

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, June 4, 2015 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; Tom Ludgate, Ludgate Engineering; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Public Works Director; Police Chief Lee Schweyer, Regina Shade, Borough Manager and Elizabeth Eagelman who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

Mr. Pachuillo requested a moment of silence to honor our fallen heroes and those who serve us on a daily basis at home and abroad in the Armed Forces and our first responders.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2015 Council Meeting and the May 27, 2015 Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Gantner made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. 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 2015. Mrs. Stine made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Zerman was not in attendance due to an accident earlier today and having cleanup work to do yet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item was the Trash/Recycling recommendation from Committee. He asked if the committee met to which Mrs. Stine stated no. He stated that just because one member can't make the meeting doesn't mean the rest of the Committee can't meet. He stated that if at least two members can meet we should at least start trying to get something together for the trash and recycling because it is going to have to go out for bid by August or September so we can get the bids back. Mrs. Stine stated that they were going to meet but then Mr. Butkus cancelled everybody.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item was the Verizon Lease. He asked Mr. Haws if there was anything new. Mr. Haws stated that he followed up with Mr. Jim Rodgers the local Verizon Representative and went over the changes that we were going to propose to make and then on Monday he sent the proposed changes off to their attorney who is out of state and copied Mr. Rodgers. He stated that Mr. Rodgers indicated that the revisions we are looking for all sounded reasonable and that he understood that there is certain flexibility in the Lease. Mr. Haws stated that as soon as he hears back we will see what we can do to get it finalized.

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that he had a request from Mrs. Shade and Mrs. Eageman. He stated that when they try to do the minutes they are having trouble hearing some of the conversations because of all the other conversations and background noise because the microphones pick up everything.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the only thing under New Business is the Resolution for Escrow Accounts. Mrs. Shade mentioned that she sent out an e-mail to all Council Members earlier this week explaining it to them. She stated that things are getting a little tighter in the accounting rules and we now have to open up a separate bank account for the escrows so we can give them back the interest they accrued. She stated that the Resolution will make it easier so we don't have to send everybody over to the bank to sign signature cards all the time. She stated that the Engineer will let Council know that the project is completed and passed all the inspections, Mr. Hart will agree and then Council will authorize the release of the funds. She stated that it will make it easier if she is allowed to put the money in and pull the money out after Council's approval of the release. Mr. Haws mentioned that he put in the Resolution that it is for Improvement Agreements and Storm Water Agreements. He stated that we have them prepay for ten (10) years of inspections and that money will be drawn down annually for the inspections and would only be released based on recommendations to Council by the consultants and approved by Council. Mrs. Gantner asked if there shouldn't be safeguards like requiring two signatures. Mr. Haws stated that there are going to be checks and balances because the auditor looks that these accounts and anything else that we are maintaining. Mrs. Shade stated that there will be no checks on these accounts and that she would have to go into the bank and show her ID and the bank issues the check directly to the developer. Mrs. Stine made a motion to pass the Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that he had a handicapped space request from a Leslie Shilling at 3981 Penn Avenue. He stated that she does have a Handicapped Permit and that we only have one handicapped parking space in this block which is in front of the Borough Hall. Mr. Hoffa suggested that we table the request until the Ordinance is in place like we did with the last one on Woodrow. Mr. Pachuillo stated that we would table it.

Chief Schweyer mentioned that Mrs. Alicia Pagerly from Pagerly Foundation wants to donate \$3,500.00 to the police department to purchase equipment mainly level three ballistic shields and a battering ram for a door. He stated that Mrs. Pagerly specifically picked those pieces of equipment. Mr. Pachuillo stated that they should send a letter. Chief Schweyer stated that they would when they receive the check.

Chief Schweyer mentioned that they have an issue on Johnston Street. He stated that he spoke with a gentile from Grafika and that Grafika has purchased the property at 254 South Hull Street and will be using Johnston Street quite a bit now for truck traffic. He stated that they are complaining that there is very little room on Johnston Street to get the trucks through because another business there (Schlessman Towing) parks his vehicles on both sides of that street. Mr. Hart stated that his suggestion is to remove on street parking on at least one side of the street. He also stated that, by Variance, Mr. Schlessman is supposed to park all of his vehicles on his property. Mr. Hoffa asked if we could just site him for that instead of restricting parking. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hart stated that the best thing would be to remove parking altogether on Johnston Street because there are no residential properties there and Grafika has their own parking for their employees. Mr. Pachuillo asked what it would take to do that. Mr. Hart stated that Council would have to pass an Ordinance to remove on street parking on that block of Johnston Street on both sides. Mrs. Stine made a motion to remove parking on both sides of Johnston Street; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. Discussion ensued concerning just removing parking on one side instead of both. Mrs. Stine amended her motion to remove parking on the South Side of Johnston Street; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

Chief Schweyer gave the stats for Shillington Road. He stated that in the last five (5) years, from May 2010 to May 2015, there was one (1) reportable accident which the passing on Shillington Road was the cause and that was the pedestrian one that just occurred. He stated that there were 64 non-reportable accidents and of that four (4) were caused by the passing on Shillington Road. He mentioned that in the last week they have been heavily enforcing the passing on Shillington Road and have written seventy (70) citations as of yesterday. Discussion ensued. Chief Schweyer stated that the Borough only gets \$12.50 for each citation and if they request a hearing then we have to pay overtime to that officer. Mr. Pachuillo suggested that we continue doing this for another week or two so we have some ammunition to go at PennDOT with.

CHIEF SCHWEYER (Cont.):

Mrs. Shade mentioned that the meeting with PennDOT is on June 15th and that the Mayor was interviewed by the Reading Eagle and 69 News. Mr. Pachuillo suggested using Part-Timers when possible and keep going with it until the Workshop Meeting. Mr. Hoffa stated that the Chief could come back at the Workshop Meeting and tell Council what effectiveness it is having and what he has heard from PennDOT. Mayor Cirulli also asked him to keep track as to what went out in the way of expenses.

TOM LUDGATE – BOROUGH ENGINEER:

Mr. Ludgate asked for Council to authorize advertising for Bids for the Hull Street Repaving Project. He stated that they are shooting for the July Workshop Meeting to open the bids. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to authorize advertising for bids for the Hull Street Repaving Project; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that they met with PennDOT last week to go over the pedestrian access in project two and that the final plans are in.

MICHAEL HART – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Hart gave an update on the Lower Heidelberg situation. He stated that they did a sample and waiting for the results. He stated that Lower Heidelberg has started going after their restaurants and asking them for their reports and making sure they are doing what they are supposed to be doing.

Mr. Hart also mentioned that he had an architect to propose to draw up the plans for the new salt building and they are waiting to get the green light to move forward. He mentioned that he will have to see if he can submit it to Liquid Fuels to see if it can be covered under that because it is \$2,900.00 which was not budgeted. He stated that he needs a plan drawn up so he has the bases to move forward. Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion that if it is covered by Liquid Fuels then Mr. Hart can move forward with the plans and if not he has to come back to Council. Mrs. Stine made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that there is no NPDES Permit yet.

Mr. Smith also mentioned that Reed Bed Cleaning First Phase has been completed and we have a Payment Application #1 from Amerigreen Inc. in the amount of \$80,912.12. He stated that ARRO has reviewed the Pay Application and found everything in order and the work is done for this first phase and ARRO recommends payment. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve payment to Amerigreen Inc. in the amount of \$80,912.12; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

REGINA SHADE – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mrs. Shade mentioned that we are starting the Smart Search and it is all installed. She also mentioned that the Fourth of July is on a Saturday this year so the Borough Hall will be closed on Friday, July 3rd. She asked if Council still wanted to have the meeting on July 2nd. All of Council was in agreement to keep the meeting on Thursday, July 2nd.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Library is having a Book Sale on June 18th, 19th and 20th. She also mentioned that the Summer Reading Program is starting June 8th and runs to August 15th with Story Time at the Train Station at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. She stated that they are also running an Adult Reading Program, every month there is a Family Craft Night and every month there is a Lego Club. Mrs. Peterson also mentioned that they have sixty (60) people signed up for Playground so far. Mrs. Shade mentioned that she could put the Library events on the Borough's Facebook page.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that when they were doing the Parade he was talking to Jim and Diane Yarger who live on the corner of Broad and Miller. He stated that there were little signs in their front lawn and they are in the Parade of Gardens. He stated that they are very proud that they are the only home in Sinking Spring that is in the Parade of Gardens.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they had a little glitch trying to get all of the Background Checks done but it should all be taken care of now. She also mentioned that they had a meeting with the leaders and they already have all of the Field Trips planned and the calendar is almost done. She asked if it was alright to keep the playground open on July 3rd since the Borough Hall is closed. Mrs. Shade stated that was fine. Mayor Cirulli asked what the movie dates are. Mrs. Gantner stated that June 12th is Big Hero Six, July 10th is Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day; and August 7th is the new Cinderella. She stated that on June 12th they are starting with games at 7:30 and the movie will start at dark.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine mentioned that they could not have a negotiation meeting tonight because the letter that had to be signed also needs to be certified by their attorney and once that comes back they will be able to meet. She stated that she will let everyone know when something is set up.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY (Cont.):

Mrs. Stine asked Mr. Pachuillo where they are at with the Fire Commissioner. Mr. Pachuillo stated that they extended an offer to Mr. Jared Renshaw and he accepted the offer and will start around August 3rd. He stated that it is a verbal done deal but the contracts need to be signed yet.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Egelman
Asst. Borough Secretary