

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
May 22th, 2023
6:15 pm

An Executive session was held May 17th and May 22nd prior to a regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury to discuss personal matters, a regular 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
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation

Other City officials in attendance:

Jolinn Barner, City Clerk
Ronald Rupp, Fire Chief
Bradley Hare, Chief of Police
Joel Wiest, City Solicitor
Jerome Alex, City Controller
Jeff Wojciechowski, Public Safety Supervisor
Derrick Backer, City Administrator

Visitors present: 16

Agenda Additions

Accept Resignation of City Clerk as of 07/19/23

Mayor Brosious made the motion to accept the Resignation of the City Clerk as of 07/17/23. Second Councilman Reichner. Unanimous Vote.

Vote to Advertise City Clerk Position

Mayor Brosious made the motion to approve Advertise City Clerk Position. Second Councilman Reichner. Unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

S.W.E.E.P

Accept \$500.00 Donation from Hummels Wharf Fire Company for S.W.E.E.P.

Mayor Brosious made the motion to accept a \$500.00 Donation from Hummels Wharf Fire Company for S.W.E.E.P. Second Councilman Barnhart. Unanimous Vote.

Accept \$100 donation from East Sunbury Hose Company for S.W.E.E.P Committee.

Mayor Brosious made the motion to accept a \$100.00 Donation from East Sunbury Hose Company for S.W.E.E.P Committee. Second Councilman Barnhart. Unanimous Vote.

Proclamation- Sunbury PRIDE Proclamation June 17, 2023.

Proclamation -National Safe Boating Week 2023 for the Local United States Coast Guard Auxiliary based in Northumberland Pennsylvania.

New Business

Resignation of Michael Stender from Civil Service Board

Mayor Brosious made the motion to accept the Resignation of Michael Stender from the Civil Service Board. Second Councilman Eister. Unanimous Vote.

Accept Resignation of DPW Employee Scott Naugle as of 5/12/23

Councilwoman Martina made the motion to accept resignation of DPW Employee Scott Naugle as of 5/12/23. Second Councilman Reichner. Unanimous Vote.

Approval of Abstract/Vouchers for GF \$148,081.17 and LF \$8,012.45

Councilman Reichner made the motion to Approve of Abstract/Vouchers for GF \$148,081.17 and LF \$8,012.45. Second Councilman Eister. Unanimous Vote.

Discussion

TA Set Aside Grant

City Administrator Discussed the TA Set Aside Grant coming up again, no match is required for this. Seeing if there were any street projects that we would be interested in with this grant. I spoke with Councilwoman Martina, and she expressed interest with using these funds to continue the sidewalks or walkway at the riverfront. Interested in if there were any other ideas regarding the use of these funds that anyone else may have if its similar. DPW head agrees with Councilwoman Martina. No match required but we would need to pay for engineering.

Promote DPW Laborer Mike Heffner from Part Time Laborer Class II to Full Time Laborer Class II

Councilwoman Martina Discussed promoting DPW Laborer Mike Heffner from Part Time Laborer Class II to Full Time Laborer Class II.

DPW hiring two additional Part Time Laborers

Councilwoman Martina Discussed DPW hiring two additional Part Time Laborers.

PPL Reed 69kv Line Notification

The City Solicitor discussed PPL Updating Poles and to do that they need to do soil testing on some of the City Property and promise to return the properties to their former condition if there is any disturbance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Accepting letters of interest to fill the vacant 3-year term for the Board of Appeals and HARB, 1 position to fill vacancy of 3-year term for Civil Service. Please submit letters of interest to City Clerk at jbarner@sunburypa.org.

City of Sunbury Public Safety Office

Neighborhood Walk Around Monday, June 5, through Friday, June 9, 2023

TV and Tire Recycling Event June 10, 2023, 9am to 12pm at the James R. Eister Community Center parking lot

Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on June 12th, 2023, 6:15pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chief Hare: The Fireworks Ordinance states till 1am I'm looking asking the City to change it until 11pm. I think that is plenty of time have fireworks going off. The weekend prior to Memorial Day is the same way and Sunday is also currently till 1 am and I want to change that also to 11pm.

Mary Cuyler: The Fire Police have been asking about our parking lot since May the 30th 2022. We have a sink hole, and it is getting worse, I don't want us to lose our building. John (Councilman Barnhart) we need help with this, it is not an inexpensive ordeal to partake in. I mean I realize that you guys have your priorities, but when you guys ask the Fire Police to be there, we are there in any situation. Along with the Raincoats, we got poured on the other week when it was raining. We were wet from head to toe, no raincoats, no rain bands. If you guys don't want to help, just tell us. Eister: Mary, did you tell us which ones you wanted yet? Mary: Pardon? Eister: The raincoats, remember we talked about the gear, you have the trade magazine where you purchase that stuff. Mary: I gave you that. I gave you the cards to do that and he wanted them. Eister: oh. Mayor: Well maybe you guys

can meet again and go through the process to order or whatever needs to take place and for the parking lot, you guys get with Steve and John, and get that looked at and see the best way to get it resolved. Mary: We also have given lists to Jody when she was in and to Derrick on things that we might need or do need, so that they could go look for money, but we never heard anything back. Barnhart: Did you ever get any quotes, do you have any quotes for price for that, to fix the sink hole or the raincoats? Because if we have a price to go with. Mary: Yea, what did you pay for yours? Gentleman: I paid \$24.00 for mine. Barnhart: For the raincoats what about the sinkhole did you ask anybody with that. Mary: Yes, three different people and gave that to Derrick. We had a guy from Danville, we had Adams and we had another guy that we think will be capable of doing it. The highest quote was \$30,000 Barnhart: now, if you submit that to the administrator, he can investigate getting that taken care of. Derrick: I've already had conversations with individuals about it but about the quotes, I didn't receive any. Mayor: So, Mary get those quotes over so he can have them then, OK? City Controller: So, the raincoats did you ask the fire department if they have any? Mary: No Controller: Well, maybe you should start there. Mary: Yea well. Mayor: Well, we can look at both options. You can look at the Fire Department at the next meeting and bring that up and if you don't get anywhere there make sure Jim gets that. Mary: We brought up about our vehicle getting rust fixed on it and they (the Fire Department) said you guys don't have the money, you have money to pay for it, that's what the Fire Department said. Yes, we have money but what if the vehicle goes, what if the house has something happens to the siding of the building or the garage, just like the air conditioner we had put in this year. We paid for that, if something goes, we must have the money. Now we were told to spend our money so they can give us money. It doesn't work that way, we must save money for a new vehicle because it's going to go sooner or later, it's old. Now, can I bring the last thing up? Mayor: It's up to you Mary. It's a public comment, it's your time to shine. Mary: As far as Jolinn, she is the best thing that has happened to us, and I think we all need to reconsider her resignation. And try to get her what she wants, she tries to talk to people, trying to get people involved in city things. We all as Fire Police always appreciate her. So, I think we need to dig into that a little deeper and talk to Jolinn about staying. That is our opinion, the Fire Police.

Victoria Rosancrans: So, I just want to go back and visit the last meeting. My first question is where are we at with the RC Track? Eister: Well, we are talking to some contractors. Victoria: That's it? Eister: What would you like to know? Victoria: This was spoken about back in October of 2021. Now it's May of 2023. Have you been

following up with the business owner with that? Derrick: You mean the Car track owner? Yea, I know him very well. Victoria: Okay because I've encouraged him to be here tonight because he is quite frustrated. I won't quote what he said but, that's why I'm asking so that way it's in a public quorum, if you could follow up with him. This was 2021 now it's 2023 and my understanding was there grant funds for that? Derrick: Yes, we'd be using grant funds. Victoria: With the Grant funds will that cover the cost of it. Derrick: We'll find out with contractors, we're hoping. Victoria: So, now I would like to ask about going back to the last meeting. When we discussed the Celotex, there was some confusion. Again, my questions were not answered. So, I'm going to ask them a different way in hopes they will be answered. So, when filed the right to know which I got today. The RACP Grant for Celotex, when was that submitted? Derrick: It was submitted, I think it was August 2021. I Believe. Victoria: With paperwork I have today, it was dated June 26th, 2021. Derrick: Okay. Victoria: the grant application. Derrick: I really don't know when it was it was 2021, it was somewhere around there. Victoria: Ok, but in the paper December 7th, 2021, there was an article with council people and Senator Gordner and Lynda Schlegel Culver standing at the Celotex saying you got a 2-million-dollar grant. Derrick: That was the award ceremony. Victoria: Ok, so it was awarded to you back in December. Derrick: Of that year, yes. Victoria: So, what I received today, what was that application? Derrick: That was the application for the funds that we received. Victoria: So, you received those funds? Derrick: Yes Victoria: You excepted those funds? Derrick: Council accepted those funds. Victoria: So, you have those funds. Derrick: No, So RACP is a little bit different than most grants. Victoria: I read on it, so basically, you're not going to get the funds until you start the project and all that. Derrick: So, it's a two-application process, there is the pre application which basically Pre award application, excuse me. Which is what you received there. So, that's basically to release the funds to that project then moving forward, there is a post award application project. We are in the process of doing this because there are certain steps and requirements you must meet. Once that is accepted, there is a third-party Contractor that the State contracts with to administer these. Then, you receive a contract, that you must sign and everything. So, we are not at that stage yet, we must show/ do twenty-on or twenty-two different tabs of different things to have those in place. Victoria: So, going back to the old contract, I just want clarification on that. There was the 1.5 million that you were going to give to Northumberland County, then the County was going to give American Rescue funds to the City. 1.5 million dollars, right? Derrick: So, you mean the original deal? Yes, Correct. Eister: Can I just interject here? That was a

reimbursement program. Victoria: Right. Derrick: Yes. Victoria: So, then my question is, so there is 1.5 to here and then 1.5 back, Then there's \$500,00 unaccounted for? Eister: It's not, Contracting is on the table. Victoria: Ok, but I'm still going back and asking these questions. Derrick: So, there's different ways that you can. Victoria: Ok, let's go back to that, where was that \$500,000? Derrick: So, working with also the budget for example, the traffic study that money should count for the money that we spend for \$500,000. If we got a grant for the light, just like when we are looking for Susquehanna funding because infrastructure, it enhances that site. I try to make the argument that putting an infrastructure on that roadway no matter where we spent it at, should be eligible to use as a match. If it came down, you must spend eligible funds on a certain street. That we don't have funds up to yet, to use as match there. So, there are quite a few different options, as far as grant money. Victoria: State grant money though, right? Derrick: it can't, but it can be Appalachian trail commission, it could be CBDG funds, most state now, federal dollars, ARPA funds and all that. Victoria: So, I want to go back and just to the last meeting because we were talking about having a public meeting. I spoke and said that Mr. Mayor Brosious had asked for a public meeting January 9th, which I forgot there was a public meeting and Derrick, you had emailed me regarding that. That public meeting on January 23rd is now void because you're discussing the contract, so there was a public meeting and I just want to stand corrected. That meeting has nothing to do with the contract now, but I also want to bring up the fact that we discussed the minutes from February 20th, 2023. It was discussed that the minutes were not correct, based on the RACP discussions. My question is when I reviewed the agenda for February 20th, 2023, meeting, it said RACP Grant Jim Eister. It doesn't say new it doesn't say extension. Derrick: I can clarify. Victoria: It doesn't even say what it was for, so my concern as a citizen who overlooks these agendas and it just said RACP Eister or RACP Grant Eister. Why can't we know what all that information is. Derrick: So, there was a little bit of confusion because I couldn't attend that meeting. That was the Monday after my daughter was born, so I couldn't be here. So, like we just talked about RACP is a little bit different than a lot of other grants. There is a two-application process, so that process technically for these funds. So, what councilman Eister was referring to the second portion of the application. The posterboard application we wanted to get going. That's what he was referring to, So I just assumed it was an extension. Just based off because I didn't do any other applications. To put in for additional funds, so that's where I was confused because the only thing we've done for these funds. So, I just assumed it was an extension. But like you I went back and watched the

