

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 7:03 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 (Absent)
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; 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 March 10, 2015 Council Meeting and the March 25, 2015 Workshop Meeting. Mr. Huckleberry made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Daryl Peck from Concord Financial addressed Council. Mr. Peck stated that the recommendation is to continue on with the National Penn Bank Proposal for the twenty year permanent financing at a rate of 2.62% for ten years variable thereafter with a cap of 5% which blends to a worse case rate of 3.184%. He also recommended continuing on with Jonestown Bank for the \$1,000,000.00 Grant Anticipation Note at a rate of 1.65%. He stated that Mr. Rauch is here with the Ordinance that accepts those two proposals. Mr. Rauch mentioned that Concord should be congratulated for their efforts because those rates are very good. He stated that the Ordinance that was circulated earlier does four things; 1) Approves the project, 2) Authorizes the issuance of the Note, 3) Accepts the proposals from the two banks, 4) Authorizes the appropriate officers of the Borough to sign the necessary documents in order to get to closing. He stated that if the Borough so desires and enacts the Ordinance tonight, he will coordinate with Mr. Haws and prepare all the documents, opinions and agreements that have to be signed at closing which should be within the month. Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to enact the Ordinance for the financing. Mr. Hoffa made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that he had a letter from the Sinking Spring Police Officers Association notifying the Borough of their intentions to commence the collective bargaining for their contract period beginning January 2016. Mr. Pachuillo asked the Public Safety Committee to get back to the officers and start looking over the Contract.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for March 2015. Mrs. Stine made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Avery Leshar, Lieutenant with the Fire Department, gave the report for March 2015. He stated that the total price on the Ladder Truck is going to be \$962,000.00 and they are working on some financing options. He stated that they hope to have a formal report ready for the May meeting.

Chief Schweyer asked for a status on the Fire Police. He stated that lately they have not been responding out. He stated that he is concerned about the Memorial Day Parade because he hasn't heard from them. Mr. Leshar stated that he will look into it. Mrs. Gantner also mentioned that she has not heard from the Fire Company on how many vehicles they will have in the Parade. Mr. Leshar stated that they usually get out as many pieces that they can.

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that they started gathering Resumes for Fire Commissioners position. He mentioned that they narrowed it down from forty-three applicants to nine and they are going to start phone interviews next Tuesday. He stated that he believes that it is going very well.

Mr. Pachuillo also mentioned that right before Mr. Weidner left the position he brought up a proposal to the Trustees about saving money on electric. He stated that they passed a quote from a company that is going to come in and change out fixtures and bulbs that will save electric inside the buildings and out.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the only item left under unfinished business is the Blight Ordinance. Mr. Haws stated that we received correspondence from the Redevelopment Authority on February 6, 2015. He stated that the County passed an Ordinance last year that established a Blighted Property Review Committee. He mentioned that the Borough doesn't have to enact their own Ordinance and can go to that Committee for review of any properties that meet the Blighted property criteria. Discussion ensued.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Cont.):

Mr. Haws also mentioned that he drafted a Resolution that would authorize Mrs. Shade, as Borough Manager, to execute agreements of sale for properties to be acquired for the realignment of Penn Avenue, Columbia/Cacoosing intersection based on recommendations by the Redevelopment Authority regarding determinations of "fair market value", which will be approved by Council before any such agreements of sale are executed. He stated that Council should look over it until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that he received a letter from Mr. Lutz of 55 Woodrow Avenue requesting a handicapped parking space. He showed Council pictures of the property and stated that Mr. Lutz told him that he parks in the back and lives on the second floor. He stated that there is no parking in front of 55 Woodrow and that Mr. Lutz wants a space in front of 57 Woodrow. Discussion ensued concerning the number of handicapped spaces already on Woodrow and that fact that he has off street parking and can go stairs. Chief Schweyer stated that Mr. Hart had the number but was not here tonight. Mr. Huckleberry stated that he would like to know how many spaces are already on Woodrow. Mr. Pachuillo stated that they will table it until Mr. Hart is available at the Workshop Meeting.

Chief Schweyer also mentioned that he was contacted by PPL concerning a project they will be doing at Woodrow and Penn sometime this month. He stated that they will be knocking out the entire traffic light there for about one day. He stated that they are meeting with them next Tuesday to discuss the logistics.

TOM LUDGATE – BOROUGH ENGINEER:

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that STV has prepared a draft set that was sent to Mrs. Shade if anyone would like them they are here. He stated that the plans will be submitted to PennDOT later this month and that hopefully it will be through the process by December and the plans will be fully approved. He also mentioned the STV Contract and that right now they are contracted for \$40,000.00 worth of work which they have not reached yet. He stated that since the project is moving forward he asked for a full proposal to bring the design drawings all the way through to construction drawings. He stated that they have provided that along with the required environmental aspects that PennDOT is going to want to see. He stated that the environmental aspects have to do with environmental, cultural and historical and are required for any additional Federal and State funding. He stated that their proposal is \$290,000.00 total when it is all said and done and the \$40,000.00 is included in that. Mr. Pachuillo asked if this is part of the estimate that

