

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 7:05 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 (Absent)
George Butkus (Absent)
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Timothy Malloy, Barley Snyder; Robert Ludgate Sr., Ludgate Engineering; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Bryce Zohner, Public Works Director; Police Chief Lee Schweyer, and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

The first visitors were Mr. & Mrs. Scott Dreibelbis of 3922 Penn Avenue. Mr. Dreibelbis stated that he received a letter last week from Mr. Haws of Barley Snyder stating that Mr. Hart sent him e-mails and since he has not responded to the e-mails that the Borough is going ahead with the demo of 3920 Penn Avenue without working anything out with them. Mr. Hart stated that we were trying to contact him to get together to resolve the wall issues. He stated that we have two options, the interior wall or the exterior wall and that we need to get moving on this because we are running out of time. He stated that Council was leaning towards doing the exterior masonry wall. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hoffa asked Mr. Dreibelbis if he would be willing to sit down again with Mr. Hart to go over plans and discuss what the options are. Mr. Dreibelbis stated that he would and that he doesn't know why he did not get Mr. Hart's e-mail. Mr. Hart stated that he sent two e-mails two weeks apart. Mr. Pachuillo asked Mr. Dreibelbis if he would allow Mr. Hart and the engineers into his property. Mr. Dreibelbis stated that he would. Mr. Hart asked Mr. Dreibelbis to send him an e-mail with some dates and times that he is available to sit down with him and look at the plans. Mr. Malloy asked when work needed to begin. Mr. Hart stated that the contractor wanted to get it done three months ago. Mr. Malloy suggested that they meet within the next week. Mr. Hart stated that he would like to have something to bring to Council at the next meeting in two weeks. Mr. Dreibelbis stated that he would e-mail Mr. Hart tomorrow or Friday with their availability.

The next visitors were Mr. & Mrs. Scott Steinhauer of 48 Shillington Road. Mrs. Steinhauer asked if Council knew when their homes would be taken. Mr. Hart stated that they do not know when that end of the project will move forward and a lot depends on PennDOT. Mr. Ludgate explained that PennDOT has preliminary engineering for that area currently scheduled for the middle of 2018. Mr. Steinhauer stated that the reason that they are here this evening is because of the most recent snow storm. He stated that the one neighbor did not clear their portion of the alley and that they were trapped and could not get out of the alley and that they do not have street parking available to them. He asked if there was anything that could be done to push the landlords that rent

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.):

these properties to maintain their portion of the alley. They stated that they know the Borough has no jurisdiction over the alleys. Mayor Cirulli asked if it was a property owned by Mr. Mitch Darcourt. Mrs. Steinhauer stated that it was. Mayor Cirulli stated that he would talk to Mr. Darcourt about it and try to get it taken care of for the future.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mrs. Egelman mentioned that Mrs. Bohn sent a Thank You card to Council and the employees for the Fruit Basket that we sent when her father passed away.

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that we received notification from the Berks County Board of Commissioners about the next Municipal Official Breakfast that will be held on April 21st and is being hosted by Oley Fire Company. He stated that we need to RSVP by April 12th if anyone is interested.

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that he received a letter by e-mail from the Board of Trustees at Western Berks Fire Co. He stated that the letter is from Avery Leshner to the Trustees concerning an accident that occurred on March 11, 2017. He states in the letter that they had a lot of mutual aid and how well everyone worked together.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that he attended two meetings of the Reading Area Transportation Study. He stated that as a result, the staff at the Planning Commission has been instructed to work with us to try to see if we can get an application in for a Federal Grant. He stated that they also discussed moving ahead the preliminary plan engineering money so it would become available October 1, 2017 instead of October 1, 2018. He mentioned that it is not official but was discussed. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that they have had activity on the Pedestrian Safety Project and the Phase Two Intersection issue. He stated that Mr. Hart attended those two meetings.

Mr. Hart mentioned that the Sidewalk Project will be moving forward shortly. He stated that he believes the contractor will be starting around April 1st after they complete the PennDOT paperwork. Mr. Hart mentioned that Council will need to pass a Resolution authorizing him to sign and write the checks for the project.

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that the BOSS2020 Committee discussed having a Financial Analysis done by the Pennsylvania Economy League. He mentioned a web site called Next Door where you can connect with your neighbors. He also mentioned that they discussed starting up two volunteer groups for the Gateway Project and a Shade Tree Commission which he put a note on Next Door looking for volunteers. He also asked if information could be put on the Borough Web Site and Facebook page if he supplied the information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the Payment Request #3 from Empire Wrecking in the amount of \$1,492.15. Mr. Hart stated that this is for the wall design that they had done for the interior wall. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to authorize the payment; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES –5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that there is a Change Order associated with that and should also be approved. Mr. Hart stated that it is a Change Order from the original plan on what they were hired to do so we will also need a motion to approve the Change Order. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to authorize the Change Order to cover the engineering cost for the wall; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES –5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is the Employee Handbook. Mr. Hart stated that they are not ready to approve it yet and that there are a few things to bring up in a private session. Mr. Pachuillo stated that we would table it until the Council Meeting in April.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the Council on Chemical Abuse (COCA) Resolution. Mr. Hart explained that it is an Agreement between the Borough and COCA to get reimbursement for any enforcement that the Borough Police Department does. He stated that the Resolution names Chief Schweyer as the administrator for the reimbursement. Mrs. Stine made the motion to pass the Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that they issued about twenty-five (25) Parking Tickets during the last snow storm for the odd side only. He also mentioned that they are interviewing for Part-Time Police Officers this week.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that they had a bid opening for the cleaning of the Reed Beds at the Sewer Plant. He stated that the estimate for the work was \$105,000.00 and the low bid came in at \$104,000.00. He asked for Council's authorization to award the Contract to Amerigreen for the Reed Bed Cleaning at \$104,000.00. Mrs. Stine made the motion to award the Contract to Amerigreen; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith mentioned the Penn Avenue Interceptor Crossing and handed out pictures of the old pipe and casing. He stated that Wexcon exposed the casing which is actually a 33" casing. He also mentioned that the smaller pipe was suspended from the top of the casing. He also mentioned that Wexcon was successful in removing the smaller pipe from the casing

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH (Cont.):

Mr. Smith mentioned that the Chapter 94 Report will be done on Friday and will be ready for signatures.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart asked Council's permission to advertise for bids for the salt shed. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to authorize Mr. Hart to advertise for bids for the salt shed; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES –5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

MAYOR GARY CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli mentioned that we need to hire a Fire Marshall for the Borough. Mr. Pachuiolo mentioned that they had discussed a regional Fire Marshall but they don't believe that is going to work.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they did have a meeting with the County Commissioners and informed them of the status of our projects. He stated that they asked them for a support letter from the County for the Federal Grant which they are willing to do. He stated that they also asked them for more funding and about approaching the IDA for the purpose of the TIF. He stated that one of the things that they asked the Borough to do is to look into shared services with the surrounding municipalities.

LISA GANTNER- PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner reminder everyone that the Egg Hunt and the Breakfast are on Saturday, April 8th at the Fire Company. She stated that she has the tickets. She mentioned that they have been talking with our former Playground Leaders. She mentioned that the dates for the Playground Program will be June 12th to August 4th with a bonus week at the end if we have the interest. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to advertise for Playground Leaders; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. for personnel matters and possible property acquisition.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:49 p.m. The following action was taken.

Mr. Hart asked Council's permission to hire Mr. Jason Rapp as a Sewer Plant employee at a starting rate of \$17.00 per hour. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to hire Mr. Rapp; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES -5, NAYS - 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

Mrs. Stine asked if they needed to have a Sewer Meeting on the first Monday of the month. Mr. Zohner stated that he doesn't see the need for one since they won't be done with the project yet. He stated that the project has been going well.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he started getting prices for a better security system for the office with camera. He stated that he should have some numbers for the Council meeting in two weeks. Mr. Hoffa asked if we were going to use the Capital Fund to pay for it. Mr. Hart stated that they had budgeted for new carpet for the office but he believes this is more important.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eagelman
Borough Secretary