

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by Vice-President Tracy Peterson. Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuillo (Absent)
Tracy Peterson
H. David Miller
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner (Absent)
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar

Other officials present were: Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Bryce Zohner, Public Works Director; Police Chief James Oxenreider, and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

Mrs. Peterson requested a moment of silence to honor our fallen heroes and to honor our Police, Fire and EMS personnel and our Armed Forces who protect us every day here and abroad.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2020 Council Meeting and the February 26, 2020 Workshop Meeting. Mr. Miller made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 7:12 p.m. No action was taken.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jerome Kern from 54 Evans Avenue addressed Council concerning cracks in the road in front of his house. He stated that they used to go around and crack seal but his street hasn't been done in at least two years. Mr. Zohner stated that due to budgetary restraints they can't do all of the streets every year. He stated that they didn't do much crack sealing last year but will be doing more this year. Mr. Hart mentioned that we have to rent the equipment and it depends on the availability. Mr. Zohner mentioned that he reevaluates the street conditions in the spring after the freeze and thaw and prioritizes the streets based on road conditions. Mr. Kern thanked Council for their time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the bills for February 2020. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to accept the Treasures Report as written. Mrs. Stine made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Renshaw asked if anyone had any questions on the report for February 2020. There were no questions. Mr. Renshaw mentioned that in January they closed out their 2018-2019 Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner Grant. He stated that they received \$22,834.00 in non-matching funds and that they were able to purchase almost 4,000 feet of fire hose and new nozzles to outfit one of the engines. He stated that they are working towards standardization across the department. He stated that since 2015, just in this grant program, they have received over \$130,000.00 in grant money. He asked everyone to like their Facebook page.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that their report is included in the e-mail packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to discuss.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his report for February 2020.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned the raw sewer pump rebuild costs that was tabled from last meeting. He stated that the total rebuild cost for our current pump (install, evaluation and tear out) was \$9,479.00 and the cost for replacing the pump came out to \$31,983.00. He suggested going with rebuilding our current pump which is from 2010. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to authorize moving forward with rebuilding the current pump at a cost of \$9,479.00; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Zohner mentioned that they budgeted for a clarifier brush system and that the one he was looking at is a product from Innovative Treatment Products. He stated that it is a Costars product and the price \$30,000.00 for all three clarifiers installed. He mentioned that he did go out and get another price from another vendor, Weir-Wolf out of Kentucky, to compare and that came in at \$23,000.00 per clarifier. Discussion ensued. Mr. Miller made a motion to move forward with purchasing the Innovative Treatment Products brush system; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

BRAD SMITH - SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING:

Mr. Smith mentioned that they participated in a telephone conference with PENNVEST on March 3, 2020. He stated that they are waiting for the issuance of the general permit from PADEP and a road opening permit from Spring Township. He asked Councils permission to bid the Broad Street Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project once those permits are received. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to authorize ARRO to bid the project once the permits are received; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith mentioned the grant for the septage receiving station and that there should be an award in mid-July.

Mr. Smith mentioned that he met with Mr. Zohner and Spring Township to go over the televising specifications for the combined sewer televising project. He stated that Spring Township has asked for some additional footage to be added, which they are going to do. He mentioned that it is ready to be bid once that is added and that he is hoping for the opening of the bids at the next Council meeting in April. Mrs. Stine made a motion to authorize ARRO to bid the project; seconded by Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller asked if it will be conventional bid or Penn Bid. Mr. Smith stated that it will be through Penn Bid. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

ELIZABETH EAGELMAN – BOROUGH SECRETARY:

Mrs. Eagelman mentioned that she would like to start working on the Spring/Summer newsletter and asked Council to submit any articles that they would like to see in it as soon as possible.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that they will be having a pre-construction meeting with PennDOT on March 17th for their resurfacing project from Queen Street in the Borough to the Penn Street Bridge in Reading.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he sent a letter asking for a time extension on the 1.1 million grant. Mr. Hoffa asked if he copied Senator Argall on the letter because he wanted to be kept in the loop. Mr. Hart stated that if he didn't he would.

TRACY PETERSON – RECREATION:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that they met with Wilson School District and that they will be partnering with them again this year for the Bulldog Blast. She also mentioned that they extended the playground program one week so they will be starting June 1st and ending August 7th. She stated that they are in the process of hiring leaders and finding out who is planning on coming back from last year.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Community Breakfast is coming up on March 21st at the Fire Company and she also mentioned that they Easter Egg Hunt will be April 4th at 10 a.m. on the Fire Company grounds.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that they have an Admin Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 9th at 11 a.m.

H. DAVID MILLER – SEWER AND SANITATION:

Mr. Miller mentioned that the committee met to discuss the upcoming trash contract and they are going to consider going to two different days for trash and recycling pick up since we are having so much trouble with the recycling being taken with the trash. Mr. Hart stated that he is working on the specs. Mr. Miller also mentioned that they discussed the large containers but they don't believe they will work well in most of the Borough.

ED OVERBERGER – ARRO:

Mr. Overberger addressed Council concerning the grant application for the park. He mentioned that they met with DCED at the park to look at the piece of land that the Borough is going to purchase. He stated that there is grant money out there and that it is a 50% match and that it is part of the DCNR fund group C2P2 (Community Conservation Partnership Program). He stated that they have different categories for your grants and one is specifically for land acquisition. He stated that they had to send in some paperwork to allow a reimbursement type grant. He stated that the next step would be to apply for the grant and for ARRO it would be a \$3,500.00 effort and he would need to know if Council wants to go ahead with that. He also mentioned that if the Borough is planning on doing any planning for the park they also have grants for master site development plans which are also a 50% match. He stated that when it is partnered with the land acquisition piece it really increases your chances of getting the master site development plan grant. He stated that the master site development plan is when you have a planner come in and design the whole park based upon what you have now and what to do with the new piece. He stated that they threw out a price for the master site development plan of \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00 but ARRO's planner thinks the cost would be more like \$15,000.00 to \$22,000.00 for what we have. Mr. Overberger suggested on going after a \$25,000.00 grant and mentioned that it would be another \$3,500.00 effort on ARRO's part. Mrs. Peterson asked when the paperwork needs to be filed for the grants. Mr. Overberger stated that they would have to be in by April 22nd so they would need to know pretty quickly if the Borough would like to move forward with the one or both grant applications. Mr. Metzgar stated that he would feel more comfortable if we had time to go through committee on Monday. Mrs. Peterson stated that they will table it until the Admin meeting on Monday and pull a Recreation meeting together as well so we can let them know early next week.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary