

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuillo. Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

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

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2019 Council Meeting and the March 27, 2019 Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

#### **VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no visitors in attendance.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Mr. Pachuillo stated that there are two items of correspondence. The first is an invitation to the next Municipal Officials Breakfast on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. at the Brecknock Township Fire Company. The second is an invitation to the CELG and BCW&SA Golf Outing at the Reading Country Club on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. He stated that if anyone is interested in either one to let them know. Mr. Pachuillo asked how the dinner was that Mr. Miller and Mr. Metzgar signed up for. Mr. Miller stated that it was a nice evening and a great opportunity to network. He suggested that more people attend next year.

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:**

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for March 2019. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to accept the Treasures Report as written. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

**WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Mr. Renshaw mentioned the Pre-Incident Survey Program that they started in February. He stated that he is now including that as part of the Activity Report as to how many they did per month and a total for the year. He also mentioned that he attended the "Future of Firefighting in Berks County" dinner that was sponsored by the CELG. He stated that they are looking at trying to improve fire service for the County as a whole.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that the only item is the Land Use Agreement with Dr. Serapiglia. Mr. Zohner explained that last year the Berks County Conservation District did a tree planting at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. He stated that some of the trees didn't make it through the winter. He stated that Dr. Serapiglia from Alvernia University reached out to the Berks County Water & Sewer Association and the Berks County Conservation District. He stated that they are looking for a site to do a study where they would plant hybrid willow trees and then every three years they would come out and harvest the growth off of them for bio-fuels. The County Conservation District, since they were intending to come out and replant, wants to know if the Borough would be interested in taking part in this study. Mr. Haws handed out the draft agreement. Mr. Pachuillo stated that we will table this until Workshop and that all of Council should look over the draft agreement and contact Mr. Haws or Mr. Hart with any questions.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****H. DAVID MILLER – SEWER AND SANITATION:**

Mr. Miller stated that he would defer to Mr. Zohner who has some operational news to share. He also mentioned that he saw that we applied for the Water Quality Permit so Broad Street is moving along as well.

Mr. Zohner mentioned that the Reed Bed clean out project is set to begin this month. He also mentioned that the new hire will be starting on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Miller stated that what Mr. Zohner is being modest about is that a little while ago we had applied back to DEP to stop adding these bugs to the system for the bio augmentation. He stated that they decided that we would stop that because it was an expense and let the plant do what it is supposed to do. He stated that by making those changes, Mr. Zohner has seen a 14% decrease in the amount of sludge that is ultimately applied to the reed beds and a 5% increase in the solids contents. Which means less expense.

Mr. Smith mentioned that ARRO issued some additional pretreatment permits this month.

**DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Stine had nothing to report.

**LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:**

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they met with Wilson again today concerning Bulldog Blast and that they are looking at being online and ready to go by May 1<sup>st</sup> for registration and paying online. She stated that they are ready to hire some of the leaders for playground. She made a motion to hire Lexi Haines and Julie Schneiderhan as the head leaders at \$10.50 per hour, Mathilda Govers at \$9.00 per hour, Emma Maurer, Nick Sekulski, Brylee Faus, Stephanie Bowers and Caroline Ramsey at \$8.50 per hour pending background checks; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. She stated that she will have four or five others once they have the interviews.

Mrs. Gantner stated that she hopes to see everyone at the breakfast on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:**

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that she will be doing interviews next week to fill a vacant Library Staff Position and also someone for Passports. She stated that they are probably going to expand their passport hours because they are booked so far out. She also mentioned that there is a Book Sale next weekend.

**JAMES PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**

Mr. Pachuiilo asked about the piece of property that was sold on Reedy Road at the end of Broad Street. He stated that he saw all kinds of surveying flags. Mr. Hart stated that someone purchased it and is going to build a house. Discussion ensued concerning where the flood plain is. Mr. Hart stated that they can build in the flood plain but there they have to build it to a certain standard.

**MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:**

Mr. Hart mentioned that PennDOT will be hosting a PennDOT Connects Seminar on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Ag. Center. He stated that he went last year and that it was very informative. He stated that if anyone is interested in going there are two times 3 – 4:30 or 6 – 8:30.

Mr. Hart mentioned the Phase 2 curb realignment and the single signal pole. He stated that we had ok'd Telco to purchase the pole for us over a year ago and they have been holding it ever since. He stated that they would like to be paid for it. He stated that the purchase price is \$10,391.00. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve paying Telco for the pole in the amount of \$10,391.00; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mr. Hart stated that Telco will continue to store the pole for us until needed.

Mr. Hart mentioned that our Part time cleaning person has resigned due to a job promotion. He stated that we are currently looking for a replacement.

Mr. Hart stated that years ago the Borough entered into an agreement with Montgomery Township as far as the Storm Water Coalition where we were fighting the efforts to try to control the MS4. He stated that they haven't met in years and that he received a letter stating that they have disbanded and a refund check in the amount of \$18.14.

Mr. Hart stated that DCED has approved using the remaining funds from the \$275,000.00 grant for Phase 2. He stated that once it is finalized he will submit all the information to close it out. He mentioned that it has been holding Mr. Loth up for receiving more Façade Grant money.

**ELIZABETH EAGELMAN – BOROUGH SECRETARY:**

Mrs. Eagelman mentioned that the 2019 Spring/Summer Newsletter should be out in the mail early next week.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Pachuiilo stated that they will need to go into executive session for a personnel issue. Council went into Executive Session at 7:36 p.m.

**RECONVENE:**

Council reconvened at 7:57 p.m. No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eageman  
Borough Secretary