

The re-scheduled meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuillo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth Eagelman 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 Eagelman 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2015 Council Meeting and the February 25, 2015 Workshop Meeting. Mr. Huckleberry made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Joe Pastore of 1 Michigan Drive addressed Council concerning the last snow event and an issue with the plow driver. He stated that the driver was waiving his fists and yelling as he went by and then called the police on him because he was pushing the snow into the street. He stated that he had just started clearing the snow and was not finished and that he always cleans up what he pushes into the street. He didn't feel that it was necessary for the police to be bothered with it. Mr. Jerry Bowling of 88 Michigan Drive also addressed Council and stated that the same thing happened to him and that he was pushing it all the way across the street and pushing it up over the sidewalk using the plow to push it up. He mentioned that the next day when he went to get into his truck the same plow driver hit him in the leg with salt from the salt spreader. Mrs. Shade stated that they were using ATV's to remove the snow and that is why the police were called because ATV's are not allowed on Borough Streets. Mr. Bowling stated that it would be a great opportunity for the Borough to pass an Ordinance allowing residence to use ATV's to remove snow on their property. Mr. Hart stated that it causes other problems with them pushing the snow across the street and that they could cause damage to the curbing. Mr. Pachuillo stated that Ordinances are written to encompass the whole Borough and list things that you can and cannot do and the rules are for everybody. He mentioned that they will be looking at some of the policies and tweaking them a little bit. Mr. Pastore mentioned that they certainly were not looking to do anything criminal and that they were just trying to do their best and help their neighbors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mrs. Shade mentioned that she received a letter from Mr. Neal Nevitt of Lower Heidelberg Township. He states in his letter that he would like to be appointed as the Boroughs primary delegate on the Berks County Tax Collection Committee representing the municipalities in the Wilson School District. He also mentioned that Mrs. Debra Scull would be the alternate. Mrs. Stine made a motion to appoint Mr. Neal Nevitt as the primary delegate and Mrs. Debra Scull at the alternate; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

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

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Robert Zerman, Interim Fire Chief, gave the report for February 2015. He mentioned that they are bringing in some new members and reaching out to former members and trying to get them to come back. He also mentioned that they are in the process of specing out a brand new Ladder Truck and don't anticipate any increase in moneys from the municipalities. Mayor Cirulli asked what is wrong with the current one. Mr. Zerman stated that they have had an ongoing transmission issue with it and in the last three years they have spent about \$135,000.00 on it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachulo stated that the first item is the Ambulance Agreement which is the same as last year with no increase. Mrs. Shade mentioned that we may need to increase the tax next year. She stated that the auditor would like us to take \$5,000.00 more from the ambulance portion to cover the bill for the 911 dispatch. Mr. Butkus mentioned that Chief Schweyer had reported last year that the County was expecting an 18% to 20% increase over the next several years. Mrs. Shade stated yes that it could go up more but as of right now we would just need to cover the additional \$5,000.00. Mr. Butkus made a motion to accept and execute the Agreement with Western Berks Ambulance Association; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

The next item was the Blight Ordinance. Mrs. Shade stated that they didn't need to discuss this right now. She stated that everyone has a copy in their binders that they should review and it will be open for discussion as some other point.

The next item was the Community Breakfast/Egg Hunt which will be held on March 28, 2015 at the Sinking Spring Fire Company grounds. Breakfast will be from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and the Egg Hunt will start at 10:00 a.m.

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 Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer showed Council the body cameras that they are putting in force. He mentioned that they also pick up audio.

MICHAEL HART – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Hart mentioned that they created the new Classification for the Public Works Employees and over the last couple of weeks we had a lot of intense training and all three (3) are ready to be bumped up to the next class. He asked Council for permission to do so and mentioned that it would be a \$.79 increase for each effective tonight. Mr. Butkus made the motion authorize the pay increase for the three Public Works Employees and change to Second Class Operators; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart mentioned that Michigan Drive is one of the worst streets in the Borough to plow because the residents don't move their cars. He also mentioned that he did speak with the driver that plows that street. Mr. Butkus stated that his concern is that if they push the snow across the street and hit the curb they could damage it. Mr. Pachuillo stated that he believes that the plow drivers do a fantastic job. Mrs. Shade mentioned that she has started contacting other municipalities concerning their Ordinances to see what their verbiage is and what they do.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that the NPDES Permit is still under review. He also mentioned that Amerigreen is now under Contract and they are waiting for the weather to be favorable to start the Reed Bed Cleaning. He stated that at the last Sewer Committee meeting they discussed the draft 2006 Sanitary Sewer System Hydraulic Model. He stated that the Borough has several lengths of Sewer primarily on Broad Street that are hydraulically at capacity or a little over so that will need to be looked at with the proposed development. Mrs. Shade mentioned that Mr. Butkus has a video that he would like to show for the Workshop meeting. Mr. Smith stated that Chapter 94 Report should be done shortly and he will call Mr. Pachuillo for signatures. He also mentioned that they finally received additional information from Spring Township to update the Borough's sewer system map so we can have them laminated and the staff can have them in the trucks.

Mr. Smith stated that the Sewer Committee is recommending that ARRO do some spot inspections with Amerigreen of the Reed Bed Cleaning. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize ARRO to do inspections of the Reed Bed Cleaning not to exceed \$2,000.00; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

CHARLES HAWS – BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Mr. Haws mentioned that they sent out the RFP for the \$2,000,000.00 to get proposals from the banks for the financing we talked about. He stated that as they were going through looking at the various sources of funding, Daryl from Concord wanted to identify the total cost of the project using the information from the budget. He mentioned that the State money is coming in as a reimbursement grant so they suggested getting a Grant Anticipation Note which allows you to cover the bills until the grant money comes in.

Mr. Haws mentioned that he was authorized, at the last meeting, to put together an agreement with the Redevelopment Authority which he circulated to everyone. He mentioned that the sooner we get the Agreement in place the better but he wanted everyone to have it awhile. Mr. Hoffa asked if he wanted Council to vote on it tonight or at the next meeting. Mr. Haws stated that if Council has a level of comfort that they are doing right by the Borough then they can vote now. Mr. Hoffa stated that he doesn't believe that they would do anything that was detrimental to the Borough. Mr. Haws stated that the terms are the same as was previously proposed in terms of the funding and our financial obligation and the way the deal is structured. He stated that they are acting as our agent and we pay for services and reimburse for expenses. He mentioned that there are two blanks in the Agreement, one is the identification of the project they were using BOSS2020 Revitalization Plan. He stated that we have a 2008 Ordinance that adopts the plan on the wall which shows acquisition of the properties for all four phases without labeling them as such so it is not perfectly clear. He stated that we need to figure out what we have that is a formal action by the Borough approving this particular project. He mentioned that the 2008 Plan probably covers it but we might have to enact a new Ordinance that says we are making an amendment to our Official Map implementing Phase II. Mr. Hoffa stated that costs listed in the Agreement for reimbursement is \$95.00 an hour and wanted to know if there was a cap on that or if it will be monitored. Mr. Haws stated that it is the same as anything else you do, what we can do it in house we do it in house; ultimately it is the Borough doing the taking. He stated that we use them as much as we need them. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to authorize signing the Agreement with the Redevelopment Authority; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 2 (Mr. Butkus and Mrs. Stine). Motion carried. Mr. Butkus stated that they should at least review the agreement before signing it. Mr. Haws stated that they still have those two blanks in there that they need to tweak so it is possible they may have to amend it so if they come back with any input between now and then it can be amended. He apologized for the rush job.

REGINA SHADE – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mrs. Shade mentioned that we received the Liquid Fuels money in the amount of \$86,133.97 which is about \$3,000.00 more than we thought we were going to get.

Mrs. Shade mentioned that she has been working with Mr. Ludgate, Mrs. Hollenbach and Mr. Haws doing weekly conference calls in hopes of keeping the budget numbers low and keeping everyone on the same page. She stated that her goal is to keep the Revitalization, as much as possible, out of the general monthly meeting and use the Workshop meeting for more Revitalization. She stated that there will still be some items, like the Agreement, that will come up at both meetings.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to appoint Jenny Allbee to the Library Board; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the parade letters have gone out and they have asked Mr. Larry Schmidt to be the Grand Marshall and he accepted. She also mentioned that she would like to get the next Newsletter out by the beginning of May so we can include the Playground form. She asked everyone to get her their information. She stated that we will not need to hire any new Playground Leaders this year. Mr. Pachuillo asked if they will need bank ground checks since they are returning. Chief Schweyer stated that they would not if they are continuing employment.

Mrs. Gantner also mentioned that she really appreciates the phone log because it is good to see how many calls are coming in but it's not really meeting what we talked about. She stated that if we are getting all these complaints about plowing, we are not seeing that on this log. Mrs. Shade stated that most of the complaints she is getting is coming in through Facebook. Mr. Hoffa stated that when complaint calls come in to the front office, what he would like to see is an address associated with it so they know who called. Mr. Pachuillo stated that when it was first enacted we didn't come up with any real good parameters. He suggested that the Admin Committee come up with parameters that they would like to see for the log. Mr. Hart asked if they are looking for the staff to record the phone calls or just the complaints. Mr. Hoffa and Mrs. Gantner both stated that they just want the complaints with names and addresses and what the complaint is.

GEORGE BUTKUS – SEWER AND SANITATION:

Mr. Butkus mentioned that he has one print out of the Loading Model if anyone wants to look at it. He stated that it came up because of the density of the Redevelopment and will be an ongoing issue. He also mentioned that Alcon is looking at purchasing more capacity.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into an executive session at 8:20 p.m. for possible Real Estate Transactions.


RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:34 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
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Asst. Borough Secretary