil Service Commission who met on February 1, 2016.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuiilo asked for a motion to approve the bills for January 2016. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that Mr. Renshaw was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a fire call and that his report is in everyone's binders. He also mentioned that Mr. Renshaw would like to be put on the Agenda for the February Workshop Meeting so that he can do a presentation with his outlook for the Wbfd in the future. Mrs. Stine mentioned that she had pictures of the new Ladder Truck that she will pass around. Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that the truck will be coming at the end of the month and that there is a possible buyer for the old Ladder Truck.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the only unfinished business is the Resolution for the new trash rates. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve the Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Haws mentioned that Mr. Hart gave him figures to put in a Resolution for the fee schedule for the Rental Inspections and that he will have it ready for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the only item under New Business is the 2016 Trout Rodeo Donation. Mrs. Egelman mentioned that she checked the past records and that the Borough always donates \$500.00. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to approve donating \$500.00 to Spring Township for the 2016 Trout Rodeo; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that there is a heavy plastic chair that they used to use in the squad room for prisoners that was taken down to the basement years ago. He stated that the Chief of Caernarvon Township said that he could use it for his department. He asked for Council's approval to donate the chair to the Caernarvon Township Police Department. Mrs. Stine made the motion to donate the chair to Caernarvon Township; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Chief Schweyer mentioned that, during the blizzard, he and the Mayor decided to have a minimal staffing level of two (2) officers so there was some overtime during the storm. He also mentioned that they wrote about 45 Parking Tickets for the Snow Ordinance.

TOM LUDGATE – BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Ludgate mentioned the Betterment Project and that PennDOT is going to officially put it out for LET or approve it on February 26, 2016. He mentioned that the water company still hasn't gotten their plans in for the Borough part of things and they are working on the UGI stuff for the other end so he isn't sure where they are going to start.

Mr. Pachuillo asked about the Pedestrian Safety Project and where we are with that because of the Draw Down Loan that matures again in March 2017. He mentioned that we already redid it once and the costs are high to redo the loan. Mr. Ludgate stated that they started thinking about different ways that they can handle it. He stated that the PennDOT bidding was way too high so they are looking at reducing the project and they are also trying to see if we can hire our own contractor instead of going through PennDOT. Mr. Butkus stated that he thought that the Grant had a close date on it and that he doesn't want the Borough to lose it. Mr. Ludgate stated that they have authorized an extension of that grant and it didn't require any paperwork. He also mentioned that the betterment people stated that if the Borough doesn't do the bump outs then they will do the ADA ramps. He also mentioned that they are willing to put in the left turn lane as part of the Betterment Project. Mr. Butkus also asked if Council could get something in writing that the Grant was extended. Mr. Ludgate stated that they have e-mails to back it up.

MICHAEL HART – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Hart stated that he placed the order for the Surface Pros and it is moving forward. He stated that they will have to come up with e-mail address for everyone and there will have to be training.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he received an e-mail from the Berks County Emergency Management Agency concerning the recent snow storm and that it may qualify for some reimbursement funding. He stated that he has been working on the paperwork and that it is just about ready to go out and must be submitted by February 10th. He stated that we could recoup about \$10,000.00 if the State goes through with the program.

Mr. Hart stated that there are two items out at the Sewer Plant that are in the Budget. The one is to replace the Influent Sampler for \$6,000.00 and the other is two of the VFD's for two of the motors for \$7,000.00. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to authorize purchasing the Influent Sampler and the two VFD's; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that we have to remind people that even with the large snow storms they still need to shovel a path at the corners so people can get across the street. Discussion ensued concerning sidewalks not being shoveled on Penn Avenue and people having to walk in the street. Mr. Hart stated that if Code Enforcement does it we have to give them a warning notice which gives them so many days to get it done and by that time it usually melts. He stated that the Police could site them on the spot. Mr. Pachuillo suggested that the Safety Committee take a look at the Ordinance and see if we can do anything else.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith stated that the Reed Bed Cleaning project is ready for final payment in the amount of \$65,249.70. Mr. Butkus made a motion to make the final payment; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried. Mr. Smith also mentioned that the Close Out Documents have been signed and returned and that the project is complete.

Mr. Smith stated that they are proceeding with the Penn Avenue Interceptor Crossing. He stated that they got some direction from the Sewer Committee this week and implementing on the plans.

MAYOR GARY CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli thanked Mr. Hart and the Streets Department for doing a great job with the snow removal.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that he has been speaking with Mr. Loth about doing something in the way of a Community Organizer/Developer. He stated that he wants to put some ideas together and come up with some type of Job Description. He also mentioned that it would be in addition to the rolls we currently have and would probably be part-time position. He stated that it would be a lot of public relations. Mrs. Peterson asked if we could do an internship for that. Mr. Hoffa stated yes.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the Egg Hunt and Breakfast will be March 19th and they are working out all the details. She also mentioned that she started contacting the Leaders from last year and she doesn't think that we are going to get any of them back so we will probably have to advertise for Leaders. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize Mrs. Gantner and the Recreation Committee to proceed with the advertising and the interview process; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried. Mrs. Gantner stated that they are looking into coming up with guidelines to have some Junior Playground Leaders that could help run games and crafts for the little kids. She mentioned that the Playground Season will be June 13th through August 5th. She also mentioned that they picked some Movie Nights; June 17th and July 15th, and that they would like to have a Movie Night on August 4th but it would be a Council Meeting night.

Mrs. Gantner stated that she received an e-mail today asking if we have an Eagle Scout Project for the Playground that he could do. She stated that they will talk about it.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine mentioned that they need to work on the Chief's Contract and they will have a meeting on that.

GEORGE BUTKUS – SEWER AND SANITATION:

Mr. Butkus stated that things are moving along very well at the plant and that they are looking at sending out letters to the neighboring municipalities to see if they are going to need additional capacity. He stated that we need to nail down whether or not we need to do an upgrade because with the density we are looking at for the Downtown it is going to be cutting it close and if any of the neighbors need capacity we have no reserve to sell them. He also stated that they are hoping to come up with a long term plan to replace the garage.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pachulo asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report. Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Pachulo stated that they needed to go into Executive Session for a personnel issue. Council went into Executive Session at 7:36 p.m.

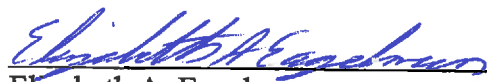
RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:24 p.m. No Action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Butkus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eageman
Asst. Borough Secretary