

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuillo. Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuillo
Tracy Peterson
H. David Miller
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar
Jack Malandra (Absent)

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder, Borough Solicitor; 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 to recognize our Police, Fire and EMS personnel that protect us here and our Armed Forces who protect us every day here and abroad.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2018 Council Meeting and the August 22, 2018 Workshop Meeting. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

A few residents attended the meeting concerning the flooding from past rain falls. Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that Mr. Zohner and Mr. Hart were going to make some general comments about the flooding and then we will address any other questions. Mr. Zohner gave a brief overview of the sanitary sewer system in the Borough. He explained that Friday evening we received over 5 inches of rain, 7 inches in some areas, which in turn overloaded the sanitary sewer system from the excess flow getting into the system. He stated that the system never stopped flowing and there were no blockages. He also stated that the wastewater treatment plant handled the flow that was brought to it. Mr. Hart explained that part of the reason that the system was overwhelmed is because once the streets started to flood and the water went up over the curbs and sidewalks, it got into the cleanout pipes and into the sanitary sewer system which is why it was coming up in basements. Mr. Hart mentioned that everyone that had damage should get their information to the West Side Emergency Management Agency who is compiling all of the information to put a claim into FEMA in the hopes that they declare this area a disaster so we can get funding. He stated that at this point we don't know if that will happen.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.):

Mr. Pachuillo asked if anyone had anything to discuss that was not flood related. Mr. & Mrs. Steinhauer of Shillington Road addressed Council concerning their damage from the flood and the fact that they don't know what repairs to make since the Revitalization Project is supposed to take their property. They would like the Borough or PennDOT to take their property now instead of putting all the money back into it to make it livable. Mr. Hart explained that PennDOT won't step in and buy a property until the project is totally cleared and with all the studies that need to be done it could be four (4) years down the road. Mr. and Mrs. Steinhauer also complained about Jiffy Lube pumping water from their flooded pit across the parking lot and public sidewalk into the storm drain. Mr. Pachuillo stated that Code Enforcement will contact them. Mr. Justin Mancias addressed Council on behalf of his parents who live at Octagon Avenue and Broad Street. He mentioned that his parents have had issues with the sewer backing up in their home for close to ten (10) years. He stated that he is concerned that there is an issue with a collapsed pipe. Mr. Zohner explained that the pipe on Broad Street has been televised in the last five years and there is no collapse or issue in that area. He explained that the line on Broad Street is fed by the line on Shillington Road which also flooded along with Broad Street and also S. Hull Street and Columbia Avenue. Mr. David Stemler of Elwyn Avenue addressed Council concerning the flooding. He suggested that instead of telling people that there is nothing that the Borough can do that we do a reverse 911 to ask residents to limit their sanitary sewer usage during such events. He stated that on Konopelski's property, all of his trash barrels and parking barriers were floating down into the creek and causing issues at the bridge which in turn backs up Park Avenue. He also mentioned the property at 183 Park Avenue and that there is a water reservoir behind his house that the Fire Company has been pumping out for three weeks. Mr. Miller explained the difference between the Storm Sewer System and the Sanitary Sewer System and that they are two separate systems. He explained that residents can buy plumbers stops and install them in their floor drains to stop flow from coming up and he also mentioned that sump pumps can not be discharged to the sanitary sewer system. Mr. Mark Bittle who lives on Shillington Road addressed Council. He stated that they lost everything in their basement. He stated that his landlord won't do anything to fix the property because of Revitalization project and his son can't be in the property because of health issues.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The first piece of correspondence was from Eagle Disposal. Mr. Hart stated that after Council rejected the bids he sent Eagle Disposal an e-mail explaining why we rejected the bids and since then he received correspondence back from them. He explained that the current contract allows for two 1-year extensions at a price of \$204,192.00 a year for each year extension. He stated that the letter is requesting an increase to \$210,500.00 for each year extension. Mr. Haws stated that they are bound by the original contract and that Council does not have to accept the increase request.

The second piece of correspondence was an invitation to the next Municipal Officials Breakfast on Friday, September 28th.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for August 2018. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. 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 Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Renshaw went over the activity report. He mentioned that they had a lot of calls for the flooding and responded to probably 250 homes for the month of August and they called in a lot of mutual aid for Friday nights flooding. He stated that every house they went to they gave that information to West Side Regional. He also mentioned the pumping they have been doing at 183 Park Avenue because of the flooding.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Hart mentioned that the ordeal with Mr. Fritz is final. He stated that the Agreement was signed and sent and the payment will be made.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that we have the 2019 Police and Non-Uniformed MMO's. Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the 2019 Non-Uniformed Pension MMO in the amount of \$59,238.00. Mrs. Stine made the motion; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried. Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the 2019 Police Pension MMO in the amount of \$62,095.00. Mrs. Stine made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**H. DAVID MILLER – SEWER & SANITATION:**

Mr. Miller stated that he believes that we should step up a little bit of communication, separate mailer or newsletter to try to provide some more tips or information for residents.

DENISE STINE - PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine reported that the Police are going to go to arbitration. She also mentioned that Western Berks Fire Department is going to be hiring two full time Fire Fighters.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

No report.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that their next meeting will be Monday, September 17th.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

No report.

MAYOR GARY CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli stated that he and Chief Schweyer did interviews for part-time police officers and would like to hire Mr. Chris Orzech tonight. He stated that Mr. Orzech is a retired Muhlenberg Township Police Officer with 28 years' experience and that they believe he would be a good fit here. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to hire Mr. Orzech as a part-time police officer at a rate of \$21.24 per hour; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that the dumpsters that the Borough supplied for residents to use after the flooding yielded about 120 cubic yards of waste.

Mr. Hart mentioned the Joint Comp Plan and that it is ready to be adopted. He stated that we have to hold a public meeting and it is scheduled for 6 p.m. on September 26th before the Workshop Meeting. He stated that he is also inviting the Planning Commission.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he budgeted \$10,000.00 for new computers in the office. He stated that he got pricing to replace five (5) computers and the software that we need for \$8,500.00. He asked for Council's approval to move forward with that. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve Mr. Hart to move forward with replacing the computers; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he has started working on the budgets.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith stated that they received a call from PaDEP stating that they are reviewing the Borough's NPDES Permit Application.

Mr. Smith mentioned that they are preparing bids for Reed Bed Cleaning and asked for permission to advertise when complete. Mrs. Stine made a motion to allow ARRO to advertise for Reed Bed Clearing; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried. Mr. Smith stated that we will open bids either at the Workshop meeting or at the next regular meeting.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner asked for Council's approval to hire Mr. Barry Schlouch for the Public Works Department withholding \$.50 until he gets his CDL. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to hire Mr. Barry Schlouch; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that they are working on a missing persons adult case right now with Spring Township.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary