

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
April 12, 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
Christopher Reis, Director of Public Safety
Joshua Brosious, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Bradley Hare, Chief of Police
Joel Wiest, City Solicitor
John Bakowicz, City Engineer
Kevin Troup, City Treasurer
Mike Rhoads, Zoning Officer
Jolinn Barner, City Clerk
Steve Welker, Public Works Supervisor
Jerome Alex, City Controller
Jeffrey Wojciechowski, Code Enforcement Supervisor
Alexander Rissinger, Administrative Assistant
Keith Tamborelli, Police Officer
Dara Kieski, Police Officer

Visitors present: In Person (13) Zoom (12)

A moment of silent reflection was held prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Request of Addition Agenda Topics

Hire of 1 Full Time Police Officer from Discussion to New Business

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to add to New Business the hire of 1 full time police officer. Second Brosious. Unanimous vote.

Parking Cars on Walnut Street Extension to House Vehicles from Zimmerman's During a Flood Incident to Discussion.

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to add parking cars on Walnut street extensions to house vehicles from Zimmerman's during a flood incident to discussion. Second Brosious. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REPORTS

The Minutes of March 08, 22, 2021 and reports of the Fire Dept., Police Dept., Treasurer, Engineer, Code Office, and Health Dept. Reports are in the City Clerk's office for review. Minutes will be posted at sunburypa.org. – Mayor Karlovich motioned to approve the minutes and reports. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Karlovich asked for public comment on agenda items.

Megan Beck: Ms. Beck wanted to make a comment on the square footage of the downtown. Ms. Beck feels that the city is lucky enough to have a downtown. Ms. Beck then went to mention the benefits it will have such as people moving to a new area, walking distance to everything, great for lower income individuals, etc. Ms. Beck mentioned that she also lived in a 360 square foot apartment before in downtown Sunbury, which allowed her to be able to walk everywhere. Being able to market that everyone can walk to places will be a huge asset to the downtown, but instead much of the downtown 2nd and 3rd floors are vacant due to the code requirements. Ms. Beck feels the square footage requirement should be reduced to what the rest of the city is since there has been no problems in the other districts.

Bob Zimmerman: Mr. Zimmerman made a comment to council saying he ran into an insurance problem with his flood mitigation plan, since he is in a flood zone. When flood issues came up in the past Mr. Zimmerman would move his lot of cars to the textile property, but Drive the new owners said that he has to bring it up to them during the time of the emergency. Mr. Zimmerman said that floods from the river and creek can come up within hours, and it is not possible to get approval days ahead of time. Mr. Zimmerman said that in 60-90 days a new owner might be owning part of the textile mill and will work with Mr. Zimmerman about parking his cars. He now has concerns about areas he can park his cars during a flood until he can find a different location to park, and he needs a designated area to park to get insurance. The Walnut street extension is a good place to temporally park cars. Mr. Zimmerman mentioned that he only had to move his 100-plus number of cars off his lot once in 20 years, and that was back in 2011. Mr. Zimmerman is requesting that he be allowed to park his cars on walnut street during a flood emergency.

Seda-COG

FFY 2020 Professional Administrative Service Agreement Between the City and SEDA-COG

Councilman Eister made the motion to accept the FFY 2020 Professional Administrative Service Agreement between the City and SEDA-COG. Second Reis. Unanimous vote.

Officer's Commendation Class "B" Award presented to Officer Tamborelli and Officer Kieski

Chief Hare explained the incident that the two officers responded on March 29th, 2021. Mayor Karlovich and Chief Hare awarded Officer Tamborelli and Officer Kieski a Class "B" Commendation (See attached).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Current Square Footage for Rental Property

Councilman Brosious asked Ms. Beck a question regarding to where the residents will park in the downtown. Ms. Beck responded that there is multiple city lots nearby and that people who live in the downtown will be able to use a bike to travel.

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to lower the requirement to 400 square feet minimum so long as it meets all other code requirements. Second Reis. Unanimous vote.

Career Link Lease Renewal

Councilman Reis made the motion to extend the contract with permission to have Joel make an extension agreement for them to sign. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Andre Manresa To Planning Commission

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to appoint Andre Manresa to the planning commission. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

Retention of Police Officer Dara Kieski

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to retain Officer Kieski as a full-time police officer. Second Brosious. Unanimous vote.

Hire of 1 Full Time Police Officer

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to hire Gary Bregensir at a probationary level with a start date of April 26th contingent on him passing his final clearances with the police hiring process. Second Reichner. Unanimous vote.

Tree Removal and Maintenance for SWEEP

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to have the trees removed and trimmed using Smitty's for \$4,000 using the economic develop line item. Second Reis. Unanimous vote.

Resolution 2021-06 2021 Fee Schedule

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to accept resolution 2021-06. Second Reichner. Unanimous vote. (see attached)

Resolution 2021-08 2021 Recreations/Public Facilities Fee Schedule

Mayor Karlovich made the motion to accept resolution 2021-08. Second Eister. Unanimous vote. (see attached)

Smerlick Extension 4th Request

Councilman Reis made the motion to accept the Smerlick extension request. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

Rotary Fall Family Fund Day Market Street Road Closure on Sept. 25th, 2021

Councilman Brosious made the motion to have a Market Street road closure on Sept. 25th, 2021 for Rotary Fall Family Fun Day. Second Reis. Unanimous vote.

City Parking Lot Bid Award – New Enterprise Stone and Line

Councilman Eister made the motion to award the bid to New Enterprise. Second Reis. Unanimous vote.

Apply for Grant for the Baseball and Softball Concession Stands

Councilman Eister made the motion to apply for a grant for the baseball and softball concession stands. Second Brosious. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES

Councilman Reichner moved to approve to Pay Invoices/Vouchers General Fund - \$90,139.09 and Liquid Fuels Fund - \$2,362.84. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

Tax Exoneration

Councilman Reichner moved to accept the tax exoneration of \$415.95. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

Discussion

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

- Public attendance city meetings
- Hire of 1 Full Time Police Officer
- Hire of Full Time Code Officer
- Jet Ski at River Front Boat Docks East Coast Brothers Rentals
- Street Sweeping
- Parking cars on Walnut Street extensions to house vehicles from Zimmerman's during a flood incident

Parking cars on Walnut Street extensions to house vehicles from Zimmerman's during a flood incident

During the discussion Joel asked Mr. Zimmerman if he had flood insurance right now, to determine if this item should be voted on tonight. Mr. Zimmerman responded that he doesn't have flood insurance right now it expired on March 31st.

With the sense of urgency Councilman Reis made the motion to add parking cars on Walnut street as a voting topic. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

Councilman Reis made the motion to allow Zimmerman's to park cars on Walnut Street extension during a flood incident as long as Zimmerman's signs a wavier stating the city will not be held liable for damages. Second Brosious. Unanimous vote.

Discussion

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

- Santa House

Announcements

Mayor Karlovich announced the following:

Susquehanna Valley River Clean Up will be April 18th, 2021 8:30am to 12pm. For more information or to volunteer visit www.sunburyrevitalization.org.

Pre-Submitted Audience Comment

There were no Pre-Submitted Audience Comments

Zoom

There were no Audience Comments.

The next city council meeting will be held on April 26, 2021 at 6:15 pm Via Zoom/Facebook Live.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander Rissinger,
Administrative Assistant