

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
6:15 pm

An Executive meeting regarding personnel was held prior to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable Mayor Brosious, presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

Ric Reichner, Director of Finance  
John Barnhart, Director of Public Safety  
Lisa Martina, Director of Public Works  
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation

Other City officials in attendance:

Jolinn Barner, City Clerk  
Joel Wiest, City Solicitor  
Ronald Rupp, Fire Chief  
Bradley Hare, Chief of Police  
Jeff Wojciechowski, public Safety Supervisor  
Visitors present: 21

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REPORTS**

Minutes of February 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2023 and Reports of the Fire Dept., Police Dept., Treasurer, Code Office, Health Dept. and Planning Commission.

Mayor Brosious made the motion to approve Minutes and reports of February 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2023. Second Councilman Reichner. Unanimous vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FFY 2023 CDG Funding Prep Schedule**

Mayor Brosious made the motion to. Second Councilwoman Martina. Unanimous Vote.

**Resolution 2023-14 to Add 240 Ridge Ave. to Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-14 to add 240 Ridge Ave. to the Public Nuisance list. Second Mayor Brosious. Unanimous Vote.

**Resolution 2023-15 to Update the Public Nuisance List with 240 Ridge Ave.**

Councilman Barnhart made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-15 to Update the Public Nuisance List with 240 Ridge Avenue. Second Mayor Brosious. Unanimous Vote.

### **Rehire of Terry Lawrence as Part-Time Employee for DPW**

Councilwoman Martina made the motion to Rehire Terry Lawrence as Part-Time Employee for DPW with his previous wage. Second Councilman Eister. Unanimous Vote.

### **City Administrator Signing Authority**

Councilwoman Martina made the motion to make the City Administrator Signing Derrick Backer Authority with an exclusion to get permission from Mayor Brosious before signing his name. Second Mayor Brosious. Unanimous Vote.

### **Appoint Lindie Llyod to the Parks and Recreation Board**

Councilman Eister made the motion to Appoint Lindie Lloyd to the Parks and Recreation Board. Second Councilman Reichner. Martina, Brosious, Reichner voted yes. Barnhart abstained.

### **Payment of \$4,000.00 to G & R Charles**

Councilman Eister made the motion to approve Final payment to the G and R Charles for \$3,999.99 which will be taken from Escrow account for demolition. Second Mayor Brosious. Unanimous Vote.

### **Flood Insurance**

Councilman Eister made the motion to Table Until further Information is gathered.

### **MOU Between City and Acorn Softball League for Use of Miller and OPG Ball Fields**

Councilman Eister made the motion to approve MOU between City and Acorn Softball League for Use of Miller and OPG Ball Fields for \$100.00 and what Purdy's Insurance suggestion for Insurance Coverage. Second Mayor Brosious. Unanimous Vote.

### **APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES**

#### **Approval of Abstract/Vouchers for GF is \$180,971.67 and \$51,883.06 LF**

Councilman Reichner made the motion to approve the Abstract/Vouchers for GF is \$180,596.67 and \$51,883.06 LF. Second Mayor Brosious. Unanimous Vote.

### **Discussion**

### **County Blight Funds**

Mayor Brosious discussed Northumberland County Application available for Blight Remediation Improvement, Construction of Municipal buildings, Personnel protection equipment, Emergency services to Municipalities. The only Eligible applicants are Municipalities, can use only one application to apply. The criteria cannot go beyond \$50,000.00 and the Application is due April 14<sup>th</sup> by 5pm. Matching Funds required is dollar to dollar match up to \$50,000.00. Also Speaking about where we would be getting the matching funds from. And where we would use the funds if granted.

### **Recreational Growth/Upgrades**

Mayor Brosious discussed Recreational growth and upgrades for our Recreational Facilities, trying to get a plan together to do so. Really diving into the grants, we can apply to help make these upgrades and growth possible.

### **Fee Schedule**

Mayor Brosious discussed why we need a fee schedule for events, due to taking up employee's time and being out of the normal routine, listed Fees for certain items such as electricity, water, Spyder's, table's, trash cans, etc.

### **City Hall Upgrades**

Mayor Brosious discussed meeting with Meck-Tech not being in their ballpark and redirecting us to Rocky Baer for design.

### **Rent to Own Properties**

Councilman Barnhart discussed Liability being on seller not on Buyer. Meaning it will be Considered a rental and it still must have a rental permit and be inspected.

### **Town Hall Meeting**

Councilman Barnhart discussed a Town hall Meeting being held prior to the next council meeting at 5:30pm to discuss any further confusion with Commercial properties involving NEIC.

### **Commercial Appeal Fee \$125**

Councilman Barnhart discussed the Commercial Appeal Fee of \$125 being added to the ordinance. If you are not exempt and you feel you should be it will be a \$125 Appeal Fee.

### **Park and Recreation Tennis Courts**

Councilman Eister discussed getting Tennis Court parts ordered and then we can be Reimbursed for the parts due to the Tennis Season already have been started.

## **Event Coordinator Update**

Councilman Eister discussed needing to discuss more details regarding Event Coordination and will bring it to the Next Council Meeting.