meeting that was on YouTube and put it together because Councilman Eister talked to me afterwards. We need to get moving on this application, the second portion of the application. So, what was referred to be the second portion of the funds were already awarded. That 22, I will admit the grant is cumbersome and confusing. I apologize for not being here to give that clarity. Victoria: I'm going to go a step further here and that's fine. When you watched the video, it was the RACP that came up like I said there is no description on the agenda. Then, it was stated that RACP started takes up to 6 to 8 months. Jamie from CEDA-COG asked a question "For what. For what?" She asked twice. The person that answered her was Mr. Ric Reichner. Reichner answered the question with Celotex. So, another step further and ask why the question wasn't answered when Jamie asked twice. Reichner: Well, let me answer. Victoria: Let me go and then I will let you answer. So, my concern here is, the question was asked twice Mr. Eister said for and Jamie says RACP. Mr. Brosious asked what it was for, Starting the application. Jamie said, "Is it a new one?". Nobody said it was an extension, nobody said if it was anything other than a grant. Ric said Celotex. Eister: Derrick said it wasn't an extension that's what he just explained. Victoria: Ok, so here is my question. When Jamie asked, "For What", why wasn't Jamie given a direct answer. Reichner: I gave her that question because I thought we were still waiting for the government to release those funds. That we could initiate stuff. Ok, not that there was. Victoria: You weren't wrong Ric it was for Celotex. Reichner: OK. Victoria: Ok, so. Reichner: So, the second thing was, my understanding was when we were talking about this, at least I thought. Debating on where we were going to get that additional \$500,000 for matching funds and the research that I did. We could use that to put it on our property. We weren't going use it, but we could use the equity that we had to match the funds they were giving us. Victoria: So, thank you for that research and I appreciate that, again I'm just saying that someone asked the question twice. Instead of it being transparent, and questions being answered to say that were doing the application for the second part of the process or whatever. The same thing being on the agenda, it could have a little more clarity on there. Like tonight's TA Set Aside grant, I guarantee that most of us setting out here have no idea what the TA Set Aside Grant is and people just don't understand. There is always an alphabet soup on here, anyway it's just my suggestion and I've been asking that for 2 years. The only other question I have is now we are at the new. I filed a Right to Know for that as well, and I got the contract. I just want to understand this process because I spoke with the Commissioner the next day. I am just confused and would like clarification. So, the new contract was written. Was that written with the commissioners? Or

was that contract written. Eister: you keep saying contract, there was never a signed contract. Victoria: Ok, so then what it is? Eister: A Proposal. Victoria: So, who wrote the proposal? Joel: there was apparently talk back and forth, I talked to Nate Savage from the County, and he said there was nothing new. So, what I did was do some research on other places that have had these intergovernmental municipal partnerships. I took what they did, and I changed it for our purposes. So, I got that commission idea out of I think Lancaster. There were different things that I've taken from different whatever. Which means I made it up, and I sent it to Nate. Asked Nate what he thought of it, and now I'm waiting to hear back from the Commissioners. That's it. Victoria: But, at the last meeting it was presented that this was written with the commissioners and there was a meeting with the commissioners. They voted to sign this, over two commissioners. Eister: this was sent and drawled up by Joel, sent to the commissioners to review and discuss amongst them. Never had a contract signed. Victoria: oh no, I'm not saying that it was signed I'm just saying that. Eister: We had no contract; we had a proposal. Joel: Honestly, I didn't. I don't know if anyone else did, I didn't give it to the commissioners or anything like that I just handed it to Nate, and he was going to talk to the commissioners. In the meantime, he spoke to a commissioner and said Hey if they like this we could do it and move forward. But they didn't like it or whatever, maybe they don't like it or maybe they do. That is what we are waiting to find out. Waiting to find out and see exactly what their response is. Victoria: I was just getting clarification, my taking from whatever was being said it made it seem like it was together or something. When I spoke with the Commissioners the next day, they said I don't even know what's in that proposal. Joel: well maybe they didn't, well they should have by then actually but, I'm sorry I didn't mean to interrupt you. Victoria: It was the next morning so maybe they hadn't yet. But it just brings me back to the fact that what Mr. Mayor Brosious was asking was to slow down a little bit. Because things just really get shoved through. I'm just asking for clarification of things and that they don't continue to happen. Thank you.

Allen Bubb: Questions regarding the property with Upper Augusta. Joel the City Solicitor Explained how legally the property in the past has been settled.

Kurt Karlovich: For the last two weeks I've had multiple people reach out to me regarding during the pandemic we had waived the open container ordinance a lot of people now that summer has started, asking if the City still has the open Container ordinance in place. Mayor Brosious: That was a permanent ordinance, so they are good. Good Question. Kurt: Thank you for the Proclamation for Pride.

Mary Cuyler: Derrick, this question is for you if you contacted these contractors. I would like to have a list of them. Derrick: No, I asked you for the quotes. That day that I talked with you I spoke with the Degenstein foundation. Mary: I gave you the two quotes. Derrick: I never received them. Mayor: Please give them to him again so he can start. Mary: I will give them to you so you can give it to him. Mayor: ok, I will make sure he receives it.

Respectfully submitted,

Ciara Chappell

Administrative Assistant