

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by Council President James Pachuillo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuillo  
TJ Huckleberry  
H. David Miller  
Denise Stine  
Lisa Gantner (Absent)  
Tracy Peterson (Absent)  
Brian Hoffa (Absent)

Other officials present were: Charles Haws, Barley Snyder; 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.

#### **VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no visitors.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that there are four things that we received since last meeting. The first is from the Womelsdorf Fire Company inviting everyone to an event on September 11, 2017 at the Conrad Weiser Middle School Auditorium and is dedicated to the Fallen First Responders of all communities. The second item is an invitation to attend the Berks Festival of Trees. The third item was the Municipal Official Breakfast on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The fourth item was for the 2017 Jack Frost Parade in Robesonia which is held by the Trinity Lutheran Church looking for donations/sponsors. Mr. Pachuillo suggested giving the flyer to the Recreation Board. Mrs. Eagelman mentioned that we also received the letter from the Berks Visiting Nurse Association concerning the Corporate Flue Clinic Program. She mentioned that she checked with the Insurance carrier and the Flu Shots are covered under the insurance plan as long as you get them during flu season. She stated that the VNA charges to come out and charges per shot.

#### **REVITALIZATION:**

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that after last meeting Mr. Pick was informed of Council's decision and that he has started to work on the property acquisitions. He also mentioned that Senator Argall's office has arranged for a meeting with representatives of Sunoco Logistics and perhaps other industries. He stated that he has prepared an Agenda and that it is an informational agenda concerning the project and funds needed. He stated that he also has to submit a list of possible attendees. He stated that the meeting is September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11 a.m. and that he believes it will be at

**REVITALIZATION (Cont.):**

the Sunoco Facility. He stated that two representatives from Council would be ideal along with Mr. Hart and himself. Mr. Huckleberry and Mr. Miller both stated that they would check their schedules.

Mr. Ludgate stated that they are still waiting for the Betterment Project to come through. Mr. Pachuillo stated that they are doing a lot of sidewalk/handicapped ramps. Mayor Cirulli asked about all the sidewalk that they are doing in this block. Mr. Ludgate stated that PennDOT felt that they needed to straighten out the curb line at the Tomcat Café to set that curb better than it was because it was not well established. He stated that when they did that they took away from the cart way so they have a certain amount of taper so he believes they carried the new curbing and sidewalk to the end of the taper per PennDOT design standards and that is what determined that spot. Mayor Cirulli asked if they are going to go any further because they are all the way down to the Doggie Dresser. Mr. Ludgate stated that he did not know but mentioned that the project office is in Wernersville and the plans are on the wall so it is easy enough to check. Mayor Cirulli stated that the owner of the business asked him when they were going to go down through because she uses that driveway for her business. Mr. Ludgate stated that the concern should be put to the project office.

Mr. Ludgate stated that the target for our project is to get to construction let in December and to get construction done in 2018. He stated that he spoke to STV this afternoon and got their version of the latest plan. He stated that he marked it up and commented and sent it back to them. He mentioned that he got a firm estimate of the cost of the signal work that has to be done which he also marked up and commented on and sent back for more information. He mentioned that with help from Senator Argall's office he finally got a response from the agency at PennDOT that deals with Green Light Go funds. He stated that it looks like our project is eligible and have basically been invited to get our application in which is one of the reasons that he is dealing with the estimate from STV. He stated that he wants to make sure that we include in our request everything that is truly associated with the signals.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that the only item is the RFP's that were opened at the last meeting. Mr. Hart stated that he got a chance to review them but Mr. Haws has not. He also mentioned that he tried to schedule a meeting with the Finance Committee but with conflicts and short notice they couldn't pull it together. He stated that he looked at all three of them and picked out the two best that somewhat fit our program and started researching some of the references which all came back very good. He stated that the only thing that is a major difference between the two remaining ones is that the one actually mentions the BOSS2020 project along with the Financial Study and Five-Year Plan. He stated that he has picked one but he wants Mr. Haws to review them before they decide which way to go. He stated that they should be ready for the next meeting. He mentioned that once we settle on one we will need the ok to move forward with the forms to complete for the funding. He stated that he has been e-mailing back and forth with the Finance Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

**POLICE CHIEF LEE SCHWEYER:**

Chief Schweyer mentioned that he was contacted by the Gilmore/Henne Association and they would like to do their annual Labor Day 4K Run at the same location on Ruth Street and Woodrow Avenue. He stated that it begins at 10 a.m. at the Railroad House. He mentioned that he has already contacted Mr. Zohner concerning the barricades. Mrs. Stine made a motion to allow Chief Schweyer to do whatever needs to be done for pedestrian safety during the run; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES –4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

Chief Schweyer mentioned that he was contacted by the Animal Rescue League concerning the annual Agreement with the Borough for 2018 and requesting a donation. He stated that last year we donated \$500.00. Mrs. Stine made a motion to authorize signing the Agreement and donating \$500.00; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES –4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