## **Announcements**

**Accepting letters of interest to fill the vacant 3-year term for the Board of Appeals and HARB. Please submit letters of interest to City Clerk at [jbarnersunburypa.org](mailto:jbarnersunburypa.org).**

**No Parking Ordinance will come back into effect March 15, 2023.**

**E-Cycling Event- 04/08/2023 10 am to 12 pm at James R. Eister Community Center**

**Commercial Inspections to begin Mid-April.**

**460 Arch Street, Sunbury, PA (otherwise known as “Arch and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets” and Tax Parcel #053-01-008-024) will be auctioned by the Sunbury Redevelopment Authority on April 29, 2023. More information will be made available on the website at [sunburyredevelopment.org](http://sunburyredevelopment.org).**

**Summer Kick-Off June 3rd,**

**2023 Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on March 27, 2023, 6:15pm.**

## **Pre-Submitted Audience Comment**

There were no Pre-Submitted Comments.

## **Public Comment**

Jody Ocker- Small Business Meeting March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm located at the Moose.  
The storyteller will be on Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> at 4pm located at the Albright Center.

Thomas Musser- Rent to Own Property that he owns, wanting to get a better understanding of the Rent-to-Own fees and why they are being applied now when they haven't been in the past.

Joel stated that he was indeed wrong the last couple years, that Rent-to-Own properties are in fact rentals. Then proceeded to quote a law case and stated the city has no choice but to follow through with this.

Mark Walhberg- Commercial Property Inspection- Some properties that are occupied some that are not and some he is currently working on. 100 properties being exempt, some of which are residential, interestingly enough you have reasons listed at the bottom of the sheet. I need clarification on what you consider a proper permit or inspection of properties. Because he has for Labor and Industry approval and inspections that they did. Only being 3 years old. Some of the exemptions you have listed make sense, per council have exempted Drive what do I have to do to

get my properties exempted the same way. And how where they exempted per council. How did the council decide that Drive didn't have to pay the Appeal fee.

He has Proper permit and Inspection, and asked what all he must do to get his property of the nuisance list.

Councilman Barnhart Explained why certain Buildings will be exempt due to good faith with the building they have obtained and exceeded expectations from previous inspections and permits for construction and others are government buildings. Next Council meeting Jackie Heart from NEIC will be present to answer any further questions.

Joel Wiest explained that he needs to come to the code office so they can teach him properly and explained that Mark has not been denied yet.

Victoria Rosancrans- Asked if we could announce that Derrick Backer has accepted the City Administrator position.

Mayor Brosious stated he will announce it.

Victoria Also commented the need to promote transparency to the people and it needs to be discussed. Website needs to Be Updated Properly so Citizens can find postings more easily, the public came to her regarding the issue. She wanted to know whose job responsibility it is and if the person knew how to do their job.

The Council Continued figuring out whose job responsibility this issue truly is.

Wants the issue to be corrected, then Continued with when the meeting minutes and when they should be uploaded for the public to reflect on. Not being able to find the February minutes.

City Officials discussed them approving Minutes and Reports once a month which is why she was unable to find them.

Approval of public use for facilities- Rotary Flag Hero's was an event she submitted and still has not heard back on the Event. Wandering when the full-time frame for approving these events will be moving forward.

Mayor Brosious explained Councilman Eister will be having a meeting tomorrow on the matter.

Councilman Eister explained he did not see the application yet because he was out of office due to Covid and is getting back around to doing all his normal job duties. And it will be handled tomorrow.

Victoria discussed getting road closure approval from council, Council explained they don't need to vote on road closures, unless they are PennDOT Applications.

Wrapping up with a desperate need for Transparency so the citizens can truly know what's going on in our City.

William Zibby- I am a Boy Scout Troup 309 I am working on eagle Scout was wondering if he could utilize space in Fort Discovery Between bathrooms and ballfields. I have brought pictures and papers on what have been building basically it is a pit for a game that is played with a ball. I would like to build something for more interactive play than just imaginative. I have a personal Experience building relationships with these activities.

Councilman Eister explained they will get together to speak on the matter.

Tammy Kruisman: Spoke on her feeling regarding Commercial Appeal Fee. What point does the appeal fee apply? Would there be a reason that we are charging \$125.00 and where does that fee fund go? Why was it that you exempted certain people from the fee and not others that have the

same stuff that apply to them based on an occupancy permits? Will I have to pay the \$125.00 to appeal this when I have the paperwork. If we won, the Appeal how long would we be exempt for?

Councilman Barnhart and Public Safety Supervisor Jeff Wojciechowski Explained that she was merging to different concepts, and it would have to be deemed as no eligible to be exempt and then you could appeal the decision made. It will be administrative fees for the Code Office and to have an Appeal it can't be just in front of city council, and it must be advertised in the Newspaper which cost roughly \$110.00 dollars to advertise in the Newspaper and the remaining money would go to mailing fees and staff to do paperwork. You have an occupancy permit only for a sign. Yes, you would have to pay the \$125 for the exemption because we can't just do this in a closed room, it must legally be advertised. If you won the Exemption, you would be Exempt for Three years.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ciara Chappell,  
Administrative Assistant