

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 7:00 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
George Butkus (Absent)
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa

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

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that he and Mr. Loth met with the Economy League and they are proposing that we go into an early intervention program. He stated that the Economy League will put a grant in and he mentioned that Mr. Pick had mentioned that the County would take care of the match that we would need so, this should come at no cost to the Borough. He stated that the Economy League will look at where the funding is coming from, what matches the Borough has to lay out, and basically look over the next five years. He stated that they will give us a model that we can use. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to authorize the Economy League and the Redevelopment Authority to go forward with the grant; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that work is supposed to start on the curbs and sidewalk work on the Western end of Penn soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the Employee Handbook. He stated that Mr. Hart made some more changes and sent it out to everyone. He stated that if no one has any questions then we can entertain a motion to approve the Employee Handbook as written. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to approve the new Employee Handbook as written; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mr. Hart mentioned that he is going to have a meeting with all of the staff to hand it out and go over it so everyone knows it.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

ROBERT LUDGATE SR. – LUDGATE ENGINEERING:

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that the Planning Commission met last night and that there was an issue because there were only three members present and that there are two vacant seats. Mr. Hart stated that it is something we are going to have to look at because it is supposed to be a seven-member board. Mr. Haws stated that they could drop it to a five member-board if they can't find volunteers. Mr. Hart also mentioned that we are down two members on the Zoning Hearing Board as well. Mr. Pachuillo asked if a memo could be put on the Sewer Bills and asked that it be placed on the Borough Website and Facebook page that we are looking for volunteers for these Boards.

BRYCE ZONER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner stated that the Reed Bed Project is done. He mentioned that they got forty trucks worth of bio-solids out in four days and that it went really well.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that with the Reed Bed Project, the tonnage was less than what was in the contract and that there is some Borough overtime that was put in by staff in order to affect them getting done quickly. He stated that he has a Change Order to deduct from their contract price \$888.52 that will need to be approved and signed. Mrs. Stine made a motion to authorize the change order; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

ELIZABETH EAGELMAN – BOROUGH SECRETARY:

Mrs. Eagelman thanked Council for the flowers that they sent to her, Mrs. Bohn and Mrs. Zerbe for Administrative Professionals Day. She stated that they were much appreciated.

CHARLES HAWS – BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Mr. Haws mentioned that we were contacted by an attorney on behalf of a resident who had requested Handicapped Parking and objected to paying the \$5.00 application fee. He stated that there are some court cases out there that say that it is a violation of ADA, so he is recommending that Council drop the application fee and renewal fee. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to remove the fee; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that the Railroad will be working on the South Hull Street crossing and that it will be closed down from May 15th thru May 19th to fix a sink hole.

Mr. Hart mentioned that we have been having issues with our bank and that they are charging us high fees. He stated that we met with Vist Bank the other day and their accounts have no fees and they are very eager for us to switch to them. Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to authorize Mr. Hart to move forward with switching the accounts over to Vist Bank; seconded by Mrs. Stine. Mr. Haws suggested that we double check on whether we need to have an account relationship because of the loans we have. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mr. Hart mentioned that he will need information from the signers again.

Mr. Hart mentioned that they had their first meeting for the Comprehensive Plan. He mentioned that they will be meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at the Wyomissing School District and that they are open to the public if anyone else would like to attend.

Mr. Hart mentioned the relocation of the traffic signal for Columbia Avenue that we discussed at the last meeting. He stated that they met with Telco and discussed some options and the rough estimate is \$40,000.00 and it will take about 15 weeks to get the new pole. He mentioned that the Pedestrian pole and the junction box also need to be relocated. He stated that it will require them to shut down the signals, pull the wires out of the conduit, cut it and add on to it and rewire everything. Mr. Huckleberry asked about grants for traffic lights and signals. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that there is a red-light fund that comes up once a year and that we can look into it for reimbursement. Mr. Hart mentioned that the signals on the other side will also have to be relocated when that is done. He stated that he would let Council know when he gets a firm price.

Mr. Hart mentioned that the Tax Collector normally would send out trash bills for commercial properties and that the current Tax Collector is refusing to do it which is putting us behind. Discussion ensued. Mr. Pachulo suggested that we check to see if there is an Ordinance stating that the Tax Collector has to do the trash billing and if we do then he has to do it. He stated if there is not then we will bring it in house.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he received a letter from the Fish and Boat Commission stating that the Cacoosing Creek is now listed as a High Quality Water way. He stated that this will highly affect us with storm water going into that creek. Mr. Zohner mentioned that if it goes the whole length then it will kill us on the sewer end if DEP upgrades the creek as well.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER (Cont.):

Mr. Hart mentioned the Resolutions for allowing local police to use Radar and also for removing the limit on small games of chance. He stated that if Council wishes to join in and support that group they can approve the resolutions. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to pass the Radar Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Stine. Mrs. Gantner asked if that is something that we want. Mayor Cirulli stated yes and that the radar is a lot better than what they are using now. Officer Oxenford stated that they will be able to use the Radar more than the Vascar that they are using now. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to pass the Small Games of Chance Resolution; seconded by Mr. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

JAMES PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pachuiilo stated that he wanted to thank Mrs. Gantner, Mrs. Peterson and the rest of the Recreation Board and everyone else who helped out, for all of their hard work on Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast.

TRACY PETERSON - LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Library is hiring a Passport Agent and will be opening up more hours on another Saturday of the month because they are completely booked up. She stated that they are also purchasing the camera and equipment so that they will be able to do the Passport Photos as well.

LISA GANTNER- PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they had a good turnout for the Egg Hunt and the Breakfast. She also mentioned that they have been talking to the Wilson School District about a program they want to do at the main playground on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She stated that it will be for 1st through 5th grade Math and Reading. She stated that they are still trying to work out the details and cost.

DENISE STINE – SEWER AND SANITATION:

Mrs. Stine mentioned that she spoke with Mr. Zohner and they have decided that they will have a Sewer Committee meeting next Thursday at 6:30 before the Council Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. for a property acquisition issue.

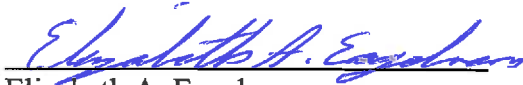
RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:23 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Eagelman
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Borough Secretary