Chief Schweyer mentioned that there is an event that has been happening every Saturday for the last couple weeks over at the Spring Market Center and the Police are getting complaints from the residents on Shillington Road. He stated that there have been about 75 to 100 cars that are there for some kind of show and residents stated that they are doing burnouts in the lot. He mentioned that he discussed it with Mr. Hart today and they thought it might be a good idea to contact the property owner to see if they what this going on. Mr. Pachulo stated that it would be his recommendation as well. Mayor Cirulli mentioned that this has only been going on since a new owner took over the Barber Shop in the Center. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hart stated that the Mass Gathering Permit would only kick in if there were over 500 people. Mr. Pachulo stated that there really isn't anything that we can do and that the Police should patrol there and cite people if they are being disorderly or causing a disturbance. He also mentioned that reaching out to the owner of the Business would be a public service thing and that might be all it takes.

**ROBERT LUDGATE SR. – BOROUGH ENGINEER**

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that he did drive on Shillington Road tonight and he noticed that the delineators are back up.

**BRYCE ZONER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:**

Mr. Zohner mentioned that he inadvertently forgot to ask for permission to do the catch basin work on Penn Avenue. He stated that the total came to \$5,700.00 and had to be done ahead of the PennDOT Project. He stated that we haven't paid the bill yet so he wanted to get Council's approval to move forward with it. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the catch basin work on Penn Avenue at a price not to exceed \$5,700.00; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES –4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

**SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:**

Mr. Smith mentioned that they are going to be doing a piolet study at the plant with some technology to dewater the sludge. He stated that if anyone is interested in seeing it they should let him know and he will let them know when they are ready to fire up the machine. Mr. Zohner stated that it should be next week sometime.

**CHARLES HAWS – BOROUGH SOLICITOR:**

Mr. Haws mentioned that they sent a letter out to UGI's local contact informing them of the issues with their Penn Avenue construction and the costs that the Borough incurred because of it. He also mentioned that we sent out a proposed amended contract for Eagle Disposal to address the performance issues.

Mr. Haws stated that we have been going around for a long time with South Heidelberg Township concerning the Strong Waste bills not being paid. He stated that he updated a letter that we had drafted previously basically stating that they have to pay it all and that there is 6% interest after thirty days and after ninety days we are entitled to file enforcement actions. He stated that we also have the right, so he asserted that we are prepared to do it, to order them to disconnect from the system. Discussion ensued.

**MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:**

Mr. Hart mentioned that the Pedestrian Safety Project is just about finished and that there are just a few minor punch list items that need to be completed.

Mr. Hart mentioned that a resident on Sylvan Place ask permission to use the street again for their Labor Day Block Party. He asked for Council's approval to move forward with that. Mayor Cirulli stated that we should eliminate blocking streets off. Mr. Miller made a motion to authorize blocking off Sylvan Place for the Labor Day Block Party; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. Mr. Pachuillo asked the Mayor his reasons for not allowing it. Mayor Cirulli stated that you have to reroute traffic in a neighborhood because they want to get up and down and they can't. Mr. Hart stated that we have to be careful because we just ok'd the Run which will shut down access to Ruth Street. Mayor Cirulli stated that he doesn't think that we should be blocking off streets to have parties. Mr. Pachuillo asked Chief Schweyer if there have been any issues. Chief Schweyer stated that they have fireworks complaints. Mr. Pachuillo suggested sending them a letter stating that we will not tolerate any fireworks. AYES –4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried. Mr. Hart stated that he will contact them tomorrow morning and discuss the fireworks issue.

Mr. Hart mentioned that 3922 Penn Avenue's wall is finished although the residents have been complaining about certain items. He stated that they were told to put them on a punch list which they are putting together for the builder to take care of. He mentioned that with that property he has been noticing that there are cars parking on the Borough's property. He asked Council if they would like to approve posting that No Parking because there are some rough areas where someone could damage their vehicle. Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to post the Borough's

**MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER (Cont.):**

property with No Parking signs; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he received a letter from Road Safe, the flaggers for the Railroad, stating that they will be closing down South Hull Street next week so they can fix the sink hole at the tracks on South Hull Street.

**JAMES PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**

Mr. Pachuiilo mentioned that he would like to have a quick Executive Session at the end of the meeting with just Council and Mr. Hart for a personnel issue.

**H. DAVID MILLER – COUNCIL MEMBER:**

Mr. Miller stated that he wanted to bring up, at least for Budget consideration for next year, that we have to do some serious work and update our Code Book because the one we have is old and in many cases probably not so defensible. He stated it is time for an update and he believes it would be prudent to contact somebody like General Code to get a proposal to update it. Mrs. Stine agreed as did everyone else in attendance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Pachuiilo stated that Council would go into Executive Session for a personnel issue. Council went into Executive Session at 7:47 p.m.


**RECONVENE:**

Council reconvened at 8:11 p.m. No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Elizabeth A. Eageman  
Borough Secretary