

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, July 7, 2016 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
George Butkus (arrived at 7:04)
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa (absent)

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; Robert Ludgate Sr., Ludgate Engineering; David Schlott Jr., 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 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 June 2, 2016 Council Meeting and the June 22, 2016 Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that since we have a packed house because of the proposed PP&L High Tension Line we will start with that. He asked Mr. Loth to give his report first and then the representative from the Community Group can speak. Mr. Loth handed out his report and asked everyone to follow along. He stated that the Revitalization Committee was asked to present a report on the status of the Borough's Revitalization Program, the financial investments to date and the expected outcomes in terms of new jobs and Borough revenues. He went over the report and explained the BOSS 2020 vision for the New Downtown and the realigning of the roadways. He went over the funds that have been invested in the project so far by four (4) agencies since 2008 when it started; 1) PennDOT = \$1,578,000.00, 2) PA DCED = \$1,444,000.00, 3) Berks County Commissioners = \$750,000.00, 4) Borough of Sinking Spring = \$1,397,000.00. He stated that they estimate that once the infrastructure is built and the private developer builds the new town center the Borough will be able to generate \$200,000.00 per year in additional income through taxes and other revenue. He also stated that they estimate that it would also add 900 new jobs. He stated that the local electric utility, PP&L, has proposed to string a high power electric line north to south directly through the central business district of Sinking Spring. He stated that this would be counter-productive to the efforts of our elected leaders and the all-volunteer Revitalization

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.):

Committee. He mentioned that Senator David Argall and Representative Jim Cox are both very big supporters of our project and when they heard about this they got together and wrote a letter to the President of PP&L asking them to reconsider. He also mentioned that BOSS2020 will be sending their own letter to PP&L.

Mr. Pachuillo called on Mrs. Jan Roland to speak on behalf of the Community. Mrs. Roland stated that they are here this evening because they are very concerned and very opposed to PP&L's plan to run their power lines through their neighbor hoods. She stated that their first concern is that they are very large and unsightly and this will probably lower the value of their homes. She stated that they are further concerned with health issues caused by the power lines and also about the stability because of the lime stone. She mentioned that they are also concerned about the Borough's plans that only serve to make the quality of our lives a whole lot better. She stated that they want safer roads and the conveniences and everything that the Redevelopment Plan would give to the community. She stated that they would very much like to have PP&L and the message to them be given that we would like them to reconsider the route for the power lines.

Mr. Pachuillo asked what else we could do as a community to help with this effort. Mrs. Roland stated that we could all write letters to the Senator and State Representative to add our support. Mr. Pachuillo also suggested letters to PP&L voicing our concerns. It was suggested that one letter be written for everyone to sign. Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that Spring Township's meeting is Monday and we can voice our concerns there too. He thanked everyone for coming out and voicing their concerns.

Mr. Pachuillo asked if there was anyone that had comments not related to anything on the Agenda. A woman in the back stated that she is a Trustee from the Liberty Fire Social Quarters and she was asked to speak to Council concerning the snow removal. She stated that some of the residents are parking in their lot while snow removal is going on and they were told that the Borough told them to park there. Mr. Pachuillo stated that Council and staff never told anyone they could park there because it is private property.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that we received a letter from Hoffert & Klonis concerning Sewer Capacity. Mr. Butkus explained that two years ago we received a typical Planning Module saying we have capacity and willingness to serve which at the time we did. He stated that however that is not the agreement to actually buy the capacity. He mentioned that since then we have sent letters out to the contributing municipalities stating that we will not be selling any more of our reserve capacity. He stated that he has no problem with honoring the previous willingness to serve agreement. Mr. Haws stated that the Borough does not have to honor it. He mentioned that we have gone around this same issue with Lower Heidelberg before. Mr. Pachuillo suggested drafting a letter to Hoffert & Klonis stating that they have to go through Lower Heidelberg Township for the capacity. Mr. Haws stated that the letter they are referring to in their letter is from May 2014. He stated that the letter indicates a willingness to serve that capacity with conditions which have not been satisfied so the Borough is not bound by that. Discussion ensued. Mr. Butkus made a motion

