

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, September 1, 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.

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.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT HEARING:

Mr. Haws stated that we dually advertised a hearing for consideration on an amendment to the Borough of Sinking Spring's Zoning Ordinance. He stated that the Ordinance serves to amend and restate Chapter 196 Section 616 which addresses the Parking, Storage and Use of Major Recreational Equipment. He stated that the Ordinance addresses the storage of major recreational equipment on residential lots and other areas within the Borough. He asked for any public comment on the advertised Ordinance. There was no public comment on the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Haws stated that Council can move forward if they would like to adopt it. Mr. Butkus stated that he had questions and wanted to know if this amendment only applied to residential areas or all zones in the Borough. Mr. Haws stated that he believes that the focus was on residential properties but that it would apply throughout the Borough. Mr. Butkus mentioned that we do have some storage facilities in the Borough and that the amendment references that they must have blacktop to store these things on. He stated that he would prefer stone to blacktop because of the run off. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hart mentioned that on the commercial side, if someone is looking to do that they would have to go through Land Development Plans and SALDO so they are forced to do something so that should take care of the Commercial side of it. Mr. Haws mentioned that we could make a change to the language. Mrs. Gantner asked if it would be more clear if we could just say that the paving is for residential properties. Mr. Haws stated that at number four we could add 'on residential properties'. Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion stating the change in the Ordinance. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve the Ordinance amending Chapter 196 Section 616 of the Borough of Sinking Spring's Zoning Ordinance with the correction to add 'on residential properties' to item #4; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES -6, NAYS - 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT HEARING (Cont.):

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to have the Zoning Officer send letters out to all affected properties owners letting them know that they have sixty (60) days to comply with the new Ordinance; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Renshaw apologized for not having the activities report out. He mentioned that they had the fund raiser at Five Guys and raised about \$200.00 to purchase smoke detectors. He stated that anyone that still wants to contribute can write a check to the Western Berks Fire Department and in the memo put smoke detector program. He stated that they will be installing smoke detectors on October 8th. Discussion ensued concerning the fire at 3996 Penn Avenue, smoke detectors and escape routes. Mayor Cirulli stated that he is working on something to get the detectors hard wired. Mr. Renshaw stated that it would have to be a Borough Ordinance. Mr. Hart stated that we can add to the code and make it stricter by doing an Ordinance in-house. Mr. Butkus stated that we should be doing that with several other things as well. He suggested that they come up with a list and amend the standard code across the board to include things like hardwiring the smoke detectors.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Loth mentioned that BOSS 2020, on behalf of the Borough, submitted a MTF Grant Application on July 31st to the DCED for the second half of the Columbia Avenue extension. He stated that we sent in the application with a budget listing the construction cost at \$1,250,000.00 and asking for a grant for \$950,000.00 with a Borough match of \$300,000.00. He stated that DCED grant analysts reviewed the submission and contacted us because our math was wrong and that the guidelines of the program are 70% grant and 30% match. He stated that the grant request needs to be changed to \$875,000.00 with a Borough match of \$375,000.00. He stated that they are ready to submit the grant from the analysts to the review committee so he needs Council to make a motion to raise the match from \$300,000.00 to \$375,000.00 so he can send it to DCED and the grant can be submitted. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to raise the matching funds to \$375,000.00; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. for property acquisition and personnel issues.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that there was no action to be taken on the property acquisition but they have personnel issues to take action on.

Mayor Cirulli mentioned that at the last meeting Council made a motion to hire Jeb Cooper as a Full-Time Police Officer. He stated that they needed to rescind that because Mr. Cooper took a job elsewhere. He then asked Council for their blessing in hiring Robert Atkins as a Full-Time Police Officer starting on November 19, 2016. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to rescind the motion to hire Mr. Cooper and to hire Mr. Robert Atkins as a Full-Time Police Officer contingent upon him passing all the required testing; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Zohner asked Council for their permission to hire Mr. Scott Sell as a Class 3 Operator for the Road Department and withhold .50 cents until he obtains his CDL. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to hire Mr. Scott Sell as a Class 3 Operator at a rate of \$15.75per hour; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mr. Haws mentioned that he had 120 days to obtain his CDL and Mr. Butkus mentioned that there is a 90-day probationary period also.

Mr. Zohner asked Council for their permission to hire Mr. Peter Ragonese as a Class 3 Operator for the Road Department. He mentioned that he would also have the 90-day probation and that he already has his CDL Class A. Mr. Butkus made a motion to hire Mr. Peter Ragonese as a Class 3 Operator for the Road Department; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that we received a letter from Systems Design concerning Lower Heidelberg Township. Mr. Hart stated that they are contesting how we test their flow. Discussion ensued.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachulo mentioned that there is a Berks County Municipal Breakfast on September 9th and that if anyone is interested in going they should let Mrs. Eagelman know. Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Gantner both stated that they were interested in going. Mrs. Eagelman stated that she would e-mail them to let them know.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachulo stated that the only item is the Police MMO for 2017 in the amount of \$83,055.00. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve the Police MMO for 2017; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

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 Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that they had an attempted armed robbery at the Dream Garden Chinese Restaurant on Saturday. He stated that with the assistance of Reading Police the suspect is in custody as of yesterday morning.

ROBERG LUDGATE SR. – BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that he, Mr. Hart, Mr. Hoffa and Mr. Loth attended a meeting in Harrisburg on Monday concerning Phase 4 of our project. He also mentioned that there is another meeting tentatively scheduled for September 15th which should be the next step.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that they had a surprise DEP inspection today. He stated that they were there for three hours and that the inspection went really well.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that come December, if we don't get our NPDES Permit by then, it will be three years that the Borough is Administratively Extended on the permit. Discussion ensued about testing for the next permit. Mr. Zohner mentioned that he asked the representatives from DEP about that today. He mentioned that it is a separate department but believe that they would issue us our new permit, which should come within a year, and that it would be good for five years from the date it is issued and that we would not have to renew again in 2018.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned Mr. Butkus's question last meeting concerning the property next to 3920 Penn Avenue. He stated that the contractor did two test bores through the wall to see what it was built of. He stated that they discovered that the wall is 18" thick and the other structures were built later and propped up against that wall. He mentioned that they are concerned that when the other three walls are removed the remaining wall will not have the strength to support the other properties. He stated that they had a structural engineer come in to get his opinion on it. He stated that the engineer believes that the wall can stand with additional I-beam support on the exterior.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he received an e-mail from Ms. Jessica Long from PPL stating that they would like to have a meeting next Thursday at 3:30 p.m. here at the Borough Hall to discuss their routing. He stated that he would like Mr. Ludgate and some Council members at the meeting also.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that Mr. Hart sent out about a potential grant for the playground. She stated that her thought is that we should talk about it. Mr. Hart mentioned that he has to have it in by September 15th. She suggested that maybe we should put it off until next year because they probably will only do it once. Mr. Hart mentioned that we are looking at \$4,000.00 in repairs after the safety inspection and they would like the old metal slide replaced. Mr. Hart stated that we could put it off.

GEORGE BUTKUS – SEWER AND SANITATION:

Mr. Butkus mentioned that the Sewer Committee will not be meeting next Monday because of the holiday and that they will be meeting the second Monday out at the plant at 7 p.m. Mr. Pachulo asked about the Open House on September 17th. Mr. Hart stated that it will start at 9 a.m. at the Borough Garage.


APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachulo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 4, 2016 Council Meeting and the August 24, 2016 Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Butkus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Eageman
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Borough Secretary