

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, September 7, 2017 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
H. David Miller
Denise Stine (Absent)
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 show our support for our Police, Fire Fighters, EMS and our Armed Forces who protect us every day here and abroad and an extra prayer for everyone in Texas, Florida and other states in the southern region effected by the hurricanes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2017 Council Meeting and the August 23, 2017 Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Sam Loth signed in as a visitor and gave a report for BOSS 2020. Mr. Loth mentioned that there was a nice article in the newspaper today concerning our project. He mentioned that they will be having their first Design Committee meeting next Tuesday, September 12th, here at the Borough Hall at 6:30 pm. He stated that they will be discussing new Gateway installations, one at Park Avenue and one over by Wawa and an idea for the Railroad Bridge on Shillington Road. He stated that the meeting is open to everyone.

Mr. Loth mentioned that on Saturday, September 23rd, they will be having a Tree Tenders Training here at the Borough Hall from 8 am to 4 pm. He mentioned that there will be a tree that will be planted in the Memorial Park area. He stated that the cost is \$35.00 per person and is sponsored by Penn State Extension Urban Forestry Division.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.):

Mr. Loth mentioned that there is a program by Boscov's Department Stores called Friends Helping Friends. He stated that it is a Fund Raiser for non-profits like BOSS 2020. He stated that they will be selling 25% off Shopping Passes for Boscov's that can be used all day on Tuesday October 17th. He stated that the cost of the Shopping Pass is \$5.00 and 100% of the proceeds goes directly to BOSS 2020. Mr. Hoffa asked if the Borough Staff would be able to sell the passes for them. Mr. Hart stated that it shouldn't be a problem.

Mr. Loth mentioned that the banners that are on Penn Avenue from the 100th Anniversary aren't looking very good so Mrs. Gantner agreed to pick up that program again and we can get some new banners put up.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuiolo asked for a motion to approve the bills for August 2017. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Pachuiolo mentioned that Mr. Renshaw was not able to make tonight's meeting and that his report is in everyone's packet.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mr. Anthony Tucci addressed Council and went over the monthly report for August 2017. He mentioned that he included the Narcan Administration as requested by most of the municipalities and noted that there is an increase from last year's average. He mentioned that the Billboards for the annual donation/subscription program will start to go up and those letters will start to go out to all of their municipalities starting in September. He mentioned that for Sinking Spring they will get the regular generic letter that states that they are a member. He also mentioned that Western Berks was awarded the 2017 American Heart Association Mission Life Line Gold Plus Award. He stated that this is the third year in a row that they have received this award.

Mr. Tucci mentioned, to Mrs. Gantner, that Western Berks has started with the Friends of the Reading Hospital and AED loaner program so that anyone having an event could put a request in to use the device.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is a reminder about the Berks County Municipal Breakfast on September 22nd if anyone is interested in going. The second item was also a reminder about Western Berks Fire Department's Open House on September 28th.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the third item is the RFP/EIP. Mr. Hart mentioned that he passed them on to Mr. Haws to review. He stated that with his review of them the Pennsylvania Economy League was the better one but after sitting down and really looking at the proposal he decided that going with the proposal for a financial review that we got first from Mr. Paul Jansen and Mr. John Kramer of Albright was the better choice and at half the cost. Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they have been invested in the project since the start. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to go with the proposal we got from Albright to do the EIP at \$40,000.00; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the 2018 Police Pension MMO in the amount of \$96,359. Mr. Huckleberry made the motion to accept the 2018 Police Pension MMO; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. Chief Schweyer mentioned that the police have to contribute to their Pension next year and wanted to know if that was figured in. Mrs. Eagelman stated that it was not and that she would make the corrections. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is the 2018 Non-Uniformed Pension MMO in the amount of \$55,279. Mr. Miller made the motion to accept the 2017 Non-Uniformed Pension MMO; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

POLICE CHIEF LEE SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that they received reimbursement in the amount of \$293.27 from the sub-contractor for UGI to cover the police services on Penn Avenue during their project. Chief Schweyer mentioned that the Railroad project on S. Hull Street is not completed yet but hopefully should be by next Tuesday. He mentioned that they were getting complaints about congestion on Penn Avenue and that he consulted with Mr. Hart who suggested that he call Telco. Chief Schweyer stated that he did contact Telco to check the loops and now the traffic congestion seems to be improved. He also mentioned that we had a fatal car accident in the Borough yesterday morning at the Sunoco on Columbia Avenue.

Mr. Hoffa asked what our responsibility to Penn Avenue was and mentioned that there are some really bad pot holes. Chief Schweyer stated that it is a state highway and PennDOT should be contacted. Mrs. Peterson mentioned that there is a really big pothole around Dunkin Donuts. Chief Schweyer stated that he would look into it.

Mr. Miller asked about our contract with Telco for the Traffic signals. Discussion ensued concerning possible upgrades.

ROBERT LUDGATE SR. – BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that he is working on the Green Light Go Application which could fund up to 80% of the cost of signal installation. He stated that the application is for the new intersection at Columbia & Penn and that he has preliminary estimates from STV of \$300,000.00 to \$400,000.00. He stated that he has asked STV to refine those estimates and give him a final number that he can put in the application. He mentioned however that the funding is also available to replace the old lamps with Led's. Discussion ensued concerning adding the Led's to current application or doing a separate application. Mr. Ludgate stated that he will look into it. He requested that Mr. Hart be authorized to sign the application and be the Borough's point of contact. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to authorize Mr. Hart to sign the Green Light Go Application and to be the Borough's point of contact; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mr. Ludgate stated that he will need an estimate for the Led's.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that there is another Grant called a Transportation Alternative Set Aside. He stated that there are a series of different types of things that are eligible for this. He mentioned that we missed the pre-application date but it doesn't state that it was mandatory. He mentioned that he did talk to an individual at the Berks County Planning Commission who is responsible for the program today. He stated that he submitted a memo to him this afternoon explaining our application and what we are asking for. He mentioned that the TA Set Aside Grant would be used for dealing with the issue of drainage from our Phase II project and also our MS4 requirements. He stated that the idea is to convert the Broad Street Ditch into a Bio Retention Facility that would Biologically treat the waste water. He mentioned that the MS4 requirement that we are going to have to meet is to reduce our sediment load to the stream by 10%. He stated that we are going to ask for \$50,000.00 to do 500 feet of swale. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that it is a 100% grant for the construction cost if it is awarded and the Borough would just have to pay for the design and engineering. He stated that this idea would cover us on two areas, we need to provide Storm Water Management for Phase 2 which is both quantity management and quality management. He stated that this would provide the quality management aspect and at the same time it is a transportation alternate. Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to authorize submission of the Transportation Alternative Set Aside Grant Application and to authorize Mr. Hart to sign the grant and be the contracting officer; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. Discussion ensued concerning rolling design costs into construction costs. Mr. Ludgate explained what they are looking to do. Mr. Miller mentioned that the bottom of the ditch under all of the muck is a nice stone paved ditch. Mr. Ludgate stated that he will have to do some investigating. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that they sold a couple pieces of equipment on Municibid and that he is looking for approval to finalize the sales. He mentioned that the first item was the 1991 Ford F800 Dump Truck that went for \$5,101.00. Motion was made by Mrs. Peterson; seconded by Mrs. Gantner to approve the sale. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mr. Zohner stated that the second item is the 2002 Crown Vic that went for \$682.00. Motion was made by Mr. Huckleberry; seconded by Mr. Hoffa to approve the sale. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mr. Zohner stated that the final item was the old painting machine that went for

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR (Cont.):

\$600.00. Motion was made by Mrs. Peterson; seconded by Mr. Hoffa to approve the sale. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – ALEX MORRISON:

Mr. Smith mentioned that in November they will hopefully be closing out the Corrective Action Plan for the Mt. Home Road Pump Station. He mentioned that they had a piolet test of the Trident Volute that ran this week to dewater the sludge and that it went well. He stated that they have another test scheduled for September 18th where they will be demonstrating the Schwing Press.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that the new administrator for the Wilson School District is having an Open House on September 15th at 10 a.m. He stated that he will be attending and asked if anyone else would like to go with him. Mr. Hoffa asked what the purpose of the meeting is. Mr. Hart stated that he just wants to meet the local officials. Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Gantner both stated that they would attend.

JAMES PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pachuiilo mentioned that he got some correspondence from the PSAB on the Junior Council Person Program. He stated that he contacted the Wilson School District and that they were very receptive. He stated that our first course of action is to pass a Resolution authorizing participation in the PSAB Junior Council Person Program. He mentioned that the student would have to be a resident of the Borough and be either a Junior or a Senior and would have to attend at least six months to get any kind of credit towards community service or any awards from PSAB. He stated that they would attend and participate in any and all meetings but no voting or executive sessions. He mentioned that we could have up to two Junior Council Persons. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to pass the Resolution Authorizing Participation in the PSAB Junior Council Person Program and to seek two Junior Council Persons; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. Mrs. Gantner asked what Council's responsibility would be. Mr. Pachuiilo stated that they would be mentors. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mrs. Peterson asked if we could then do some type of scholarship. Mr. Pachuiilo stated that they could discuss that in the Finance Committee and can be done separately. He stated that they could win awards through PSAB also.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that they need to hire a new employee for the Library. She stated that her name is Lauren Jones and she will start at \$9.00 per hour and will be replacing someone who is leaving. Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to hire Lauren Jones at \$9.00 per hour pending her clearances; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that Mrs. Barb Myers has been on the Library Board for a long time and that she just found out that she passed away this past weekend. Mr. Pachuillo suggested that we send something from the Borough with our condolences.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that Mr. Loth reached out to St. John's Church and that they are very interested in getting involved with the Borough and the Revitalization. He mentioned that it is their 150 Anniversary. He stated that they are going to set up a meeting with them.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that it is the 175th Anniversary of Lower Heidelberg Township and that they are having a big celebration this Saturday at Green Valley with a carnival and fireworks.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they are working on a report about the playground season.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that he has started the Budget process and will be sending stuff out to all the Department Heads. Mr. Pachuillo asked if he wanted to meet with the Finance Committee after receiving the information. Mr. Hart stated that he will get all the information together and then they can sit down and go over it. Mr. Zohner asked if he wanted to set a deadline for receiving the information back from the Department Heads. Mr. Hart stated the 29th of September.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 8:01 p.m. for possible property acquisition and a personnel issue.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:38 p.m. The following action was taken.

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to hire an additional Sewer Plant Operator and to advertise; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried


TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pachuiilo asked for a motion to accept the Treasures Report as written. Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary