

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, June 1, 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)
H. David Miller
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 May 4, 2017 Council Meeting and the May 24, 2017 Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Gantner made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for May 2017. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Renshaw mentioned that they hosted another Home Fire Preparedness Campaign in Lower Heidelberg Township the first weekend in May and that they also hosted a joint press conference between us, the Red Cross and UGI at station 1 in Wernersville. He stated that they installed 46 smoke detectors during the Home Fire Preparedness Campaign. He also mentioned that in the beginning of the month they hosted Pierce Financial Solutions who conducted a presentation on apparatus leasing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachulo stated that the first item is the Early Intervention Program. Mr. Hart stated that everyone was sent a copy of it to read up on it. He stated that he, Mrs. Peterson and Mr. Huckleberry (by phone), met with Mr. Paul Jansen, Mr. Kramer and Ms. Christine Verdier from Senator Argall's office to go over the plan and see what the benefits are for the plan. He stated that it does look very promising as far as us having a plan that we know the channels. He stated that we have all this money coming in and it is all slated for different things but we don't know where it is supposed to go. He stated that this plan would help us put things in order so that we would have a better understanding. Mrs. Peterson stated that what she liked about the meeting was that it was very realistic. She stated that the plan will show us what we can spend the money on and she mentioned that it will make the budgeting much easier for Mr. Hart. Mr. Hart asked if Council would make a motion to move ahead with the EIP. He stated that currently it is a 50/50 match but could be dropped if the Senator can get it changed and then the Borough would be responsible for \$15,000.00 over a three-year period. He stated that if it doesn't get changed then it would be \$30,000.00 over a three-year period. Mrs. Peterson also mentioned that another thing that is promising for us is that once you are in this program they see that you mean business and are more likely to get the grants. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to move ahead with the EIP; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

POLICE CHIEF LEE SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that the COPS Grant is open now and we are free to apply for the Grant.

ROBERT LUDGATE SR. – BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Ludgate congratulated Council on adopting that long-range budgeting issue because he has been concerned about it for the last ten years. He mentioned that he researched getting Red Light money and that there is a program called Green Light Go which will be accepting applications in August this year and could fund 50% of the cost.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that with regard to that light and the urgency of getting the standard purchased so that we don't deal with a delay on order time, we have been told, Mr. Hart, with absolute justification, wants to see the permit before placing the order. He stated that in terms of chasing the permit, he has a document here tonight. He stated that STV has completed the plan and they have to submit it tomorrow into PennDOT Format. He stated that part of that is called an Application for Traffic Signal Approval which needs to be signed in two places by the Borough Manager. He stated that it commits the Borough to maintaining the signal once it is relocated. He stated that Council needs to pass a Resolution stating that the Borough Manager is authorized and directed to submit the attached application for Traffic Signal Approval to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and sign the application on behalf of the municipality. Mrs. Peterson asked if we maintain that light now. Mr. Hart stated yes. Mr. Pachuillo stated that we have a contract with Telco for the maintenance on all the traffic lights in the Borough. Mr. Hart explained that we have to do that because we are changing the poll and that we already have the agreement for that intersection. Mr. Ludgate stated that there is an existing signal plan and that each traffic signal has a specific plan which is a contract between the municipality and PennDOT stating that the municipality agrees to maintain and operate the signals and PennDOT agrees that they meet their criteria and basically it is a two-party agreement. He stated that each of those is accomplished via a signal plan which is really a diagram and it is supposed to show all of the elements that are incorporated into that plan. He stated that STV has already received the diagram from PennDOT and have added to it the elements that the Borough will be responsible for. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the Borough Manager to sign the application; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that their Push Camera broke down. He stated that he tore it apart and looked at it but it is a 2003 and still records on VHS. He stated that it can't be repaired and that they don't make parts for it any more. He mentioned that a new one would cost \$9,000.00 from L B Water and that it comes with a free locator which is usually \$2,000.00. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to authorize Mr. Zohner to purchase a new Push Camera from L B Water at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that we had to file a report for a Corrective Action Plan for the Mt. Home Road Pump Station. He stated that from November 1, 2016 through May 5, 2017 there has been no second pump running at the pump station so we are not hydraulically overloaded but we have to continue monitoring for another year.

Mr. Smith reported that the Penn Avenue Interceptor Crossing Project has been completed and that our NPDES Permit is still administratively extended. He stated that the first set of reed beds has been completed and the next set will be cleaned in 2018 under the same contract. He mentioned that the Sanitary Sewer GIS will be completed later this month and that all of the data analysis has been completed.

ELIZABETH EAGELMAN – BOROUGH SECRETARY:

Mrs. Eagelman mentioned that the commercial trash bills went out last week and that the payments have already started coming in.

CHARLES HAWS – BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Mr. Haws mentioned that he looked over the contract with the Trash Hauler and there isn't really anything in it that covers them throwing the cans and lids around or leaving them in the street but it does state that the residents have to place them on the curb. He stated that we could do an addendum to the contract. Mr. Pachuillo stated that there should be some repercussion to the trash hauler. He stated that a letter setting more stringent rules that they must adhere to or their contract will be void and we will be seeking another hauler will probably straighten a lot of things out.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that he met with the owners at 3922 Penn Avenue again today with the contractors. He stated that the contractors will be getting their bids together and getting them to Empire shortly. He mentioned that he had to revise the time frame because now it is pushed off further.

JAMES PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that the PUC voted in favor of the municipalities in regards to the Mini Cell Towers. Mr. Haws stated that we still need to have regulation that addresses it because it is still a legitimate use. He stated that we have to have some provision that says that if you are allowed to put these in than this is what you need and describe what area it is. He stated that Council will need to pass an Ordinance to regulate them.

MAYOR CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli thanked Mrs. Gantner and the Rec Board for all of their hard work arranging the Memorial Day Parade even though it got rained out. Mrs. Gantner stated that it was a hard decision to make and thanked Mr. Cirulli for helping make the decision.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that we already have 93 people signed up for Playground this year. She mentioned that they are working on the Part-Time Leaders but doing interviews on Saturday mornings for the high school kids. Mr. Pachulo stated that the Rec Board can do the hiring and we can ratify everything at our next meeting. Mrs. Gantner stated that she will send out e-mails.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that he has discussed this with Mr. Hart and that he would like to get a Save Zone out in the back-parking lot since we have camera now. He explained that a Safe Zone is where people can meet and exchange items or children. He stated that we will need to purchase a sign to post. Mrs. Stine made a motion to authorize Chief Schweyer to create a Safe Site and purchase a sign; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. Mr. Hart stated that in order for us to do that we will have to purchase one more camera because there is a spot in the parking lot that the current camera doesn't show. Mrs. Stine amended her motion to include purchasing an additional camera; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.


TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Eagelman
Borough Secretary