TOM LUDGATE – BOROUGH ENGINEER (Cont.):

we foresaw as engineering costs. Mr. Ludgate stated that it is already included in the design fee of \$300,000.00 on the document that Mr. Loth prepared. He stated that it is a not to exceed cost and mentioned that Ludgate Engineering can do some of the work for STV and that their rates are a lot less than theirs. Mr. Pachuillo asked if Mr. Ludgate could look through and see what can be done by Ludgate to minimize some of the costs. Mr. Ludgate stated that they can do that. Mrs. Shade mentioned that the \$40,000.00 is being paid out of Liquid Fuels. Mr. Hoffa asked that the proposal be sent out to all of Council. Mr. Pachuillo stated that they will table it until the Workshop Meeting.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that they should officially update the Official Map because Project II is moving forward. He stated that there is no rush to do it but it would be good to get authorization to do it and Ludgate's estimate is \$400.00. Mr. Pachuillo asked if it had to go through Planning Commission. Mr. Ludgate stated that it would have to follow standard procedure and go through Planning. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to have Ludgate Engineering proceed with the revision to the Official Map; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that the NPDES Permit is still under review. He also mentioned that the Borough staff issued a Notice to Proceed to Amerigreen to clean the Reed Beds. He stated that the first batch should be done by June 4th.

REGINA SHADE – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mrs. Shade mentioned that this is the first time in about ten years that the Borough did not have to borrow money from the Sewer Fund to tie us over until the tax money started coming in. She thanked Council, all department heads and employees.

Mrs. Shade mentioned that Mr. Butkus wanted them to start working on the Trash Contract and they are working on that.

Mrs. Shade also mentioned that they are moving ahead with the Smart Search and getting the additional RAM space in the computer that is needed.

JAMES PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pachuillo thanked the Rec Committee, Rec Board and all the volunteers that came out to help with the Easter Egg Hunt and the Community Breakfast.

MAYOR CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli also thanked everyone that helped with the Egg Hunt and Breakfast. He stated that it was his first time there and everyone did a wonderful job.

Mayor Cirulli also mentioned that he would like to start working on the Snow Removal Ordinance as soon as possible.

Mayor Cirulli requested that the Safety Committee sit down with the Chief and go over stuff when they start working on the Contract

T J HUCKLEBERRY – FINANCE

Mr. Huckleberry stated that he just wanted to mention the condition of the flags. Mrs. Shade stated that new flags are on order. Mr. Hoffa mentioned that he was approached by Mr. Meas at the Revitalization Meeting and he would like to donate the money to replace the two flags out front.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson stated that this year is the 50th Anniversary of the Library so there are going to be events coming up. She also mentioned that every month there is a Lego Club in the evening and they do a Family Craft Night. Mrs. Shade asked Mrs. Peterson to forward her the information and she will get it posted on the Borough Web Site and Facebook.

Mrs. Peterson also mentioned that they had a patron that was suspended from the Library for six months and that time has expired. She stated that the patron came back in and got Dawn a little frazzled so the Board met and they recommended that he can only come in with his case worker and a letter was sent to him explaining that. Mayor Cirulli stated that Mr. Nelka had already spoken to him, Chief Schweyer and Mrs. Shade and that is what they recommended that they do.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that the Sewer Committee Meeting will be Monday night.

Mr. Hoffa stated that they are actively trying to get the Pennsylvania Downtown Center to begin working and meeting with them to start the Downtown Study. Mrs. Shade mentioned that she sent all that information to Linda at Senator Argall's office but hasn't heard back. She also mentioned that she received the list of the Oil Companies and big businesses from Mr. Loth and asked that he facilitate that meeting like he said. Mr. Hoffa mentioned making a list of everyone that needs to be contacted for any progress on our project and things that we are doing. Mrs. Shade stated that Mr. Loth is working on that.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner stated that the Breakfast went really well and thanked everyone that helped out. She stated that they made \$988.00 which will just about cover the movies. She mentioned that they were low on raffles but the Egg Hunt still only cost about \$50.00.

Mrs. Gantner stated that she has the list of the Playground Leaders and salaries for approval this evening. She stated that their recommendations are; Stephenee Billman and Taylor Bechtel ; as Head Leaders at \$9.50 per hour, and Mathew Cavorsi, Allison Boeckle, Sam Peiffer, Tanya Lorah, who will be full time and Maura Franey and Emily Nelson who will be part time at \$8.50 per hour,. Mrs. Stine made a motion to hire the above listed leaders at the corresponding rates; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gantner stated that the Playground Program will run from June 15th through August 7th. She stated that the price will be the same as last year; \$40.00 for residents and \$75.00 for non-residents. She also mentioned that she needs News Letter submissions.

Mrs. Gantner stated that the Kick-Off Movie Night will be Friday June 12th and the movie will be Big Hero 6.

Mrs. Shade asked if they were still planning something for Arbor Day and if they still wanted Mr. Hart to get another tree. Mr. Hoffa stated that he would like to and Mrs. Gantner stated that the Berks County Conservancy has trees to pick up for thirty cents apiece. Mrs. Shade asked that they just let her know what they want. Mr. Hoffa stated that he was thinking about doing it at 10 a.m. on Arbor Day which is April 25th.

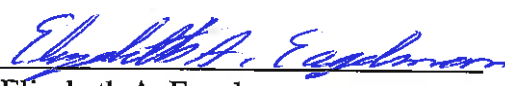
TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pachulo asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Asst. Borough Secretary