

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, August 4, 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 (absent)
George Butkus
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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2016 Council Meeting and the July 27, 2016 Workshop Meeting. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Joseph Stine mentioned that Mr. Renshaw's wife went into labor this morning. He went over the activities report for July. He mentioned that there will be a Community Night on August 30, 2016 from 5-9 pm at Five Guys Burgers and Fries in Sinking Spring. He stated that funds received will be used to purchase smoke detectors for residents in their service area who need them. He also mentioned the second quarter budget tracking and that they are at 50% of the budget year and only 42.8% has been used.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Hart mentioned that last meeting Council questioned when we would start receiving the monthly lease payments from Verizon. He stated that in the contract it states that they had to start making the payments when the Building Permits were issued which could be a few weeks yet since they just submitted the plans.

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned the RV Ordinance and asked if it was advertised. Mr. Haws stated that since we are amending the Zoning Ordinance we had to advertise it twice. He also mentioned that the County Planning agency and the Borough Planning Commission get 30 days to review it so we will have to do it at the September 1st Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no New Business.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer stated that he attended the July 22nd meeting at the White House and that they were personally addressed by the President. He mentioned that it was televised nationally. He stated that the meeting was regarding the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing and that he did receive a lot of good information.

ROBERG LUDGATE SR. – BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Ludgate stated that he believes that Mr. Loth circulated a memo dealing with the letter from Mr. Dunkelberger at DEP concerning how the Borough would address the fact that the Grant that they have provided is \$300,000.00 less than the construction estimate that we provided and how the Borough will make up the difference. He stated that Mr. Loth's suggestion is that for now we simply say we will make it up with Borough funds and we have the funds available because of the line of credit. He mentioned however that he is working hard on trying to cut back on Phase 2 construction costs and Phase 3 and further gain by combining the two Phases so that we save a certain amount of money. He mentioned that he and Mr. Hart attended a meeting in Allentown with PennDOT and got some feedback on easing some of the restrictions by using a different set of criteria. He stated that if Council concurs, the response to Mr. Dunkelberger should be that we will make up the difference out of the Borough line of credit funds. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to have Council respond to Mr. Dunkelberger stating that the Borough intends to cover the gap in funding by increasing its matching local share from the original \$540,000.00 listed in the Grant Application to \$700,000.00; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that he and Mr. Hart attended a Pre-Construction meeting with the demolition contractor today. Mr. Hart stated that they are going to be starting to remove asbestos material from 3920 Penn Avenue on Monday. He stated that they will begin the Old Borough Hall after they are done there. He mentioned that they are working on a price for removing the elevator from the building. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that, late this afternoon, the price came in at \$13,690.00 to salvage the elevator. Mr. Hart stated that he doesn't believe it is worthwhile. Council agreed and stated that it should be demolished. Mr. Ludgate also mentioned the removal of the Verizon connector. Mr. Hart stated that Empire contacted Verizon to disconnect all the phone lines from the building and was told that they charge \$5,000.00. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that Empire wants to know if they have to eat that cost or if the Borough is going to pay for it. Mr. Haws asked for all the paperwork so he could look into it. Mr. Butkus asked about 3920 Penn Avenue and the property attached to it. Mr. Ludgate stated that if it is a common wall we will leave it standing.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that he received some information from Mr. Smith regarding a possible grant we can look into in the near future and will discuss it at the Sewer Committee Meeting.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith stated that with the support of the Sewer Committee, he is recommending that the Borough throw out the bids for the Penn Avenue Interceptor Crossing as the project will cost significantly more than budgeted. He mentioned that they are working on an alternate route for crossing Penn Avenue. Mr. Butkus made a motion to throw out the bids; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mr. Haws suggested notifying the property owner that was involved since they retained their own council.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that Mayor Cirulli asked about the 724 construction at the Workshop Meeting. He stated that he does not have an answer and he has been trying to contact the contractor and is getting no response.

Mr. Hart mentioned that a question was asked about the fire hydrants. He stated that there is one that was taken out of service in the 4300 block of Penn Avenue because they had to cut the pipe to put in the new one.

Mr. Hart mentioned that they had a meeting yesterday with the Teamsters Union about the contract. Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they want to look at the economic impact to the Borough of each item that they want to try to keep it in the 2% to 4% range.

MAYOR GARY CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli mentioned that the Civil Services test was given two weeks ago on a Saturday. He stated that they had twelve applicants and nine took the test, six passed and three did not. He mentioned that this Saturday the Chiefs of Police will be coming in to do the interviews with the ones that passed. Chief Schweyer mentioned that the agility test will be August 20th.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Library is going to have a one-day Book Sale on August 13th.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that Mr. Loth also sent a memo to Council dated August 3rd regarding the PP& L transmission line project. He stated that per the memo, the BOSS Committee recommends to Council that the BOSS Committee be directed to contact Senator Argall's office to arrange for a meeting between BOSS and some new PP&L representatives and to include John and Jan Roland who spearheaded a citizens group on the issue. Mrs. Peterson made a motion authorizing the BOSS Committee to set up that meeting; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they have two street lights out in their neighborhood. Chief Schweyer stated that they will get the pole numbers and handle it.

GEORGE BUTKUS – SEWER AND SANITATION:

Mr. Butkus mentioned that they should have some dates soon for Council to tour the plant, pump station and the street department facilities. He also mentioned that they need to start looking at replacing the garage at the Sewer Plant.

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.


APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Eageman
Borough Secretary