

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., by Council President James Pachuillo. After the pledge to the flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; Brad Smith, Engineer, ARRO Consulting; Police Chief James Oxenreider; and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2021 Council Meeting. Mr. Miller made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that we received an approval letter from DEP for exemption from Act 537 Planning for Village Greens.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is an e-mail from Lower Heidelberg Township concerning the 2021 Shredding Event. Mrs. Eagelman stated that they are looking at June 12th or the 26th and wanted to know if the Borough had a preference. She stated that it will be held at the Lower Heidelberg Township Municipal Building located at 720 Brownsville Road and will be sponsored by Vist Bank. She also mentioned that they are looking for volunteers if anyone from Council wanted to help out. Council did not have a date preference.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for March 2021. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to accept the Treasures Report for March 2021 as written. Mrs. Stine made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that Mr. Renshaw was unable to attend tonight's meeting but sent his monthly report which is included in everyone's email packet.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that their March Activity Report is also included in everyone's email packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is Berks County Solid Waste Authority 2021 Sponsorship request that was tabled last meeting. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to approve donating \$500.00 to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item was the Concord Public Finance 2021 Financing and Ordinance. Mr. Daryl Peck addressed Council. He stated that he was here in February and Council authorized him to proceed with Requests for Proposals to the banks to refinance the Borough's 2012 Note that has a current rate of 2.75%, the 2015 Note that has a current rate of 2.62% and to finance up to \$1,650,000.00 for the Phase II Revitalization Project. He stated that he met with the Admin Committee on Tuesday to go over the results. Mr. Metzgar stated that the numbers came out better than he thought they would. Mr. Peck mentioned that because of the better than expected interest rates we got he would like to talk about adding in the refinancing of the 2006 Pennvest loan that has a current rate of 3.056% and the refinancing of the 2009 Pennvest loan that has a current rate of 2.547% that was for the sewer plant. He stated that the best proposal was from Peoples Security Bank & Trust Co. with a rate of 1.99% for 15 years and then variable for 5 years with a cap of 4.25%. He mentioned that there would be two separate notes, Series A of 2021 for the refinancing of the General Fund debt and the addition of the \$1,650,000 for the Phase II Project and Series B of 2021 for the refinance of the 2009 Pennvest loan for the Sewer Fund debt. He mentioned that it is a draw down loan so if you don't need it you don't use it and the draw down period is 2.5 years. He mentioned there is an Ordinance for approval this evening that authorizes the incurrence of indebtedness in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$6,262,000.00. Mr. Miller made the motion to approving the Ordinance; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. Roll Call Vote was taken AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried. Mr. Haws asked for another motion to authorize signing the Application letter to DCED, Debt Statement, Borrowing Base Certificate and Proposal Term Letters from Peoples Security Bank & Trust. Mr. Miller made the motion to authorize signing the additional documents; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the WWTP employee resignation letters. He stated that Mr. Joe Dalton has resigned as of March 28th, Mr. Bryce Zohner handed in his letter of resignation effective April 8th, and Mr. Tyler Davis handed in his letter of resignation effective April 2nd. Mrs. Stine made a motion to accept their letters of resignation; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried. Mr. Miller stated that he would like to have a brief executive session at the end of the meeting with no action to follow.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is to hire Miranda Zaborowski as a part time Library Assistant/Passport Agent at a rate of \$9.00 per hour. Mrs. Gantner made the motion to hire Ms. Zaborowski; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is the Mercantile/Business Privilege Tax. He stated that Mr. Hart received an email from Christine Schlosman of Wilson School District asking for Councils approval to extend the filing date/payment date of the 2020 Final/2021 Estimated mercantile/business privilege tax returns from April 15, 2021 to May 17, 2021 to coincide with the IRS extension of time to file/pay for individual tax returns that was announced on March 17th. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve the time extension; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Merlin Weaver, Committee Chairman of BOSS Forward, addressed Council. He asked Council to review the Bylaws that were sent out and forward any comments to them. He discussed the benefits of BOSS forming a more formal structure with a seven member Board of Directors and becoming a Nonprofit 501 (c) (3) as outlined in the Report to Borough Council April 2021. He stated that the proposed Bylaws updates are to clarify that Borough Council remains firmly in charge of all final decisions on projects, activities, and funding. He also mentioned that Mr. Loth is submitting funding requests to the Federal Government via Representative Chrissy Houlahan for CARES act funds for Phase 2.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider apologized for not having his report finished for this evening and stated that he will have it for next month.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Smith gave an update on the Phase 2 HOP. He stated that Verizon and PPL are in the process of obtaining their HOP to relocate poles and UGI is verifying their gas line location and depth. He stated that a meeting with PennDOT's representatives is scheduled for later this month. He mentioned that the right-of-way plans were sent to the Recorder of Deeds for recording and that they are still working with the Conservation District and the VFW on their particular items.

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

Mr. Smith mentioned that Village Greens received a review letter back from FEMA. He stated that when Mr. Hart returns he will work with him on addressing some of the comments for that development. He also mentioned that ARRO is assisting staff with the MS 4 field inventory of possible sources of pollutants.

Mr. Smith mentioned that the paving restoration has been completed on Broad Street and they are working to close out the project with Barrasso Excavation. He mentioned that the Sewer Televising Project has been completed and that he has two items for that tonight. One is the final payment application from Mobile Dredging & Video Pipe Inc. in the amount of \$118,109.20, of which \$84,455.25 is Spring Township's portion and \$33,653.95 is the Borough's portion. He stated that ARRO recommends payment. He stated that he also has certificates of completion to be signed by Council President. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve payment of the Borough's portion of \$33,653.95; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried. Mr. Smith also mentioned that they are getting a permit together for the influent metering at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Smith also mentioned that Mr. Hart reached out to them for possible assistance with operating the Waste Water Treatment Plant until he is fully staffed again. He stated that Mr. Hart is working with their contract operations group to put something together.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned the article that was in the Reading Eagle concerning the American Rescue Plan and that they don't know how much each municipality will be getting yet.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the Easter Egg Hunt went really well and was well attended. She stated that they are working on Playground now and she would like to make a motion to hire the following people; Caroline Ramsey and Zoe Peterson as Head Leaders @ \$12.00 per hour, Laura Horn, Caitlin Hawes, Mccord Peterson and Jack Foster who are returning leaders @ \$10.00, and Mitchell Ostergaard and Andrew McConnell who are new leaders @ \$9.00 per hour; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine mentioned that the Highlands has openings on Tuesday, April 6th for COVID Vaccines if anyone was interested. She stated that she was told that anyone could sign up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:52 p.m. for a personnel issue.

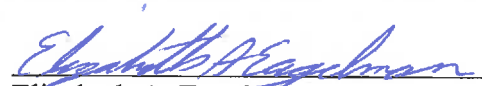
RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:07 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary