

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, May 6, 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
H. David Miller (Arrived at 7:23)
Denise Stine (Absent)
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa (Absent)
Robert Metzgar

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; Brad Smith, Engineer, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; 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 April 1, 2021 Council Meeting. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that we received a flyer from Lower Heidelberg Township for the Shred Event which will be held on Saturday, June 12th from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Lower Heidelberg Township Building and that is it sponsored by Tompkins Vist Bank. Mr. Pachuillo thanked Lower Heidelberg Township for hosting the Shred Event again this year.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for April 2021. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 3. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to accept the Treasures Report for April 2021 as written. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 3. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Renshaw stated that everyone should have his report and he mentioned that he will not be at the next meeting due to the birth of his second child.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the Uniform Construction Code Countywide Appeals Board. Mr. Hart stated that this is something that we have been a part of for years and that they just changed it and want a new Agreement signed by the Borough to participate in it. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to authorize execution of the Agreement; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. Mrs. Peterson asked how they charge us. Mrs. Eagelman stated that the letter states that there is an annual membership fee of \$300.00 payable to the County Treasurer. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 3. Motion carried.

The next item was to ratify the Wage Rate Changes for the Sewer Department. Mr. Hart stated that he has been doing some restructuring since all of this has happened. He stated that we had five (5) employees out there and he reduced it to four (4) and adjusted the rates to be more competitive. He mentioned that one of the big changes is the Superintendent salary and that he changed it from a salaried position to hourly. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to approve the wage rate changes for the sewer department per memo dated April 26, 2021 on file in the Borough office; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 3. Motion carried.

The next item was to ratify the hiring of three (3) Waste Water Treatment Plant employees. Mr. Hart stated that he would like to ratify the hiring of Mrs. Kim Cherry as Waste Water Superintendent. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to hire Mrs. Kim Cherry as Superintendent of the Waste Water Treatment Plant; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 3. Motion carried. Mr. Hart stated that he would like to ratify the hiring of Mr. Robert Grugan as Waste Water Operator. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to hire Mr. Robert Grugan as a Waste Water Operator; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 3. Mr. Hart stated that he would like to ratify the hiring of Mr. Joseph Sweeney as Waste Water Utility Person. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to hire Mr. Joseph Sweeney as Waste Water Utility Person; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 3.

NEW BUSINESS (Cont.):

Mr. Pachuilto stated that the next item is to ratify the Electric Supply Contract with APPI. Mr. Hart mentioned that this is the same group that he has had the last two agreement through. He stated that they came through again with a net savings over the four year term of about \$32,000.00. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to approve the Electric Supply Contract with APPI; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 3. Mr. Hart mentioned that this contract will start January 2022.

Mr. Pachuilto stated that the next item is Senda Auto Sales Conditional Approval of Land Development Plan. Mr. Hart stated that the Planning Commission reviewed the plans and recommended Conditional Approval. Mr. Pachuilto asked what they are looking to do. Mr. Hart stated that the project is located at 28 Shillington Road and that they are proposing the demo of two structures and the construction of a new 2,100 square foot building to contain an office, showroom and service area. He stated that one of the biggest problems they had was that they had to combine the three different parcels there so they could meet the setback requirements and he had to upgrade the lighting per the SALDO. Mr. Smith went over the highlights of his review letter dated April 22, 2021 and the three waivers. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to approve the three waivers as listed on ARRO's letter dated April 23, 2021 per the Planning Commission's recommendation; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to grant conditional approve of the Land Development Plan conditioned upon all items on ARRO's review letter dated April 22, 2021 being met per the Planning Commission's recommendation; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3.

Mr. Pachuilto mentioned that Mr. Stewart Wenrich of the Streets Department has handed in his letter of resignation effective May 14, 2021. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to accept Mr. Wenrich's resignation; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Mr. Hart asked for Councils permission to advertise for the position. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to authorize Mr. Hart to advertise for the open position in the Streets Department; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3.

Mr. Miller arrived at the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Merlin Weaver, Committee Chairman of BOSS Forward, addressed Council. He went over the Report to Borough Council prepared by Mr. Loth. He mentioned that Representative Chrissy Houlahan has recommended our Phase 2 Intersection Realignment Project for \$1,865,624.00 to the U.S. House Committee on Appropriation and if awarded, funding would become available to complete the entire Phase 2 project construction. He also mentioned that the Berks County Commissioners, on the recommendation of Mr. Ken Pick, have allocated \$300,000.00 through the Federal CDBG program toward the Borough's Phase 2 project construction. He stated that State Senator David Argall has successfully extended all of the Borough's PennDOT and DCED grant awards to June 30, 2022. He mentioned that the BOSS Committee will film an appearance on Controller Sandy Graffius's BCTV show for airing in the fall of 2021. He also mentioned that the BOSS Committee is looking into a Keep PA Beautiful Grant Program.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his reports for March and April 2021.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Smith gave an update on Phase 2. He stated that they are still waiting for the utilities to get their HOP and that they provided additional information to Pennsylvania American Water and that UGI should be verifying their gas main location and depth. He stated that his best estimate on a window to bid would be in 2-3 months after the HOP has cleared everything with PennDOT.

Mr. Smith mentioned that the developers engineer for Village Greens has prepared a response to FEMA's comments in the floodplain review letter.

Mr. Smith mentioned that we have two Payment Applications for the Broad Street Sanitary Sewer Improvement project. The first is Payment Application No. 6 for Phase 1 in the amount of \$42,244.88 to Barrasso Excavation Inc. which leaves a retainage of \$9,730.00. The second is for Payment Application No. 6 for Phase 2 in the amount of \$80,038.36 to Barrasso Excavation Inc. which leave a retainage of \$47,347.00. He stated that there is a change order to increase the contract time to June 3, 2021 to close out the project with the agencies and for a quantity adjustment that was made for a total increase of \$47,602.40 for additional paving to repair the trench in Phase 1 and for additional backfill in both phases. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve both Payment Applications and the Change Order; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Mr. Smith mentioned that the EPA requested a meeting to go over the Borough's compliance with the American Iron and Steel Act. He stated that the EPA was satisfied with the information ARRO provided for that meeting.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that he had budgeted for Part Time staff for the Streets Department and asked Council's approval to hire Mr. Chase Walters as Part Time Summer Help at \$12.00 per hour. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve hiring Mr. Chase Walters; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2.

Mr. Hart mentioned that Council had previous authorized Mr. Zohner to move ahead with getting the RAS pump rebuilt and order a spare part to keep in stock. He stated that they took the old pump out and took it to Motor Tech to be worked on. He stated that there were no markings on the motor and they were given incorrect information and the wrong parts were ordered. He stated that Motor Tech is now charging us a restocking fee of almost \$12,000.00 which is 40% of the cost. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hart stated that his recommendation is to move ahead with the updated figures for the repair parts and the spare unit. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to authorize the additional \$12,000.00 expense for restocking of the wrong unit and ordering of correct parts; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2.

JAMES PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pachuiilo advised that the trash hauler is in the Borough picking up trash at 5 a.m. and wanted to know what time the contract states.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that we already have 165 kids registered for the Summer Playground Program. She asked for a motion to hire Julia Weaver at \$9.00 per hour as a part time playground leader. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to hire Julia Weaver; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Mr. Pachuiilo asked if we would be able to do movie nights this year. Mrs. Gantner stated she hopes to be able to do at least one at the end of the season.

DAVE MILLER – SEWER AND SANITATION:

Mr. Miller mentioned that he was able to take over the state reporting requirements for the sewer plant so we did not miss a beat on that. He asked Mr. Hart if he was able to get the reed bed evacuation price. Mr. Hart stated that he just has the contract price that we have right now but not the additional. He stated that he did check and that we can add to the existing contract. Mr. Miller stated that upon closer inspection of the plant there are way too many solids in our inventory. He stated that the drying beds are absolutely full and that we usually have one bank cleaned each year but stated that we need to do two this year and get ahead of the curve. Mr. Smith stated that he could do a change order to add the additional cleaning. Mr. Miller made a motion to add the additional reed bed bank to this year's cleaning with the amount to be ratified at the next meeting; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. They also mentioned that there is an issue with the one that was done last year.


VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Bondarchuk of 301 Broad Street address Council concerning the street in front of his house. He believes it was damaged by the contractor keeping their equipment there. There was also discussion about traffic calming devices for Broad Street to slow down traffic.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary