

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on August 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., by Council President James Pachuillo. After the pledge to the flag, Debra Bohn called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuillo
Tracy Peterson
H. David Miller
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner (arrived at 7:09)
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar (absent)

Other officials present were: Mayor Cirulli, Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; John Hart, ARRO Consulting; Bryce Zohner, Public Works Director; Police Chief James Oxenreider, and Debra Bohn, Borough Treasurer, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 2, 2020 Council Meeting and the July 22, 2020 Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Tim Archer of 103 Aspen Avenue, South Heidelberg Township addressed Council concerning events and concerts being held at Willow Glen Park. Mr. Miller advised Mr. Archer to contact the Township of Spring since the events are being held in their municipality.

The next visitor was Karen McElhattan from 201 Park Avenue. Ms. McElhattan addressed Council concerning sewer backs in her property from the recent and past storms. She wanted to know if the Borough had plans to do anything about the antiquated sewer lines. She also mentioned flooding in the back alley behind her house that started after the huge white building was built a couple doors down from her. Mr. Hart stated that they are looking at those lines and that they have televised the lines and haven't found anything in our system that would cause the flooding. He mentioned that our system goes onto Konopelski's property up to the tent area and then South Heidelberg connects to it. He stated that we are trying to work with them to figure out what they have up stream. Mr. Zohner mentioned that after all the flooding in 2018 we evaluated our entire sewer system in there and unfortunately they didn't find anything. He stated that the issue is South Heidelberg's line from their development South behind Konopelski's all feeds through their property and comes into the manhole right in front of Ms. McElhattan's house. He stated that he spoke to South Heidelberg Township back in 2018 and they were going to evaluate their sewer lines as well. He stated that South Heidelberg Township has since designed and are intending on replacing their sewer system from where it comes into our line, across the creek and up to their development. He stated that hopefully that will fix the issues once the work is done. Discussion ensued concerning the flooding in the alley.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.):

The next visitor was Deb Heckman of 233 Park Avenue. Ms. Heckman also addressed Council concerning the sewer coming up in her basement also during the storms. She asked if South Heidelberg Township has done anything to fix the issue yet. Mr. Zohner stated that his understanding is that the project is completely designed so it has been in the works for a while because it takes a while to design and get approved. He mentioned that they applied for a grant to help pay for it and that they should know next month if they were awarded the grant. Discussion ensued concerning the events going on back on Konopelski's Property.

The next visitor was Craig Weidenhammer from 158 Broad Street. Mr. Weidenhammer asked about the Broad Street Sewer Line Improvement Project and when it might start. Mr. Zohner stated that the contractor is planning on being onsite August 27th with the work being completed by the second week of December. Mr. Weidenhammer asked if there was a status report on what is happening with the Golf Course. Mr. Hart stated that they have submitted plans and that it is going through the Planning Commission. He mentioned that they had their first review of the plans last week and that there were comments back to the developer on certain issues and we are waiting on them to respond back to us with answers. Mr. Weidenhammer also mentioned that there is someone driving around with very loud mufflers racing around and wanted to mention it so it could be watched out for.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence to discuss.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for July 2020. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pachuillo 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 Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Renshaw mentioned that after all the flooding in 2018 they did a lot of training for water rescues. He stated that they got to use their skills to assist other areas of the county that needed water rescues during the recent flooding.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the Fireworks Ordinance. Mr. Haws handed out copies of the Ordinance. Mayor Cirulli stated that the committee did not have a chance to sit down and go over it yet. Discussion ensued. Mr. Pachuillo stated that we would table this Ordinance until the committee gets a chance to go over it and make a recommendation.

Mr. Haws stated that he has another Ordinance for approval this evening which amends Ordinance #643-2020 that was adopted by the Borough on June 29, 2020. The Ordinance amends section 6 of the prior ordinance changing the maximum maturity date of the Pennvest 2020 Note from August 12, 2040 to August 12, 2041. He also mentioned that since Mrs. Eagelman is on vacation, Council will need to appoint Mrs. Bohn as assistant secretary so that she can sign the documents tonight so that he can scan the documents in the morning. Mr. Miller made a motion to authorize Debra Bohn to sign the Ordinance in the capacity of Assistant Secretary for this document; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried. Mrs. Stine made a motion to adopt the Ordinance amending the maximum maturity date stated in the prior Ordinance #643-2020; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Haws stated that he also has a Resolution that Pennvest is requiring that states that this is a reimbursement loan and that the payments will be made from the general fund and will be reimbursed to the general fund by the Pennvest loan. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve the Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is the Tapping Fee Update. Mr. Miller stated that they discussed this and he is prepared to make a motion tonight to adopt the tapping fee for a total of \$3,800.00 effective October 1, 2020 and authorize the advertising of the Ordinance; Mrs. Stine seconded the motion. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried. Mr. Haws mentioned that Mrs. Eagelman and Mr. Hart found an existing Resolution from way back that is a capacity reservation agreement form. He stated that Mr. Don Robitzer contacted us the beginning of this week stating that he wants to reserve capacity. The Resolution states that it is \$234.72 per EDU per year to reserve capacity. He stated that it is not a deposit and does not count towards the tapping fee. He stated that the agreement could reserve the capacity and the current EDU price for the term of the agreement. .

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to discuss.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that she and Mrs. Peterson attended the ribbon cutting for the new Lidl store. She stated that it was really exciting and that they talked to one of the Lidl representatives who stated that it was really great working with the Borough and that they picked this spot because of our road realignment plans and the amount of traffic we have.

Mr. Gantner mentioned that they are at week seven of the playground program and everything is going well. She stated that they are still working on the pickle ball court.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the library is going to start doing passports again on a very limited basis. She stated that everything seems to be going well with the protocols they are doing.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that Mr. Metzgar is on vacation and will schedule an Admin meeting when he gets back.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that they had settlement on the Butkus property and the guys are working on cleaning up the property.

Mr. Hart mentioned the PennDOT paving project on Penn Avenue from Route 724 east. He stated that they will be starting milling on August 9th and will begin paving after that.

JOHN HART – ARRO CONSULTING:

Mr. John Hart went over some items on their report. He mentioned that the Phase 2 HOP was submitted on July 10, 2020 and they are still waiting to hear from PennDOT. He mentioned that they are applying for a grant for the Septage Receiving Station. He stated that they had a preconstruction meeting today for the Combined Sewer Televising Project and the contractor will be starting in the near future. He also mentioned that the Reed Bed Cleaning is currently out to bid on PENNBID and that the bids are due August 25, 2020.

Mr. Zohner stated that the televising project is expected to take about one month and that he met with Mobile Dredging today and that they are more than well equipped to do the project even in the delicate areas.

POLICE CHIEF JAMES OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his monthly report for July.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Eageman
Borough Secretary