

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, July 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., by Council President James Pachuiilo. After the pledge to the flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder, Borough Solicitor; Brad Smith, Engineer, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Officer William Skelton; Kim Cherry, Sewer Plant Superintendent; and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

Mr. Pachuiilo turned the meeting over to Vice President Tracy Peterson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2021 Council Meeting. Mr. Miller made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that Mr. Pachuiilo received a memo concerning the Police Contract negotiations and that it will be handed over to the Safety Committee.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Renshaw stated that their June Activity report was emailed separately from everyone's email packet when it was received. He mentioned that they had two (2) significant fires last month one of which was in the Borough last week. He stated that it was a fire on the back porch of a three story multi-family residence. He mentioned that all of the residents were able to get out safely and that the quick response of the Fire Department keep it contained to the porch. He stated that the other fire was on June 13th on Texter Mountain Road and that one of the fire fighters had to call a mayday because he fell through the floor going from the first floor into the basement. He stated that WFMZ did a big news story on it and talked about what fire fighters face and all the training they go through. He mentioned that the fire fighter was pulled out and was ok.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mrs. Peterson stated that we have not received their report yet since it is only the first of the month and that we should have it for the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the first item is the Wireless Update. Mr. Hart mentioned that we have not moved on this since the last time we talked about it and that he believes the Safety Committee was to get together to review and discuss it. He stated that the law group that we use for the Cable Franchise also has a real good policy for cell towers, their location and control of them. He stated that he wanted to put it out there so we work on it and get it done before it goes crazy. Mr. Haws stated that the email was received from the Cohen Law Group concerning House Bill 1621 that regulates the deployment of small cell wireless facilities in the public rights-of-way, preserves local zoning authority over "small wireless facilities" in the public rights-of-way, and increases the fees that municipalities may charge wireless providers. He stated that the Bill has passed both the House and the Senate and is headed to the Governor's desk for his expected signature. He stated that the draft Ordinance that we had circulated previously and has been adopted by other municipalities lets you permit those mini cells, exclude it in areas that have utilities underground, an application fee, an annual inspection/maintenance fee, etc. He stated that it is favorable to enact an Ordinance, whether it is Cohen's or the draft that we had or something else. He stated that it is better to do it and have the zoning in place then have an application and not have the zoning in place and you are stuck with what they propose. Mr. Miller asked if he could refresh that in an email to the committee.

Mrs. Peterson stated that the next item is the Reed Beds. Ms. Cherry stated that they have been able to utilize the three (3) remaining Reed Beds so far and that they did have to take this week off because of the storms and the current sludge being so thick it is not drying fast enough so they are giving them time to dry out. Mr. Hart stated that we have to do something moving forward with the other set of beds that needs to be rebuilt. He stated that we have an engineer estimate for the repairs which is quite extensive because we have to clean out everything that is in there. Mr. Pachuillo asked if this is a shared cost. Mr. Hart stated that we will have to pay it up front but it will

be included in the shared operating costs for next year. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hart stated that he would like to at least get a motion to approve advertising for bids. Mr. Miller asked if it would be Pennbid. Mr. Hart stated yes. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve advertising for bid on Pennbid; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 3. Motion carried. Mr. Hart stated that it would be a total rebuild of the bed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the only item is the Semi-Quincentennial – America 250 PA – Resolution. Mr. Hart stated that the County sent out a model Resolution for us to join in with them to celebrate. Council decided to table this item to see what other municipalities are doing.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that there was a BOSS Committee meeting June 17th that he did not attend and that the next scheduled meeting is July 15th.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Smith went over his Municipal Engineering report and mentioned that they received proposals today for doing inspection work for the Phase 2 project that include qualifications not prices. He also mentioned that they are still working with the utilities to get their HOPs and that they are getting closer. He stated that there is a meeting with PENNDOT on July 13th. He mentioned that Village Greens is still working against the Federal Government and FEMA trying to get their Flood Plain approved and that the Sinking Spring Retail Investors has submitted a revised plan which was reviewed but they did not have a Planning Commission meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

Mr. Smith went over his Environmental Engineering report and mentioned that they have closed out the grant with the CFA and are working on closing out the loan with Pennvest, and working on the Influent metering. He stated that they will get to work right away on getting the Reed Bed Spec out on the street as soon as possible. He mentioned that Jason Coyle was out and made some recommendations on changing the loading to the Reed Beds. He stated that they also noticed a little bit of Aphids infection in the reeds which they are going to monitor for now because they did see evidence that the Ladybugs have found the Aphids so they are hoping that they will wipe each other out. He mentioned that he has a pay application from Synagro Central LLC in the amount of \$157,404.04 for the reed bed cleaning. He reminded Council that it was for the set of beds scheduled for this year and the set that was scheduled to be done next year that we had them do now. He also mentioned that this would conclude the contract and that we could extend it for one more year if Council so chooses or they could rebid it. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve Pay Application No. 2 for \$157,404.04; seconded by Mr. Pachuillo. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 3. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith mentioned that he gave Mr. Hart a proposal for engineering for the final part of Phase 2 as requested. He stated that they can proceed on that whenever the Borough wishes. He mentioned that there is a separate contract to do the surveying with Earl Felty. He mentioned that the sooner they can get started on that the better because along with the surveying they have to take some cores there to get some soil information. Mr. Hart stated that he will turn it over to the Admin Committee to look at and we can talk about it in more detail. Mr. Smith stated that he can attend the meeting if necessary and they can change the scope if needed. Mrs. Peterson stated that they will table it until the Admin Committee meets and bring back a recommendation at the next Council meeting.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that we sent out the RFP's for the engineering inspections for Phase 2 that PENNDOT requires for the project. He stated that we received three (3) of them to date and now we have to sit down and go over the proposals. He stated that we need to form a Board to review them and make a recommendation to Council. He stated that the Board will consist of himself, Mr. Haws, Mr. Smith and someone from Council.

Mr. Hart mentioned that we received our first instalment of the ARP funds on June 29th in the amount of \$214,885.89.

TRACY PETERSON – RECREATION AND LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that everything is going really well with the Playground Program and that they still have people signing up for Main Playground and that Brookfield is full. She stated that she needed to make a motion to rehire Ryan Lawes and Brylee Faust as of June 1, 2021 at a rate of \$10.00 per hour. Mr. Miller made the motion; seconded by Mr. Pachuillo. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 3. Motion carried.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that they just created a new job description for the Assistant Library Director Position that will be a non-benefited position but a full time position. She stated that they need to work with Mr. Haws to come up with a benefit time off so that they would get all of the paid holidays our benefited positions get and after their first year they would get five (5) days of paid time off and after their second year they would get ten (10) days of paid time off and there would be no carry over to the next year if the time is not used. Mr. Haws stated that they should send him the job description and he will look to see what changes should be made in the handbook.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the County Commissions have ended their Member Services Agreement with all member Library's and that they need to sign a new contract by September 30th and if we don't sign the new contract then we are no longer a part of the Library system and we lose funding. She stated that they are changing the funding formula and we don't really know what we are going to get to keep our Library open. She mentioned that it was talked about at their Admin Committee meeting about increasing the amount that the Borough gives the Library in the future and that we have been giving them \$33,000.00 for many years..

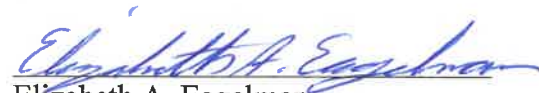
ROBERT METZGAR – ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that the Admin Committee met on Monday the 28th and that they need to schedule their next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Metzgar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eageman
Borough Secretary