

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, February 5, 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
T.J. 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.

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

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that Council had an executive session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel issues and possible litigation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2015 Council Meeting and the January 28, 2015 Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Brian Seidel of 157 Elwyn Avenue, Mrs. Donna Venning of 124 Woodrow Avenue and Mr. Avery Leshar of 58 Ralph Avenue addressed Council concerning parking tickets they received for not moving their cars during a snow event. Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that Council already discussed looking at the Ordinances and cleaning them up in the Spring. Mr. Seidel also mentioned that it should give you the appeal process on the ticket.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mrs. Shade mentioned that Ms. White received a letter from Mr. Randy Hope of Compass Pennsylvania, LP concerning the Outparcel at Spring Market. He states in the letter that the Walgreen's has chosen not to open a store in this location and he would like the escrow deposits in the amount of \$7,000.00 and \$8,975.00 returned. Mrs. Shade mentioned that there is still an outstanding bill in the amount of \$170.00 for sewer. Mr. Haws suggested not withholding that from the escrow but asking them to pay that before we return the escrow money, but if we don't hear back then just take it out of escrow. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve returning the escrow money and getting the \$170.00 straightened out prior to releasing the check; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried. Mr. Haws also suggested that, to acknowledge receipt of the withdrawal, Council should move to withdrawal approval of the plans. Mr. Butkus made a motion to withdrawal approval of the plans for the Walgreen's Pharmacy; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for January 2015. Mrs. Stine made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Weidner gave the report for January 2015. He also mentioned that he had a copy of the yearend report for the Borough's records.

Mr. Cirulli stated that he read Mr. Weidner's e-mail and wished him well in his next job and thanked him for doing such a great job here with Western Berks Fire Department. Mr. Weidner thanked him and stated that he will stay on board as a volunteer and continue to serve in the Fire Marshall position and doing Emergency Management stuff.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that they were on the agenda for the intersection project but Mr. Loth called and asked to be taken off the agenda because they were gathering some other information to present at the Workshop meeting.

Mrs. Shade mentioned that next Thursday Senator Argall's office is having a joint Revitalization meeting with us, Tamaqua and Hamburg at 5:30 p.m. at the 3 C's Restaurant in Port Clinton.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the only item is the Classifications for the Street Crew. Mr. Hart explained that in the past the Union Contract called for three different classifications of employees but they had no definition to those classes. He stated that he sat down and created three different classes for the employees that Council will be agreeing to tonight. He stated that there is a defining line for every level now and he would like to adjust the pay scale for the middle class. Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to approve the 1st Class, 2nd Class and 3rd Class and adjust the 2nd Class to \$16.54 per hour which is an eighty cent raise; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. Mr. Hoffa asked Mr. Hart how many employees he would anticipate getting up to that level in the next year or two. Mr. Hart stated that all three should hit that level this year. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the Ordinance for the Deputy Tax Collector. Mr. Haws stated that he put together a draft resolution. He stated that he received a request from the Tax Collector, Mrs. Charmaine Beck, to approve Mrs. Donna Venning as a Deputy Tax Collector to provide the Tax Collector function if Mrs. Beck is unable to. Mrs. Shade mentioned that she believes it is mandated by the State now. She also mentioned that Mrs. Venning would have to be bonded. Discussion ensued. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve the Resolution and appoint Mrs. Donna Venning as Deputy Tax Collector for this year; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the second item is the Terrace Release. Mr. Tom Ludgate stated that Ludgate recommends the release of \$11,510.63 from their escrow. Mrs. Stine made to motion to approve the escrow release; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

MICHAEL HART – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Hart stated that he received an e-mail stating that the Recycling Grant that he applied for, for equipment and reimbursement for some things, was granted. He stated that we will be getting \$125,073.00 to cover the purchase of a brand new Leaf Loader, a little over \$60,000.00 reimbursement for the last big truck that we purchased, \$4,000.00 for recycling containers, \$14,000.00 reimbursement for the last little truck that we purchased, some curb side containers, money towards a new Recycling Ordinance because now we will be made to do it mandatory, and public education. Mrs. Shade mentioned that we are going to have to get a little tougher with the businesses because they don't all send us their information.

MICHAEL HART – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR (Cont.):

Mr. Pachulo asked if Mr. Hart had heard anything about the Cell Tower. Mr. Hart stated that he received a phone call about three weeks ago because they wanted to come out and do site assessment. Mr. Ludgate stated that it takes a while once they propose a tower; they have to get FCC Clearance and could go on for months.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Library was given a \$5,000.00 gift from the Henry Jansen Foundation.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that she has started working on the Memorial Day Parade letters. She also mentioned that the Easter Egg Hunt will be March 28th and she is hoping that we will be able to have the breakfast that day too.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine mentioned that Chief Kulp was let go. Mr. Pachulo stated that the trustees had an executive meeting last night with Mr. Weidner and the officers. He stated that they will be advertising for the Commissioner first to get them in place and then decide if they will have both positions or a volunteer position. Chief Schweyer asked who is in charge of the Fire Department right now. Mr. Weidner stated that he is for now and he doesn't know when his new start date is going to be. He mentioned that after that any issues can be addressed to Mr. Mike Palm who is the President of the Fire Department. Mr. Pachulo mentioned that Mr. Bob Zerman will be acting as Fire Chief on fire calls.

GEORGE BUTKUS – SEWER AND SANITATION:

Mr. Butkus mentioned that they were unable to meet due to inclement weather and will try to reschedule for later this month. He stated that they are looking to modify all the refuse ordinances into one and they are also looking at updating the Sewer Use Ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. White
Asst. Borough Secretary