CORRESPONDENCE (Cont.):

to direct ARRO to draft a letter to Hoffert & Klonis stating that any additional capacity amendments to any Inter-Municipal Agreements need to come with the express consent and order of the sending municipality and no additional capacity can be sold without the sending municipality buying it and now is the time to reevaluate additional needs over the next ten years; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for June 2016. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Renshaw stated that everyone had the activities report for June. He mentioned that about 50% of the uniforms have been delivered and issued. He mentioned that they are getting involved with two important partnerships. The first is with the American Red Cross thru their Home Fire Preparedness Campaign which will give and install smoke detectors in houses that need them. He also mentioned that they are working on a fund raising campaign in August to purchase additional smoke detectors and 9 volt batteries. He mentioned that Joe Stine will be replacing him next month while he is off for the birth of his child. Mrs. Gantner thanked Mr. Renshaw for letting the Playground come for a tour of the Fire House and the apparatus.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that the Borough received a \$1,100,000.00 grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority and is attached to segment 1 of phase 3 for the project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is Authorizing the Council President to sign the Demo Contract with Empire. Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to authoriz Mr. Pachuillo to sign the Demo Contract when it is returned; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is the RV Parking Ordinance. Mr. Hart stated that the Ordinance is ready for Council to authorize the release and advertise it. Mr. Pachuillo suggested that they take some time to look over it and then discuss it at the Workshop Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no New Business.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer stated that his meeting at the White House was postponed until July 22nd.

Chief Schweyer mentioned that he got the estimate from TRM for outfitting the new police car including all electronics. He stated that the estimate is \$8,756.52 which can be rolled into the lease for next year. Mrs. Stine made a motion to authorize outfitting the new police car at a price not to exceed \$9,000.00; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that Mr. Wenrich has met all of his qualifications to be bumped up to Class 1 Street Department Operator. He asked Council to increase Mr. Wenrich's pay rate from \$17.04 per hour to \$17.84 per hour per their contract. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to increase Mr. Wenrich's pay rate to \$17.84 per hour; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that Mr. Loth would like to submit another Grant Application to DCED that would cover another section and that it is due by July 31st. He stated that Mr. Loth would like to meet with the Economic Development Committee before the Workshop Meeting so that they can make a recommendation to Council at the Workshop Meeting.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Schlott stated that the Interceptor Crossing is out on PENNBID and Bids will be opened on July 22nd. He mentioned that they are still waiting for responses from Lower Heidelberg Township and Spring Township with regards to capacity at the plant.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Library is looking for a new Board Member. She also mentioned that the Summer Reading Program is going very well and that the Library staff is going to the Playground to do Story Time three times this summer. She stated that they started doing fund raisers to raise funds for the Library. She also mentioned that the Spring Township Library is moving into a building on Penn Avenue in Spring Township about two block from our Library.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the next movie night is Friday, July 15th and the movie is Inside Out. She mentioned that they have about 160 children in the Playground Program. Mrs. Peterson mentioned that there has been some vandalism at the Playground and wants the Police to patrol there more often. Mr. Pachulo suggested looking into getting prices for security cameras.

GEORGE BUTKUS – SEWER AND SANITATION:

Mr. Butkus mentioned that the Sewer Committee is going to try to meet before the Workshop Meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Pachulo stated that they needed to go into Executive Session to discuss a Real Estate issue and a personnel matter. Council went into Executive Session at 8:11 p.m.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:51 p.m.

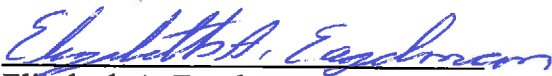
Mrs. Gantner made a motion to go out for proposals for appraisals for Phase 3 segment 1 & 2 property; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to increase Mr. Zohner’s salary by \$5,000.00 starting the next pay period; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary