

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 7:00 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 (absent)
George Butkus (absent)
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa

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

Mr. Pachuillo requested a moment of silence to remember our fallen heroes and to honor our Police, Fire, Ambulance 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 April 6, 2017 Council Meeting and the April 26, 2017 Workshop Meeting. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that he received Mr. George Butkus's resignation letter today. He stated that in his letter Mr. Butkus is tendering his resignation from Borough Council as of midnight May 4, 2017. He also mentioned in his letter that it has been an honor and privilege to serve the residents of the Borough for so long. Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to accept Mr. Butkus's resignation. Mrs. Stine made the motion to accept Mr. Butkus's resignation; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES –5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried. Mr. Pachuillo stated that they are very honored that Mr. Butkus served the Borough for so long and that he will be sadly missed. Mr. Pachuillo wished him well in his future endeavors. Discussion ensued concerning filling the now vacant Council seat.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for April 2017. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that Mr. Renshaw was unable to make tonight's meeting and that their report is in everyone's packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked about the Verizon Cell Tower. Mr. Hart stated that the Cell Tower is built and that the Borough is receiving the monthly payments from Verizon.

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned they had briefly discussed the Commercial Trash Bills at the last meeting. Mr. Hart stated that he believes it would be best to bring them in house. He stated that he spoke with Mr. Glantz and that he is kind of lost and was working off three different business listings. Mr. Pachuillo then asked about the Tax Collector's position if Mr. Glantz doesn't run. Mrs. Eageman stated that she received the sample ballot in the mail today and it doesn't list anyone running for Tax Collector. Mr. Hart stated that we can check with the bank or check with Mrs. Beck to see if she would like to do it again. Discussion ensued concerning the Tax Collector position.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the request from Stackhouse Bensinger for a waiver of the Alcon Land Development Plan. Mr. Aristides Otero of Stackhouse Bensinger addressed Council. He explained that the plan was presented to the Planning Commission on April 25th. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that the Planning Commission recommended granting the waiver. Mr. Otero stated that they are looking to add some parking spaces. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that they will have to have a Storm Water Plan to replace the drainage swale in the lower area where they are putting some parking spaces. Mr. Haws stated that Council could approve waiving the Land Development Plan contingent up the receipt of the revised Storm Water Plan. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve waiving the Land Development Plan for Alcon contingent upon receipt of the revised Storm Water Plan; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is the Salt Shed Bids. Mr. Hart stated that they received four bids for the proposed Salt Storage Building which were opened today at 1:00 PM. Mr. Hart stated that there is was a General Bid on the building; option 1, which is the concrete floor; and option 2, which is a lean to on the west end of the building. He went over the bids received. The apparent low bidder was A & K Pole Buildings with a total bid of \$55,113.00. Mr. Hart mentioned that A & K built the other Pole Building for us and that he budgeted \$80,000.00 for it.

NEW BUSINESS (Cont.):

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to move forward with A & K Pole Buildings to do the Salt Shed at a bid price of \$55,113.00; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried. Mr. Hart explained that the lean to is an extra roof structure to cover the salt brine unit.

POLICE CHIEF LEE SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that he was notified by COPS that they are offering the federal grant again this year for hiring Full-Time Police Officers. He stated that the grant will cover 75% of their pay and benefits. He asked for Council's approval to apply for the grant again this year. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to authorize Chief Schweyer to apply for the grant; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

MAYOR CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli mentioned that one of our Part-Time Officers, Greg Harwell, is leaving the Borough as of May 20, 2017.

Mayor Cirulli stated that they received another equipment donation from the VFW for \$2,000.00. Chief Schweyer stated that he will be sending a Thank You letter to the VFW.

ROBERT LUDGATE SR. – BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that he has arranged that he and Mr. Hart can meet in Allentown with the Deputy Chief for design and hope to streamline a little further the process they have been talking about. He also mentioned that there will be a field meeting on Monday for the Pedestrian Safety Project

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that Alcon is sending in volunteers to do charity work next week and they will be working at Memorial Park.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that we have a payment application from Amerigreen for the cleaning of the first set of reed beds in the amount of \$51,111.48. He stated that ARRO has reviewed the payment application and recommends approval of the payment. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Payment Application for Amerigreen in the amount of \$51,111.48; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

CHARLES HAWS – BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Mr. Haws mentioned the Tax Collector position. He stated that if no one runs for Tax Collector the Borough has thirty (30) days to fill the position. If they cannot, then it goes to the Vacancy Board which has fifteen (15) days. He mentioned that it doesn't look like there is a provision for having the bank collect the taxes but it could be another governmental entity. He stated that failing to have someone elected or appointed the Borough ends up with their Treasurer collecting the Taxes or we could enter into an agreement with the County if the County Treasurer would be willing to serve as our Tax Collector.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that Mr. Haws reviewed the Bid Bond for A & K Pole Buildings and said that everything looks fine. He mentioned that they need to find someplace to put the salt during construction and that Mr. Zohner has been speaking with Lower Heidelberg to see if we could store it there.

Mr. Hart stated that he started working on the MS4 report and that it should be ready to go out soon. He stated that he is also working on our Notice of Intent to Commit letter that needs to go to Harrisburg for the next round in four years.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he had a meeting with the site super intendent and his boss from Eagle Disposal and told them about our issues with the trash collection. He stated the they are going to take care of all the issues.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they had a meeting with the CELG (Center for Excellence in Local Government), regarding the Economy League work. He stated that the CELG is going to check to make sure that there is DCED funding for this. He mentioned that they have another meeting tomorrow afternoon.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner stated that they are ready to hire the first group of Playground Leaders. She mentioned that the Head Leaders will be Lexi Haines and Tanya Lorah at \$10.50 per hour. She mentioned that Paige Pachuiilo will be returning at \$9.00 per hour; Julie Schneiderhan and Hannah Larkin are new leaders at \$8.50 per hour and Breanna Rodriguez at \$7.55 per hour. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to hire the above listed leaders at their corresponding rates pending the background checks; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried. She stated that they have finalized their project with the Wilson School District. They are going to supply three (3) teachers with fifteen (15) kids each and if needed they will supply up to nine (9) teachers with fifteen (15) kids each. She stated that the deadline to sign up for this program is May 30th and the cost is \$10.00 extra for the program if they are signed up for our playground program

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION (Cont.):

and \$90.00 if they are only doing the WSD program. Mrs. Peterson also mentioned that it is only for 1st through 5th graders so some children will not be able to attend.

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they still need someone to be the Grand Marshall for the Memorial Day Parade on May 29th. It was suggested and decided that Mayor Cirulli would serve as Grand Marshall.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine reported that she went to the Western Berks Fire Department 's Wernersville Fire Station #1 on Tuesday night. She stated that they had Pierce Fire Equipment and Glick Equipment there and they went over leasing fire equipment. She stated that is was a very interesting program and that she has it on a jump drive if anyone wants to see it.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:52 p.m. for a land and property acquisition matter.


RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:13 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Eagelman
Borough Secretary