

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
February 8, 2021
6:15 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order by video/teleconference with the Honorable Mayor Karlovich, presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

Richard L. Reichner, Director of Accounts and Finance
Joshua Brosious, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Derrick Backer, City Administrator
Joel Wiest, City Solicitor
Bradley Hare, Chief of Police
Jolinn Barner, City Clerk
Mike Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Alexander Rissinger, Administrative Assistant

Visitors present: 1, Zoom (6)

A moment of silent reflection was held prior to the beginning of the meeting for the recent passing of Connie Beegle who was a long-time volunteer and supporter of Sunbury Police Department.

ADDING TO AGENDA

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to adding the resignation of EMA coordinator Daniel Saxton to the agenda. Second Reichner. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS

Mayor Karlovich made the to approve the reports of Fire Dept., Police Dept., Treasurer, Engineer, and Code Office. Second Brosious. Unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to approve the Minutes of January 11, 18, 25, 27, 2021. Second Brosious. Unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Karlovich asked for public comment on agenda items. There were no public comments.

PROCLAMATION – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to accept February as Black History Month. Second Eister. Yes – Karlovich, Reichner, Eister. No – Brosious. (See attached).

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Reichner moved to approve to Pay Invoices/Vouchers General Fund - \$48,140.26 and Liquid Fuels Fund - \$0. Second Brosious. Unanimous vote.

Tax Exoneration

Councilman Reichner moved to accept the tax exoneration of \$541.22. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

SWEEP Funding

Council discussed where the funding for the SWEEEP project should come from. Mayor Karlovich made the motion to table the application for the Park Rehabilitation and Development Grant. Second Reichner. Unanimous vote.

SRI Subrecipient Signed Agreement Amendment 1/ Business Relief Fund

Councilman Eister made the motion to move the date allowable for reimbursement form after November 25, 2020 to February 1, 2020. Second Brosious. Unanimous vote.

CSO's Subrecipient signed agreement Amendment 1

Councilman Reichner made the motion to move the date allowable for reimbursement from December 3, 2020 to Feb 2, 2020. Second Brosious. Unanimous vote.

COVID-19 Guidelines

Councilman Eister made the motion to accept the guidelines and apply staggered shifts. Second Reichner. Unanimous vote.

LERTA

Ms. Wakeman gave a presentation on what LERTA is and the benefits of it. Councilman Reichner made the motion to support LERTA and to approach the county and school district for support. Second Karlovich. Unanimous vote.

Accepting Resignation of Daniel Saxton for Controller and EMA Coordinator

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to accept the resignation as City Controller effective immediately. Second Brosious. Unanimous vote.

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to accept the resignation as EMA Coordinator effective immediately. No Second.

Discussion

There was discussion regarding the following topics between council and public officials

- New Hiring process
- Future Council Meetings
- City Controller Appointment and Emergency Management Coordinator Appointment

Announcements

Mayor Karlovich had no announcements for the meeting.

Pre-Submitted Audience Comment

There were no Pre-Submitted Audience Comments

Zoom

Melissa Shaffer: Ms. Shaffer made a comment regarding the Arch Street Police Incident over the weekend. She explained how she is fearful for her life, and for her business. She wants the Sunbury Police to do something about the house where the incident occurred and follow up with the incident. She is concerned that if there is a police barricade that customers will not be able to shop at her business. Chief Hare responded to the comment made by Ms. Shaffer and explained what exactly happened during the incident.

Jody Ocker: Ms. Ocker made the comment that she is glad that the city is moving forward with LERTA. Ms. Ocker likes that this can be linked with the commercial property ordinance. This will help in pushing the commercial property owners to improve their properties. Ms. Ocker knows that there has been extensive discussion on regarding future council meetings and how the zoom will be operated. She feels the guidelines for future council meetings will put an undue burden on the public to request the zoom ID every week. Ms. Ocker feels that there is no value gained to having the public request a Zoom ID every week. Ms. Ocker mentioned that previously the council had no problems with people being disruptive on the Zoom. Ms. Ocker mentioned that if the City wants to have the public make comments on agenda items that the City should post the agenda on the website at least 24 hours ahead of time. Ms. Ocker noted for this meeting that the agenda was not published more than 24 hours in advanced. Ms. Ocker also wanted to know why the supporting documents are not available to the public prior to council meeting. Ms. Ocker realizes that there could be a debate that these documents should not be available to the public due to the documents not being approved or voted upon by council and therefore not being official. However, Ms. Ocker doesn't know how you can actually engage with the public and have intelligent public discourse when the public can't see what those things are that you are considering. Ms. Ocker doesn't understand why they can't be available like they have

been in the past. Ms. Ocker made a comment that we have a policy in place that limits comments to 3 minutes, but that is the choice of the council to enforce as they deem necessary and thinks council should review that policy. Ms. Ocker also stated that there is a policy on Facebook that is in the about section stating what comments can be removed. Ms. Ocker hopes that someone is monitoring the Facebook as to what comments should be removed and is warning people who get off topic. Ms. Ocker also noted that she has not seen the council meeting being streamed on the Facebook and being posted to YouTube and feels that the city should continue to do it to encourage public participation. City Administrator Derrick Backer responded explaining a few concerns that Ms. Ocker had. He addressed that there is a policy in place that there is a confidentially issue regarding the supporting documents being posted. He stated the new guidelines discussed are following the recommendation from the lawyers at the Sunshine Act.

Chief Hare: Chief Hare had a question for council regarding the eligibility list. Chief hare was wondering if he has to get council's approval to advertise for an eligibility list? Mayor Karlovich mentioned it will fall under the original authorization.

The next city council meeting will be held on February 22, 2021 at 6:15 pm Via Zoom/Facebook Live.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander Rissinger,
Administrative Assistant